



BUNGE Review

Kenyan Parliament hosts first post-covid regional meet for lawmakers

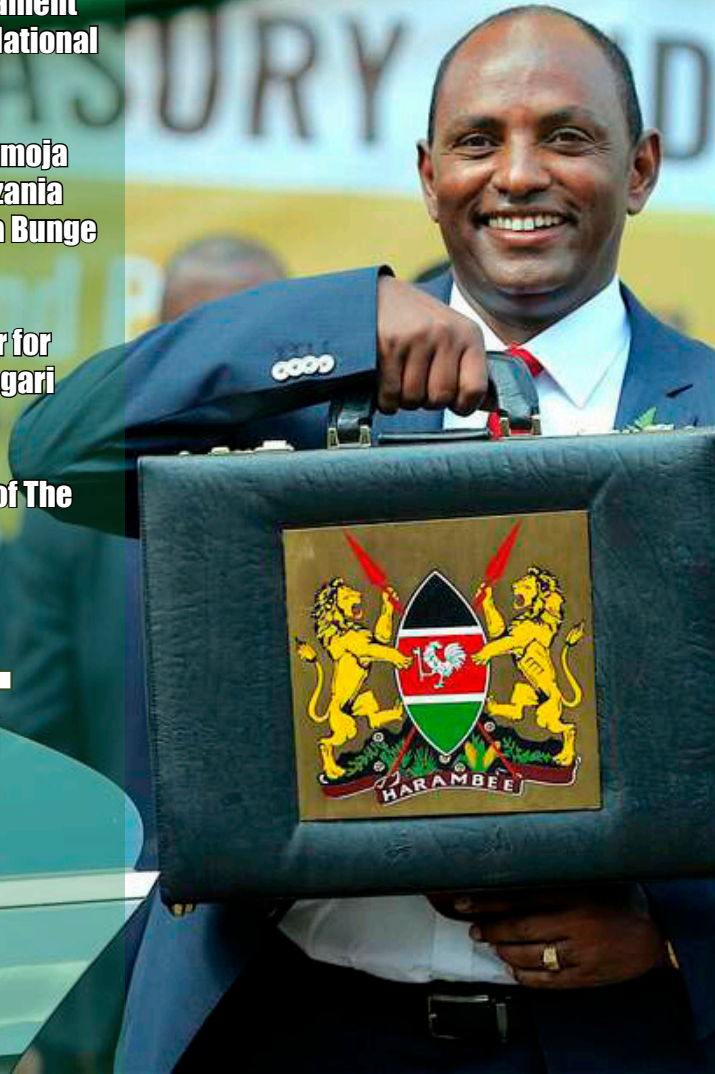
A Call for Hope as Parliament Hosts the 18th Annual National Prayer Breakfast

Rais Suluhi aangazia umoja wa Wakenya na Watanzania katika hotuba yake kwa Bunge

Top 10 with the Member for Gilgil, Hon. Martha Wangari

Top 8 Longest Sitzings of The National Assembly

**BUDGET
2021
IN PICTURES**



FOREWORD



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 11th Issue of the National Assembly E-Newsletter Bunge Review.

In this issue, the Parliament of Kenya hosted the first international engagement for law makers since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. Parliament hosted over 80 delegates under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), African Region. This is our lead story and it is found on page four.

In addition, President of Tanzania Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan visited Kenya and had to opportunity to address a joint sitting of Parliament. The story on this historic address is carried on pages eight and nine.

During the period covered in the 11th Issue, Parliament hosted the 18th Annual Prayer Breakfast. This event was graced by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Deputy President Hon. William Ruto. The Prayer Breakfast meeting brings together leaders from across public and private sectors. For details, turn to pages six and seven.

From the floor, the National Assembly passed a number of legislations aimed at cushioning Kenyans from the effects of Covid-19 pandemic. The House also fast tracked the passing of legislation that support Government efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19. You want to know which laws these are and they affect you? All that is contained in this Issue.

In the interview corner, our team carried out an interview with the Gilgil Member of Parliament, Hon. Martha Wangari. Details of the interview are contained under the title Top 10.

Our pictorial pages feature, amongst others, the pictures taken during this year's Budget Day and the swearing in of new Members of Parliament who joined the 12th Parliament after being elected in the recently held by-elections.

For these stories and many more, welcome.

Enjoy reading

*Mr. Michael R. Sialai, EBS
Clerk of The National Assembly of Kenya*

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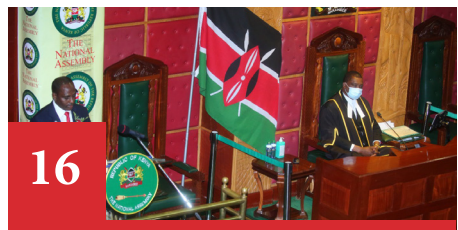
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Kenyan Parliament hosts first post-covid regional meet for lawmakers



Attendants of the 80th CPA Africa Region Executive Committee (EXCO) pose for a picture during the meeting

The Parliament of Kenya has played host to the first international engagement for lawmakers since the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020. In what may signify that Kenya is making great strides in the fight against the pandemic while embracing normalcy albeit cautiously, the August House welcomed over 80 delegates under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Africa Region.

The meeting, which brought together legislators who form the top governing body of the association in the Africa Region, was opened by the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt. Hon. Justin Muturi. The meeting dubbed “The 80th CPA Africa Region Executive Committee (EXCO)” was preceded by sub-committee meetings which took place between 12th- 17th July, culminating to a full Executive Committee meeting on Sunday, July 18, 2021 at the Nairobi Serena Hotel.

