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THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL BILL, 2026

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THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL BILL, 2026

A Bill for

AN ACT of Parliament to to provide for the development and regulation of the textile and apparel industry and for connected purposes

ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows—

1. This Act may be cited as the Textile and Apparel Act, 2026. Short title.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation.

"Advisory Committee" means the Textile and Apparel Advisory Committee established in section 4 ;

"apparel" means a garment or clothing item made wholly or partly from textile materials and includes footwear;

"Cabinet Secretary" means the Cabinet Secretary for the time being responsible for matters relating to textile and apparel;

"Fund" means the Textile and Apparel Fund established under section 22;

"ginnery" means a premise where seed cotton is separated into cotton lint and cotton seed;

"primary producers" means a person or an organization that is involved in the production of raw materials in the industry;

"raw materials" includes cotton, wool, silk, nylon, flax, hemp, leather, jute and polyester;

"retailer" means a person who sells textiles, apparel or related products to consumers;

"second-hand clothing" includes used garment, footwear or other apparel articles that have previously been worn, used or owned and are imported, distributed, exchanged, donated or offered for resale, whether in their original form or after repair, cleaning or refurbishment;

"textile" means the fabric used in the production of apparel;

"Textile and apparel value chain" includes primary producers of raw materials, input providers, yarn spinning

companies, semi and wholly integrated weaving and knitting companies, dyeing and finishing mills and plants, design and sewing firms; and

"textile mill" means factory or facility that produces textile from yarn or fabric into usable textile.

Objects of the Act.

3. The object of this Act is to—

(a) promote the development of textile and apparel industry in Kenya;

(b) to promote exportation of apparel and related products to international markets;

(c) to provide a linkage between the producers of raw materials, the manufacturers and retailers; and

(d) to ensure the industry is aligned to the agenda on sustainable development.

PART II—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Establishment of the Advisory Committee

4. (1) There is established an advisory committee to be known as the Textile and Apparel Advisory Committee.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall comprise—

(a) a chairperson appointed by the Cabinet Secretary;

(b) the Principal Secretary in the Ministry for the time being responsible for matters relating to trade and industry;

(c) four representatives nominated by registered sector associations representing key segments of the textile and apparel value chain, who shall be appointed by the Cabinet Secretary, as follows—

(i) one representative of primary producers of raw materials;

(ii) one representative of textile manufacturers;

(iii) one representative of apparel manufacturers;

(iv) one representative of traders and exporters; and

(d) two other members appointed by the Cabinet Secretary, being persons with knowledge and experience in industry, finance, trade or research.

(3) The conduct and regulation of the business and affairs of the Advisory Committee shall be as prescribed by the Cabinet Secretary in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

(4) In making appointments under this section, the Cabinet Secretary shall consider ethnic, gender and regional balance.

Functions of the Advisory Committee.

5. The Advisory Committee shall—

(a) advise the Cabinet Secretary on policy measures for the development and promotion of the textile and apparel industry;

(b) review and make recommendations on strategies, programmes and plans for the growth of the textile and apparel value chain;

(c) consider proposals relating to funding, investment and incentives in the textile and apparel industry;

(d) commission or undertake research and studies on matters affecting the textile and apparel industry;

(e) promote the implementation of programmes relating to the development of the textile and apparel industry;

(f) facilitate collaboration between national and county governments, private industry and other stakeholders;

(g) identify legislative, regulatory and administrative interventions necessary for the development of the industry; and

(h) perform such other functions as may be necessary for the attainment of the objects of this Act.

Secretariat of the Advisory Committee.

6. (1) The Ministry shall designate such officers within the Ministry as may be necessary to provide secretariat services to the Advisory Secretariat of the Advisory Committee. Committee and shall designate one of the officers as the head of the Secretariat.

(2) The Head of the Secretariat designated by the Cabinet Secretary shall—

(a) be responsible for the day-to-day coordination and administration of the secretariat; and

(b) serve as the secretary to the Advisory Committee.