During the opening session, Speaker Muturi, who is the Chair of the EXCO was joined by, among other dignitaries, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, the Rt. Hon. Job Ndugai, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria, the Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, who is also the President-designate of the CPA Africa Region. Others present were the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

of South Africa Hon. Lechesa Tsenoli, the CWP Chairperson Hon. Dr. Zainab Gimba (Nigeria) and delegates from Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zanzibar, and the host Kenya.

In his opening remarks, Speaker Muturi focused on the importance of reviewing the legal status of the CPA which is currently registered as a charity organization in the United Kingdom.

“We are currently working on proper registration of the Association to enable it acquire same status as that of an international association,” said Hon. Muturi.

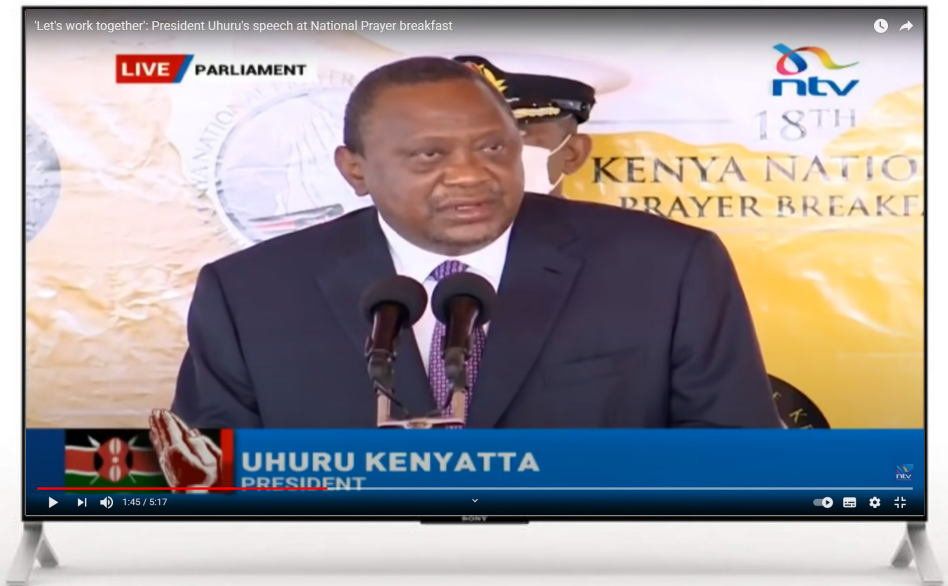
He expressed regret that the CPA Africa Region lacks representation in the current Coordinating Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, noting that this situation needs to be rectified urgently. While underscoring the integral place of the region to the CPA International and the critical roles performed by Speakers and Members of Parliament who make up the Association in the region, Hon. Muturi called for the urgent conclusion of the legal status of the CPA to allow the Association to move to the next level in the global arena.

The 80th CPA Africa EXCO brought together delegates from across the region and was preceded by meetings of the Subcommittees of the EXCO which include the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee, the Regional Representatives (RR) Sub-Committee, the Programme Planning and Finance Sub-Committee, the Sub-Budget Committee and the Investment Board.

The meeting considered the reports adopted by the Sub-Committees and directed the processing of key agenda among them, the nomination of a regional representative to the CPA Working Group on Human Rights; CPA Africa nominee for election as CPA Acting Vice Chairperson and the upcoming 51st CPA Africa Annual Regional Conference slated for November 2021 to be hosted by the CPA Nigeria Branch.



A Call for Hope as Parliament Hosts the 18th Annual National Prayer Breakfast



The Speakers of the Houses of Parliament the Hon. Justin Muturi and the Hon. Kenneth Lusaka on 27th May 2021 hosted the 18th Annual National Prayer Breakfast at Parliament Buildings, Nairobi. The event which was, graced by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Deputy Hon. William Ruto, brought together leaders from across the public and private sectors.

During this year's event, held under the theme; 'A hopeful future,' key speakers called for unity among leaders to ensure lasting hope to the people. In his speech, President Kenyatta acknowledged the milestones made in the effort towards peaceful coexistence and the need for working together especially with the emerging challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

These sentiments were echoed by Deputy President William Ruto who referenced the halt in most political activities around the country as a sign that there is need for the political leadership to listen to the religious leaders, stating that "Maybe, this is a sign of God telling us to 'come, let us reason together.'"



The keynote speaker, Mr. Peter Waiyaki, urged leaders in the country to deliver on their promises to the people. This, he observed, would address matters affecting of majority of Kenyans living below poverty line, there current cases of diseases, unemployment among the youth, corruption, and an inequitable quality of education.

“Integrity safeguards everything we hold dear, from our money, to our children, to our families, to our security, to our lives. Integrity demands that you demand integrity in others as well. Mr. President, from you we demand not just your own integrity, but that of the people you call in to work with you,” said Waiyaki.

As part of the keynote address, Waiyaki challenged leaders in the country to, among other things, internalize and insist on integrity; embrace and practice patriotism; always do what is right; and, provide hope to the citizenry by putting the people first. He called on leaders to be fair to all regardless of their status in the society. Additionally, leaders ought to be conscious of the fact that the fate of the nation is the fate of self and focus on improving the well being

of all.

Other leaders who attended the event include, the Chief Justice, Hon. Justice Martha Koome, former Auditor General, Mr. William Ouko, and Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Mercy Mwangangi and Senator Amos Wako who gave a personal experience after being diagnosed with COVID-19.



Rais Suluhu aangazia umoja wa Wakenya na Watanzania katika hotuba yake kwa Bunge



Rais Suluhu pamoja na maspika wa Bunge wakisimama wima wakati wimbo wa Taifa ukichezwa baada ya Rais Suluhu kukamilisha hotuba yake.

Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania Mhe. Samia Suluhu Hassan ametoa wito kwa Wakenya na Watanzania kuungana na kutangamana ili kuhamasisha uhusiano wao wa kibiasara na udugu.

Akihutubia Wabunge takribani mia moja na hamsini kutoka kwa Mabunge yote mawili katika Kikao cha Pamoja cha Bunge kilichofanyika mnamo tarehe tano Mei, Rais Suluhu aliangazia sana faida za muungano wa Wakenya na Watanzania katika ngazi mbalimbali.

Rais Suluhu alikemea mitazamo ya awali ya wananchi wa nchi zote mbili haswa wanasiasa, ambayo imechangia sana katika kuleta migawanyiko kati ya Kenya na Tanzania.

Akitoa shukrani zake kwa Wabunge kwa kumpa fursa ya kuwahutubia, Rais Suluhu alieleza furaha yake kwa maspika wa Bunge kwa kutunukiwa nafasi ya kuhutubia Kikao cha Pamoja cha Bunge. Hali kadhalika, alimmimbia sifa mwenyeji wake Rais Uhuru Kenyatta kwa mwaliko wake wa kipekee. Alieleza kwamba alifarajika sana kwa kupata nafasi hiyo mwanzoni mwa uongozi wake huku akisema kuwa kumbukumbu hiyo na taadhima aliyopewa haitafutika kwenye maisha yake.

Akiangazia uhusiano baina ya nchi za Kenya na Tanzania, Rais Suluhu alibainisha kwamba nchi zote mbili zinakubaliana katika mambo mengi kuliko yale machache sana ambayo wanatofautiana. Aliendelea kusema kwamba hata hivyo, hayo machache hayajakuwa ya msingi bali ni mitazamo tu.

Akirejerea mazungumzo yake na mwenyeji wake Rais Uhuru Kenyatta, Rais Suluhu ambaye ni wa pili kuhutubia Kikao cha Pamoja cha Bunge la Kenya aliwajulisha wabunge kuhusu makubaliano yao katika mazungumzo yao ya faragha hapo jana kwenye ikulu ikiwemo mwito wa kukutana mara kwa mara ili kuimarisha uhusiano wa nchi hizi mbili.

“Ili kuondoa mitazamo hasi kati yetu, tumekubaliana kujenga na kuendeleza utamaduni wa kukutana mara kwa mara, katika ngazi mbali mbali. Ndugu wa Jirani wanaotembeleana hujenga ukaribu kuliko wale wasiotembeleana. Umbali hutengeneza mashaka; ukaribu huyaondosha”, Rais Suluhu alisema.

Rais Suluhu ambaye alifika Bunge takribani saa 8:45 mchana na kulakiwa na Maspika wa Bunge ya Taifa na Seneti. pamoja na viongozi wengine bungeni. Pia, Rais Suluhu alieleza furaha yake kwa mwaliko wa kuhutubia Bunge. Alisema kwamba ilipendeza sana kuwa alipata nafasi ya kipekee sio tu kutembelea nchi

ya Kenya kwenye Ziara yake Rasmi ya Kwanza, bali pia kwa taadhima ya kuingia kwenye kumbukumbu kama Rais wa Pili katika historia kuhutubia Kikao cha Pamoja cha Bunge la Kenya.

Akitaja taadhima aliyopewa tangu alipowasili nchini Kenya kuwa ya hali ya juu, alichukua nafasi kwenye jukwaa kuwahimiza wabunge kuwa kipao mbele katika kuhimiza umoja na uhusiano mwema wa nchi hizi mbili. Alitoa mwito pia kwa Wabunge kujizatiti kuwatumikia wanaowakilisha na pia kuhimiza serikali za nchi zote mbili kutilia maanani sera ambazo zitaboresha maisha yao na uhusiano wao.

Mheshimiwa Rais Suluhu alitaja kwamba uhusiano wa Tanzania na Kenya uliofungwa kwa mafundo matatu ni wa kipekee sana. Alieleza kwamba mafundo haya ni udugu wa damu kati ya wananchi wa nchi hizi mbili, wa kihistoria na pia wa jiografia. Alikadiria kwamba kutokana na ukweli huu, ushirikiano wa Wakenya na Watanzania si wa hiari bali ni wa lazima kutokana na kanuni za usuli wa udugu ambao Mungu ameuumba.

Pengine kwa jambo ambalo wabunge walingoja kulisikia sana, Rais Suluhu aliahidi kwamba katika awamu yake ya uongozi, atahakikisha kwamba Kenya inabaki kuwa ndugu, jirani, mshirika na mkakati wa mbia. Pia aliwahakikishia Wabunge kuwa Tanzania itaendelea kuwa jirani, mbia na rafiki mwaminifu na wa kutumainiwa wa Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki.


Hotuba ya Rais Suluhu iliyochukua muda wa saa moja ilihanikiza furaha na mwembwe kwa Wabunge ambao walimshangilia kwa kupigisha miguu kama ilivyo kawaida ya kushabikia mambo bungeni.

Labda kudhibitisha kuwa Ziara yake Bungeni ilikuwa ya baraka kama alivyotaja, baada tu ya kumaliza hotuba yake, mvua kubwa ilimwagika na kusitisha kidogo shughuli za kumuaga rasmi kwa muda. Baada ya kuka faraghani kwa muda, Maspika wa Bunge walimuaga takribani saa 10.20. alasiri.