(3) The secretariat shall—

(a) provide administrative support to the Advisory Committee;

(b) coordinate the implementation of the decisions of the Advisory Committee; and

(c) perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Advisory Committee.

Tenure of office.

7. (1) The Chairperson and members of the Advisory Committee shall hold office for a term not exceeding three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further term.

(2) The members of the Advisory Committee shall serve on a part-time basis.

Vacation of office.

8. A member of the Advisory Committee shall vacate office if the member—

(a) resigns in writing to the Cabinet Secretary;

(b) is removed from office under section 9;

(c) is absent from three consecutive meetings without reasonable cause;

(d) is adjudged bankrupt;

(e) is convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a term exceeding six months without the option of a fine; or

(f) dies.

Removal from office.

9. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may remove a member of the Advisory Committee from office on the grounds of—

(a) inability to perform the functions of the office;

(b) misconduct or violation of the Constitution or any other law; or

(c) incompetence.

(2) Before removing a member under subsection (1), the Cabinet Secretary shall accord the member an opportunity to be heard.

Filling of vacancies.

10. Where a vacancy occurs in the Advisory Committee, the Cabinet Secretary shall appoint a replacement in accordance with this Act.

Meetings of the Advisory Committee

11. (1) The Advisory Committee shall meet at least once every three months.

(2) The Chairperson shall preside over all the meetings and in the absence of the Chairperson, members present shall elect one of the members to preside the meeting.

(3) The quorum for a meeting shall be a third of the members of Advisory Committee.

(4) Decisions of the Advisory Committee shall be by a majority of the members present and voting and, in the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(5) The Advisory Committee may regulate its own procedure.

Remuneration and allowances.

12. The members of the Advisory Committee shall be paid such allowances as the Cabinet Secretary may, on the advice of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, determine.

Annual report.

13. The Advisory Committee shall submit to the Cabinet Secretary an annual report on its activities within three months after the end of each financial year.

PART III— ROLE OF THE NATIONAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT INCLUDING RECYCLING OF TEXTILE AND APPAREL

Role of the National Government.

14. (1) The National Government shall, in relation to the textile and apparel industry—

(a) formulate, review and implement national policies, strategies and plans for the development and promotion of the textile and apparel industry;

(b) promote investment in the textile and apparel value chain, including the mobilisation of domestic and foreign investment;

(c) facilitate access to regional and international markets for textile and apparel products, including through trade agreements, export promotion and trade facilitation measures;

(d) promote value addition, industrialisation and the use of locally available raw materials in the textile and apparel industry;

(e) coordinate the development and implementation of national programmes and initiatives relating to the textile and apparel industry;

(f) support research, innovation, technology transfer and the adoption of modern production techniques in the industry;

(g) develop and promote national standards, in collaboration with relevant institutions, to enhance the quality and competitiveness of textile and apparel products;

(h) establish mechanisms for collaboration and consultation with county governments, the private sector and other stakeholders;

(i) promote capacity building, skills development and training in the textile and apparel industry in collaboration with relevant institutions;

(j) develop and implement measures to promote sustainable and environmentally sound practices in the industry, including recycling and circular economy approaches;

(k) promote the development of infrastructure necessary for the growth of the textile and apparel industry, including industrial parks and special economic zones;

(l) collect, analyse and disseminate data and information relating to the textile and apparel industry;

(m) monitor and evaluate the performance and impact of policies, programmes and interventions in the textile and apparel industry; and

(n) perform such other functions as may be necessary for the attainment of the objects of this Act.

Mandate of the Cabinet Secretary, including promotion of recycling of textile and apparel material.

15. (1) The Cabinet Secretary shall —

(a) develop and review policy on the textile and apparel industry;

(b) consider proposals by the Advisory Committee or any relevant stakeholder relating to the development, regulation, funding and budgeting of the textile and apparel industry;

(c) commission, undertake or facilitate research and studies on any matter affecting the textile and apparel industry;

(d) promote and oversee the implementation of programmes relating to the development of the textile and apparel industry under this Act; and

(e) take such measures as may be necessary for the attainment of the objects of this Act.