Mapicha kutoka matembezi ya Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania Mhe. Samia Suluhu Hassan nchini Kenya





The National Assembly and Covid-19: Re-looking at operations

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. This followed the increased number of cases both in the epicentre (Wuhan, China) as well as exponential increase in infections in other countries.

With these developments, there was need for organisations to reconsider their operations and enhance efforts to combat the spread and impact of the pandemic. In support of the government's efforts, the National Assembly took various administrative, procedural and legislative measures to support the fight against the spread of the coronavirus disease within the institution and the country at large, and also to cushion the public from effects of the disease.

Legislative Measures

As part of its legislative mandate, the National Assembly passed several legislations aimed at cushioning the public from the effects of COVID-19, and supporting the coordination of government efforts to contain the spread of the disease. The legislations include the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which made certain fiscal changes to the taxation regime in response to the Covid-19 pandemic to cushion Kenyans against the adverse economic effects arising from the disease including overhauling the capital and investment allowances and tax exemption regime under the Income Tax Act, as well as reduction of the corporate tax rate, Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) tax bands, VAT rate, expanding the list of the items that are subject to VAT with previously exempted supplies, among others.

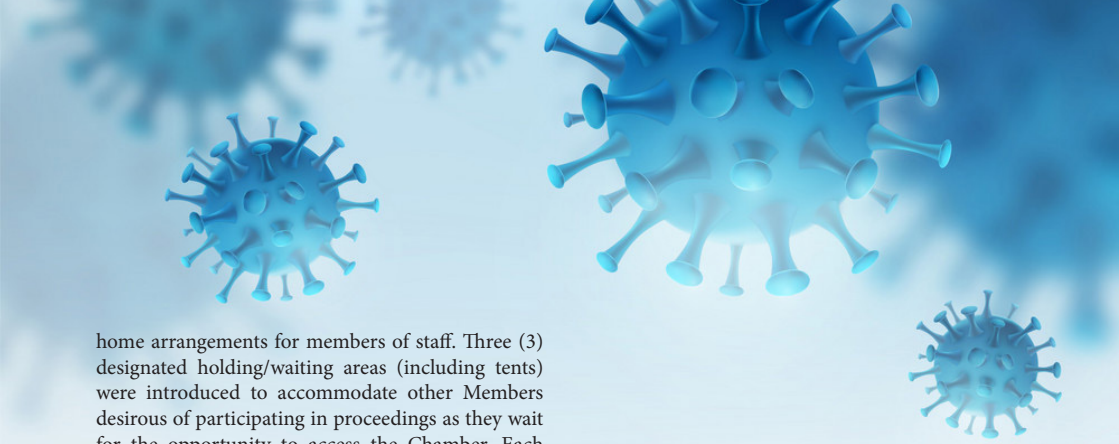
Additionally, the National Assembly considered and approved the national budget taking into

consideration the global pandemic and the required response measures. In considering and approving the 2020/2021 national budget, the National Assembly incorporated the post-Covid-19 Economic Stimulus Programme (PC-ESP) which proposed interventions including the National Hygiene Programme (NHP) popularly known as KaziMtaani, a national initiative that is designed to cushion the most vulnerable youth living in informal settlements from the effects and response strategies of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 2nd April 2020 and 11th April, 2020 the Speaker of the National Assembly issued Guidelines on the conduct of sittings of the House and Committee meetings during the COVID-19 Pandemic period (No.2 of 2020 & Supplementary I). The Guidelines made changes in the operations of the institution.

In the interests of safety, and to set a national example, the National Assembly instituted several measures in keeping with the public health protocols. These included the reduction of the sitting capacity in the Chamber and other meeting areas. The capacity of the Chamber for example was reduced from the maximum 418 to a maximum of 60. This has since been revised upwards to 112 following an advisory from the Ministry of Health. Seat are assigned a number which is accessible on first-register-first-occupy basis except for seats designated for the Leader of Majority Party, Leader of Minority Party, the Deputy Speaker, the Majority Party Whip, the Minority Party Whip and a Member scheduled to move a business listed in the Order Paper for the particular sitting.

The institution also designated holding-areas for Members during House sittings, adopted virtual sittings for Committees as well as working-from-



home arrangements for members of staff. Three (3) designated holding/waiting areas (including tents) were introduced to accommodate other Members desirous of participating in proceedings as they wait for the opportunity to access the Chamber. Each previously used seat is sanitized before occupation by another Member. The designated holding areas are located within the precincts of Parliament Buildings. Members seated at any of the designated holding areas are, upon request, allowed to contribute to debate, and vote.

Committee sittings are held only in designated meeting rooms in line with recommendations of the Ministry of Health. The Committee rooms can only be occupied by a maximum of 15 persons at any given time from the usual more than thirty persons.

On 6th May 2020, the National Assembly amended the Standing Orders through the adoption of the Fourth Report of the Procedure & House Rules Committee on Amendments to the Standing Orders to Facilitate Virtual Sittings of the House and its Committees. The amendment to the Standing Orders allow for the incorporation of virtual participation of Members in the proceedings of the House and

its Committees during exceptional circumstances that prevent normal operations. The Procedure & House Rules Committee is developing the necessary Guidelines to support the implementation of the amended Standing Orders. The National Assembly is in the process of acquiring an appropriate technological system for virtual proceeding in plenary and Committee sittings.

In the meantime, the institution continues to make use of the available platforms to conduct virtual meetings. Of key interest was the use of a hybrid system incorporating both virtual and physical participation in plenary during the voting on the Second and Third readings of the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill 2020 on 6th May 2021.

The Departmental Committee on Health continues to engage with the Ministry of Health to ensure coordination of the government response to the pandemic.



A socially distanced parliament session in line with new COVID-19 protocols



TOP 10

WITH THE MEMBER
FOR GILGIL, HON.
MARTHA WANGARI

1. Thank you very much for your time and for agreeing to be featured on the Bunge Review. You trained as a Statistician, how did you end up in politics and did you always want to be in politics?

Hon. Wangari: Well, I would say that even in politics, it's all mathematics. It's a game of numbers! However, in my formative years, my dream course was law as I aspired to be a judge. But when I got to Chiromo Campus (of the University of Nairobi), I was admitted to the Statistics class. Nonetheless, I guess my passion for leadership took the front seat. During my first year, I was elected as Finance Secretary for the Science Students' Association and later as Vice Chairperson in my second year. As is politics, I kept growing and during my third year at the university, I was elected as the Vice Chairperson of the Students' Organization of Nairobi University (SONU). I would say this was my thrust to national politics and I have not turned back. In the run-up to the 2007 general elections, I was involved in the Kibaki re-election campaign and formed the group Warembu Na Kibaki as a lobby group for young women. This reaffirmed my footing in national politics.

2. You served as a nominated Senator in the 11th Parliament. What would you say was your greatest achievement and why did you decide to run for Member of Parliament for Gilgil Constituency, and not as Senator for Nakuru County for example?

Hon. Wangari: I am lucky to have served in both Houses of Parliament and indeed to be able to transit to an elected position. As a nominated Senator, and a young mother then, I was able to implore the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) to provide a crèche for young mothers; both Members of Parliament and staff within Parliament buildings. This conversation has been picked up and yielded in the Breastfeeding Bill, with requirement for the provision of such facilities in both public and private workplaces.

I also pride myself in being the first woman Senator to sponsor a Bill that proceeded to enactment into an Act. The Act, the County Governments (Amendment) Act of 2013 ensured that nominated Members of County Assemblies (MCAs), who are mostly women, are sworn in at the same time as their elected counterparts, which was not the case before. This ensures that the nominated MCAs take part in all proceedings of the assemblies including the election of the assembly leadership which usually takes place at commencement of assembly sittings. But more importantly, this ensures that affirmative

action does not end with just being nominated but rather opens up the way for other leadership roles. That way, we can continuously improve the gender ratio in Parliament and in leadership generally.

I decided to run for the Gilgil seat because as a Senator then, I had no funds at all. I wasn't able to effectively impact lives of those I represented. But now through CDF, I am able to implement my vision by dealing directly with the poor infrastructure in my area. I also have had a chance to improve education facilities, ensure the needy are supported to attain education, amongst other direct impact projects. We have been able and continue to channel resources to these sectors to ensure that we uplift and support the livelihoods of the community.

3. You definitely shattered the glass ceiling to emerge as a woman MP representing a single constituency. What challenges did you experience in the run-up to the election and how were you able to overcome them?

Hon. Wangari: Running for office as a woman candidate is never easy. You have to work twice as hard for half the recognition. My biggest challenge though has been the neck down politics practiced by most male opponents who prefer mudslinging not only their women opponents, but also their families. This is usually meant to discourage us and women therefore have to be strong. Women are also judged against higher standards of morality; so that things that a man would easily get away with are used to bring down women. Of course, this does not mean that women would wish to operate outside of the moral perimeter. It is only that male politicians, and other public figures, are not judged as harshly as women are. But guess what? The future is female, slowly, we will get there!

The other challenge is of course violence. Sadly, our kind politics is still very violent and this is usually toughest on women than men.

4. The two-third gender principle debate has dominated Parliament the last several years. What are your thoughts on the debate and do you see Kenya achieving this principle soon?

Hon. Wangari: This debate suffers due to lack of political goodwill. We came very close during the 11th Parliament, but still could not achieve the required numbers. Interestingly, we easily achieved the threshold in the recent debate on the BBI Bill. So for me, it is possible to achieve this desire if the

political class so decided. However, our political parties ought to be the foundations for the desired change. If all parties were to put internal affirmative action mechanisms, then the institution would easily achieve a representative balance. For now, alluta continua!

5. You're a young elected MP. A number of young Kenyans have accused their colleagues in leadership positions of not addressing their issues effectively. What would say about that?

Hon. Wangari: I think we sometimes narrow the issues too much to say “representing a certain group or section of society.” When one is elected, you represent everyone across the demographic horizon. The decisions that an elected leader makes on such issues as health, education, or infrastructure affect the whole society including the young people. You cannot say you will build roads only for the youth and not women for example. The results of our actions are felt across the spectrum. Of course, there are affirmative actions that as a leader, I have recognized as priority concerns for the youth including economic empowerment through skills enhancement and business support, drug abuse health interventions, sporting, and ICT interventions. These can however be achieved alongside the rest of the development activities that target the whole community depending on the available funding at any one time. It is therefore simplistic to say that leaders deliberately ignore youth-related issues, at least that not in Gilgil Constituency.

6. Many Kenyans among them young people aspire to rise to leadership positions to effect ‘transformative leadership.’ With your 9 years’ experience in national politics, how would you encourage them?

Hon. Wangari: I think all that is required in leadership, regardless of age, is the desire to spearhead change. We have had post-independence politics for the last six decades, what difference are you bringing to the play field? Once you identify the desired change, nothing can stop you.

The next step then is to come forward and offer oneself for election as no one will know your interest and capability while you are seated at home or work. You have to show up!

Lastly, politics is not a cheap affair! It requires quite a substantial amount of resources. I would advise the youth interested in leadership positions to utilize inexpensive avenues to market themselves



for example through social media and other online tools. There are also organizations that support youth seeking political posts in the country. But one has to have shown great desire and ability to attract such support. All in all, youth leadership is possible and the way to go. I am a practical example!