(2) The Cabinet Secretary shall in consultation with the Advisory Committee, relevant state agencies and county governments—

(a) promote the recycling and reuse of textile and apparel materials;

(b) develop and implement national policies, strategies and programmes to support the collection, sorting, recycling and reuse of textile and apparel waste;

(c) promote investment in recycling infrastructure and technologies within the textile and apparel value chain;

(d) encourage the adoption of circular economy practices by manufacturers, retailers and other stakeholders in the industry;

(e) facilitate public awareness and education on sustainable consumption and disposal of textile and apparel products; and

(f) promote partnerships between public and private sector actors for the management of textile and apparel waste.

(3) In promoting recycling under this section, the Cabinet Secretary and the county governments shall ensure alignment with national environmental laws and policies relating to waste management and sustainable development.

(4) The Cabinet Secretary may, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters relating to finance, develop incentives to promote recycling and reuse of textile and apparel materials in accordance with relevant written laws.

Role of the county government.

16. A county government shall—

(a) implement the National Government policy relating to the textile and apparel industry;

(b) maintain an up-to-date register of producers of raw materials, garment markers, textile mills, textile and apparel retailers, ginneries, cooperatives and other associations in that county;

(c) licence raw materials aggregators and small-scale manufacturers of textile and apparel;

(d) implement national and county legislation on textile and apparel industry code of practice, policies and guidelines on corporate governance in the manufacturers institutions;

(e) offer extension services on the production of raw materials and to primary producers;

(f) encourage and promote the organization of textile and apparel co-operatives, associations, and other organizations;

(g) provide training and extension service programs;

(h) disseminate information to producers of raw materials, industry workers and manufacturers relative to production technology, market systems, industrial workers, entrepreneurial and other technical skills and values, attitude formation and socio-economic development strategies;

(i) inspect value addition industries located within their respective counties; and

(j) in collaboration with Ministry, inspect the production of raw materials, mills and textile and apparel manufacturers.

Enactment of county specific legislation.

17. A county government may enact county specific legislation prescribing—

(a) the criteria for registration and appeal mechanism;

(b) information required to be submitted by an applicant for registration;

(c) the criteria for the issuance of licenses by an applicant within the respective county;

(d) the conditions for the issuance or renewal of a licence under this Act;

(e) the grounds for the rejection of an application or cancellation of a licence issued under this Act; and

(f) such other provisions as the county government shall consider necessary.

Mechanisms for the collection and management of textile and apparel waste at the county level.

18. A county government shall, in collaboration with the Ministry—

(a) establish mechanisms for the collection and management of textile and apparel waste within its jurisdiction;

(b) support community-based and small and medium enterprises engaged in recycling and reuse activities; and

(c) integrate textile and apparel waste management into county environmental and waste management plans.

PART IV— REGULATION ON SECOND HAND CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS OF APPAREL

Regulation of importation of second-hand clothing.

Cap. 496

19. (1) A person shall not import, distribute or sell second-hand clothing unless such clothing complies with the standards prescribed under this Act, the Standards Act and any other relevant written law.

(2) The Cabinet Secretary shall, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, make Regulations prescribing procedures for importation, distribution and sale of second-hand clothing and other items of apparel.

(3) Regulations made under subsection (2) shall —

(a) provide for measures to ensure that the importation of second-hand clothing does not undermine the growth and competitiveness of the local textile and apparel industry;

(b) prescribe, the quality, safety and hygiene standards applicable to second-hand clothing imported into or sold within Kenya;

(c) establish mechanisms for the inspection and certification of second-hand clothing prior to entry into the Kenyan market;

(d) promote the gradual reduction of dependence on imported second-hand clothing through support for local production and value addition;

(e) promote the integration of second-hand clothing into recycling, reuse and circular economy initiatives; and

(f) provide for penalties for contravention of this sub-section (1).

(4) In implementing this section, the Cabinet Secretary shall consider—

(a) Kenya's international trade obligations;

(b) the need to safeguard livelihoods dependent on the second-hand clothing trade; and

(c) public health, environmental and consumer protection considerations.