7. What gaps would you say exist between those in various leadership positions now, and the Kenyan youth?

Hon. Wangari: Many young people have lost hope and are in despair due to, among other things, the unemployment challenge in this country. As a leader, when you are not able to meet this need, a wedge develops between you and the electorate. However, to remedy this, I would say more purposeful engagements towards youth empowerment would go a long way in correcting this divide.

8. There has been a sharp focus on Parliament which at times reflects negatively especially in the media. What misconceptions about Members of Parliament and the legislature do you think needs to be demystified?

Hon. Wangari: I have actually said previously that the mainstream media has not been very fair to Parliament. The matter of “a man biting a dog being news” has resulted in the reporting of mundane and mediocre issues whereas we churn more important business that affect the daily lives of Kenyans. It is not something we have control over as the media houses are independent and report what they think is important. Maybe, it is about time they relooked

their policies and considered a more balanced approach in their reporting.

Going forward, Parliament has to tell its own stories. For example, through the establishment of a dedicated radio/TV channels for Parliament and increased use of social media. This publication is also a big step in this endeavour.

9. Congratulations on the passage of the Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Your comment on this achievement?

Hon. Wangari: I am very happy to have sponsored a private Member’s Bill which was considered through all the process and passed to be an Act of Parliament. It was not a mean fete and I pride myself for being one of the few Members to have sponsored a Bill to full enactment. The Bill is a milestone for all adoptive parents who are now entitled to pre-adoptive leave which was never there before. The Act now provides that where a child is to be placed in the care and control of an adoptive parent who is an employee, the parent shall be entitled to one month’s pre-adoptive leave with full pay from the date of the placement of the child. This is really helpful as it affords the parents the opportunity to bond with the adopted child.

10. With slightly just over a year to the next General Elections, what plans do you have in the pipeline?

Hon. Wangari: I still have so much to do for great people of Gilgil constituency. We are walking the journey together to see Gilgil rise again.





Pictorial

**BUDGET
2021
IN PICTURES**

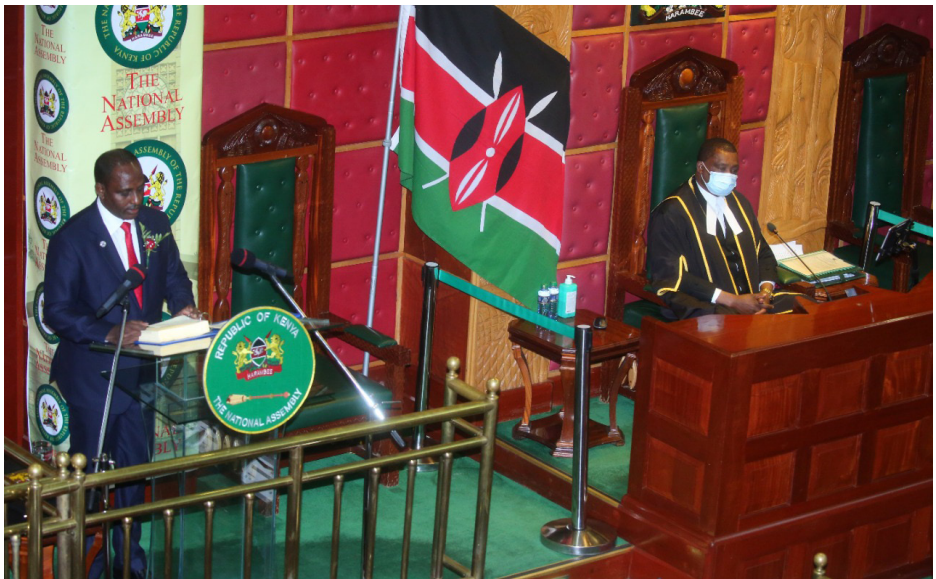


The Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury Hon. Ukur Yattani arrives at Parliament buildings with The National Budget on 10th June, 2021. h



ABOVE: Hon. Ukur Yattani (Centre) poses with The Clear of The National Assembly Hon. Michael Sialai (Far left), The Leader of the Majority Party Hon Amos Kimunya (Second Left), xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Second Right), and The Leader of the Minority Coalition in Parliament Hon. John Mbadi (Far Right)

BELOW: Hon. Ukur Yattani addresses the National Assembly during the Presentation of the Budget Highlights on 10th June, 2021 (Looking on is The Speaker of The National Assembly Hon. Justin Muturi.





The Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Justin Muturi confers with the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) Director-General, H.E. Ms. Zainabu Hawa Bangura who called on me in June 2021. The two agreed to establish engagements between the United Nations Office and the Departmental Committee on Defense and Foreign Relations. The Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Justin Muturi confers with the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) Director-General, H.E. Ms. Zainabu Hawa Bangura who called on me in June 2021. The two agreed to establish engagements between the United Nations Office and the Departmental Committee on Defense and Foreign Relations.



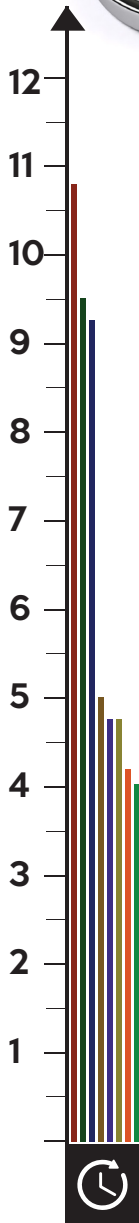


The newly elected Juja MP, Hon. George Koimburi (in blue suit) and his Bonchari counterpart, Hon. Panel Oimeke (in black suit) are sworn in by the Speaker of the National Assembly on 8th June. The two were elected in by-elections held on 18th May following the demise of the former office holders





Longest Sitzings of the National Assembly



KEY BUSINESS

1	Tuesday, January 15, 2008 10 Hr 47 Min	Election of the Speaker (<i>Hon. Kenneth Marende, MP</i>) & Deputy Speaker (<i>Hon. Farah Maalim, MP</i>), and Swearing-in of Members of the 10th Parliament
2	Thursday, December 14, 2017 9 Hrs 30 Min	Election of Nine Members of the East African Legislative Assembly (<i>Hon. Simon Mbugua, Hon. Florence Jematiah Serگون, Hon. Mpuru Aburi, Hon. Adan Mohamed Nooru, Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, Hon. Kennedy Musyoka Kalonzo, Hon. Oburu Oginga Odinga, Hon. Abdikadir Omar Aden & Hon. Fatuma Ibrahim Ali</i>)
3	Thursday, May 6, 2021 9 Hrs 23 Min	Division on the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (<i>Second Reading – Ayes 234, Nays 81, Abstention 2; Third Reading Ayes 224, Nays 63, Abstention 2</i>)
4	Thursday March 28, 2013 5 Hrs 00 Min	Election of the Speaker (<i>Hon. Justin B.N. Muturi, EGH, MP</i>) & Deputy Speaker (<i>Hon. Joyce Laboso, MP</i>)
5	Thursday March 28, 2013 4 Hrs 48 Min	Swearing-in of Members of the 11 th Parliament
6	Thursday, August 31, 2017 4 Hrs 48 Min	Swearing-in of Members of the 12 th Parliament
7	Thursday, January 9, 2003 4 Hrs 10 Min	Election of the Speaker (<i>Hon. Francis Ole Kaparo, MP</i>) & Deputy Speaker (<i>Hon. David Musila, MP</i>), and Swearing-in of Members of the 9th Parliament
8	Thursday, August 31, 2017 4 Hrs 00 Min	Election of the Speaker (<i>Hon. Justin B.N. Muturi, EGH, MP</i>) & Deputy Speaker (<i>Hon. Moses Cheboi, MP</i>)



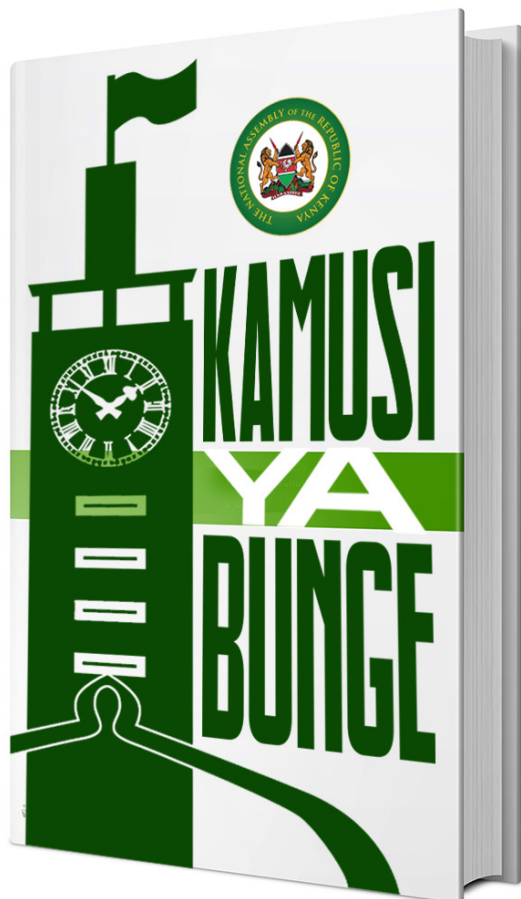
Duration

Date

Morning Session

Afternoon Session

JUKWAA LA KISWAHILI



Baadhi za Istilahi zinazotumika bungeni

1. Standing Orders

Kanuni za Kudumu

2. Mediation Committee

Kamati ya Upatanisho

3. Presidential assent

Kibali cha Rais

4. Custody of Bills

Uhifadhi wa Miswada

5. Motion

Hoja

6. Parliament

Bunge

7. National Assembly

Bunge la Taifa

8. Senate

Seneti

9. Leader of Majority Party

**Kiongozi wa Chama cha
Walio Wengi**

10. Leader of Minority Party

**Kiongozi wa Chama cha
Walio Wachache**

Finance Committee considers proposed law for registration of Insurance Professionals



THE BILL IN A SNAPSHOT

Bill's Title:

The Insurance Professionals Registration Bill, 2020 (National Assembly Bill No. 25 of 2020)

Publication Date:

26th August 2020

First Reading

10th September 2020

Sponsoring Member

Hon. Benjamin Washiali

Departmental Committee

Finance and National Planning

Insurance professionals will soon be required to be registered and to operate under a body that will ensure the promotion of standards of professional competence and practice within the insurance sector. This proposal is contained in the Insurance Professionals Registration Bill, 2020 (National Assembly Bill No. 25 of 2020), sponsored by the Member for Mumias East Constituency, Hon. Benjamin Washiali.

The Bill seeks to provide a legislative framework for the regulation of professionals in the sector in a bid to enhance the standards of service, promote professionalism and address concerns regarding professional misconduct in the insurance industry. The Bill further seeks to establish the Insurance Institute of Kenya as the overall professional organ for insurance professionals that shall regulate professional conduct and maintain level of standards of services rendered by insurance professionals to be registered under the proposed law.