PART V—TEXTILE AND APPAREL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Industry Development Programmes.

20. (1) The Advisory Committee, shall develop industrial development programmes on the specific needs of the industry.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall take into account international best practices while developing the industrial development programmes.

(3) The industry development programmes may include—

(a) the provision of targeted support for investment in fixed assets for the purposes of establishing or expanding an industrial undertaking or an internationally traded services undertaking;

(b) the provision of business advisory supports to an industrial undertaking or an internationally traded services undertaking;

(c) the provision of targeted advisory support for the commencement of initial export activities or the expansion of existing export activities of an industrial undertaking or an internationally traded services undertaking;

(d) assistance for an industrial undertaking or an internationally traded services undertaking to access finance on reasonable terms for the purposes of expanding its commercial operations;

(e) support for the creation of indigenous brands for manufactured products;

(f) support for the adoption of internationally recognized quality standards for manufactured textile and apparel; and

(g) support for innovation in respect of manufactured products and energy efficiency across the industrial industry.

(4) The Cabinet Secretary on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, may prescribe, through guidelines, the terms and conditions for different types of support, including eligibility criteria and the procedures to

be carried out by the Advisory Committee for the selection of projects to be supported.

(5) All support provided to the industry under Textile and Apparel development programmes shall—

(a) apply only to new activities;

(b) be justified by measurable economic or social benefit;

(c) be subject to pre-determined and clearly verifiable indicators and criteria regarding the results to be achieved;

(d) operate for a sufficient but limited time period to achieve the intended results;

(e) be continuously monitored by the Advisory Committee and Ministry; and

(f) be subject to cancellation at any time where the Cabinet Secretary in consultation with the Advisory Committee is satisfied that the intended results of the support will not or cannot be achieved.

(6) Industrial undertakings and internationally traded services undertakings may only participate in or benefit from approved development programmes if they hold a valid industrial permit.

(7) The Advisory Committee, from time to time or at the request of the Cabinet Secretary, shall report on matters regarding the development programmes.

(8) The Advisory Committee shall provide a report on the development programmes for the previous year to the Cabinet Secretary within 6 months after the end of each financial year.

PART VI— ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL FUND

Establishment of Textile and Apparel Fund Fund.

21. (1) There is established a Fund to be known as the Textile and Apparel Fund.

(2) The Fund shall be administered in accordance with this Act and the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act.

(3) The Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters relating to finance shall, in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, designate an Accounting Officer for the Fund. Cap. 412A

22. The object and purpose of the Fund shall be to— Object and Purpose of the Fund.

(a) finance the development and promotion of the textile and apparel industry;

(b) support value addition across the textile and apparel value chain, including raw material development, processing, manufacturing and design;

(c) facilitate research, innovation and technology transfer within the industry;

(d) promote local and international marketing of textile and apparel products;

(e) support capacity building, skills development and training in the industry;

(f) provide financial support for industrial development programmes established under this Act; and

(g) mobilise resources to support sustainable growth and competitiveness of the textile and apparel industry.

23. There shall be paid into the Fund— Sources of the Fund.

(a) monies appropriated by the National Assembly;

(b) grants, donations, bequests or other gifts made to the Fund;

(c) monies received from any fee or charges imposed under this Act or any other written law relating to the textile and apparel industry;

(d) income generated from investments made from the Fund;

(e) monies received from development partners and international organisations; and

(f) any other monies approved by the Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters relating to finance.

Power of the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury to make Regulations.

24. The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury may, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary make regulations for the better carrying into effect of the provisions relating to the Fund, including—

(a) the management and administration of the Fund;

(b) eligibility criteria for funding;

(c) procedures for application and approval of funding;

(d) monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;

(e) reporting requirements; and

(f) any other matter relating to the Fund.

PART VII – PROVISIONS ON DELEGATED POWERS

Regulations.

25. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may, in consultation with the Advisory Committee make Regulations generally for the better carrying out the provisions of this Act and, in particular —

(a) prescribe the procedures to be followed in the development of research programmes;

(b) the procedures for the development, implementation and monitoring of textile and apparel industry programmes;

(c) the criteria, conditions and procedures for the provision of support measures, incentives and other interventions under this Act;

(d) mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between national and county governments and other stakeholders in the industry;

(e) measures for the promotion of local manufacturing, value addition and use of locally available raw materials;

(f) frameworks for the collection, management and dissemination of data and information relating to the textile and apparel industry;

(g) guidelines for research, innovation and technology transfer in the industry;

(h) reporting requirements for programmes, initiatives and interventions under this Act; and

(i) any other matter required to be prescribed under this Act.

PART VIII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Incentives.

26. The Cabinet Secretary responsible for finance may from time to time determine, by notice in the *Gazette* and in accordance with the relevant tax laws, tax incentives applicable to the industry.

Market Research and Innovation.

27. The Advisory Committee shall carry out market research and analysis and disseminate information on its findings to all stakeholders.

Inspection of quality and safety.

28. The Ministry and the relevant county government shall carry out physical inspection of premises licensed under this Act, quarterly to ensure that safety and health standards are followed.

Penalties.

29. (1) A person who commits an offence under this Act for which no penalty is provided, is liable on conviction, to a fine of not exceeding two million shillings or, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.

(2) Where an offence under this Act is committed by a partnership, company, association or co-operative society, every person who at the time when the offence was committed—

(a) was director, partner or officer;

(b) had knowledge or should have had knowledge of the commission of the offence; and

(c) did not exercise due diligence to ensure compliance with this Act, commits an offence and is liable for the offence as if they had committed the offence, unless they prove that the act or omission constituting the offence took place without their knowledge, consent or connivance and that they exercised diligence to prevent the commission of the offence as they ought to have exercised having regard to the nature of their functions as director, partner or officer concerned as aforesaid and to all the circumstances.

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Statement on Objects and Reasons of the Bill

The principal object of this Bill is to promote the development of the textile and apparel industry in order to enable the industry attain its targeted growth. In addition, the Bill seeks to promote the use of locally manufactured textile and apparel, encourage recycling of apparel materials, to boost the country's foreign exchange through the exportation of raw materials and textile and apparel manufactured locally. Further, the Bill seeks to address the issue of importation of second-hand clothing.

The Bill seeks to address the challenges facing the textile and apparel industry by establishing a fund that will be used for development and research, operations, price stabilization and support diversified raw materials.

PART I (clauses 1-3) of the Bill provides for the short title, the interpretation encourages recycling of apparel materials and objects and purpose of the Act.

PART II (clauses 4-13) establishes the Textile and Apparel Advisory Committee.

PART III (clause 14-18) provides for the role of the National Government and County Government in the industry including recycling of textile and apparel.

PART IV (Clause 19)— provides for the regulation of second-hand clothing.

PART V (clause 20) provides for textile and apparel industry development programmes.

PART VI (clause 21 -24) establishes the Textile and Apparel Fund.

PART VII (25-) provides for delegated powers.

Part VIII (clauses 26-29) provides for miscellaneous provisions.

Statement on the delegation of legislative powers and limitation of fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Bill under section 25 and 26 delegates legislative powers to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters relating to textile and Apparel to make regulations for the administration of the Textile and Apparel Fund and to make regulations generally for the effective carrying out the provisions of this Act respectively.

The Bill does not limit fundamental freedoms and rights as envisaged in the Constitution.

Statement on whether the Bill concerns county governments

The Bill concerns county governments in terms of Article 110(1) (a) of the Constitution as it contains provisions that set out certain functions to be discharged by county governments. Paragraph 7 of part 2 of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution assigns county governments the role of trade development and regulation.

Statement on whether the bill is a money Bill within the meaning of Article 114 of the Constitution

The enactment of this Bill may occasion additional expenditure of public funds to be provided for through the estimates.

Dated the 3rd August, 2026.

WILBERFORCE OJIAMBO OUNDO,
Member of Parliament.