If passed, every insurance professional will be required to register and apply for a practising certificate from the proposed Registration of Insurance Professionals Committee which will be charged with the role of monitoring compliance with professional quality assurance and prescribing regulations to govern quality assurance programmes within the sector.

“The Bill provides a legislative framework for the regulation of professionals in the insurance sector to enhance the standards of service in the sector, promote professionalism and address concerns regarding professional misconduct in the insurance industry”

Bill due for Second Reading

The Bill was read for a First time on 10th September 2020. The Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning has considered the Bill and tabled its report.

Pursuant to Standing Order 127(3) of the National Assembly Standing Orders, the Committee received memoranda from various stakeholders including - the Association of Kenya Professional Insurance Agents (AKPIA), the Association of Insurance Brokers of Kenya and Association of Kenya Insurers, Bima Intermediaries Association of Kenya, College of Insurance, Insurance Institute of Kenya, Institute of Human Resource Management, Insurance Regulatory Authority, Kenya Association of Stockbrokers and Investment Bankers, and Bancassurance Association of Kenya.

The Bill is available on the Parliament of Kenya website (<http://www.parliament.go.ke/the-national-assembly/house-business/bills>).

Focus On Workplace Wellness



Staff of the National Assembly after successful hike at Mt. Longonot, Naivasha in May 2021

The productivity of employees at the workplace is greatly determined by their wellbeing. Owing to this realization, employers worldwide have developed workplace programmes and activities aimed at ensuring employee wellness. These programmes have been credited with increased productivity among employees which in turn contributes to the achievement of organisational goals and targets.

According to Wellness Conference Kenya Ltd, the coming years will have dramatic impact on what wellness means to individuals, businesses, social programmes, communities and government entities. Employee wellness has taken centre-stage in most organizations globally due to its noted importance to national productivity, a key essential for economic growth. For instance, the Government of the United States of America (USA) through the Pan-American Health Organization in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) annually celebrates Wellness Week, a corporate initiative dedicated to promoting good health and wellbeing of citizens across all states.

Wellness programmes and activities are implemented by employers in order to:-

- (i) Improve employee physical strength, stamina and general wellbeing;
- (ii) Prevent/reduce occurrence of chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke and obesity among employees;

- (iii) Manage rising health care costs;
- (iv) Manage absenteeism due to ill health;
- (v) Improve focus at work;
- (vi) Manage work stress and pressure;
- (vii) Create a high sense of awareness and creativity;
- (viii) Promote a healthy lifestyle;
- (ix) Better work relationship with co-workers and supervisors;
- (x) Promote the employers' corporate image through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.

Towards the realization of workplace wellness, the National Assembly staff on 21st March, 2021 attended a talk on "Empathy at workplace and how to fix it." The talk was delivered in the Main Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

On 22nd March, 2021 staff participated in several activities at Kereita Forest in Kiambu County. Among the activities undertaken was tree planting, paint balling, archery, hiking and biking, zip lining and nature walk. Staff also hiked Mount Longonot in Nakuru County on 22nd May, 2021. The activities were well attended and officers benefited.

Staff of the National Assembly after successful hike at Mt. Longonot, Naivasha in May 2021

The National Assembly Staff Wellness Committee is committed to implementing wellness programmes and activities at the workplace and urges staff to keep the wellness spirit burning.

New Law To Boost Public Private Partnerships In The Offing



THE BILL IN A SNAPSHOT

Bill's Title

The Public Private Partnerships Bill, 2021

Publication Date

26th February 2021

First Reading

25th March 2021

Second Reading

13th and 19th May 2021

Committee of the whole House

30th June 2021

Third Reading

30th June 2021

Sponsoring Member

Hon. (Dr) Amos Kimunya, Leader of Majority Party

Departmental Committee

Finance and National Planning

The National Assembly has passed the Public Partnerships Bill, 2021 (National Assembly Bills No. 6 of 2021) which seeks to provide for the participation of the private sector in the financing, construction, development, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or development projects through public private partnerships. The Bill, sponsored by the Leader of Majority Party, Hon. (Dr) Amos Kimunya, also proposes to repeal the Public Private Partnerships Act, 2013 and streamline the regulatory framework for public private partnerships.

In order to enhance efficiency in the regulatory process, the Bill reduces the number of oversight approvals required from the Public Private Partnership Committee in the course of project development, and delegates to the Directorate of Public Private Partnerships extensive operational latitudes to guide and champion project development.

The Bill further provides a comprehensive framework for the implementation of public private partnerships and addresses the gaps in the existing legal framework with timelines on key project processes and stages for a more efficient and predictable project development environment.

“PPPs then come in to provide this window for private capital to fund public projects, especially the ones with long-term quantifiable benefits to both parties. This is not a new initiative; it has been there from 2012. It was first captured in the Public Private Partnerships Act of 2013 which has become antiquated and require some modification given the hindrances and the lessons that have been learnt over the last eight years it has been in operation.”



Hon (Dr.) Amos Kimunya

The Bills seeks to streamline the PPP processes and tap into the benefits of such frameworks including ensuring that necessary investments into public sector, while guaranteeing higher quality and timely provision of public services.

Additionally, the Bill expands the scope of

arrangements that qualify as public private partnerships and the available procurement methods for public private partnerships by introducing direct procurement as one of the approved methods. This will allow for partnerships to be procured either competitively, or single-sourced through direct procurement or by privately-initiated proposals.

“A privately-initiated proposal is one that is originated by a private party without involving of a contracting authority.”

The Bill is expected to speed up project development by facilitating faster processing of privately-initiated proposals, enabling direct negotiations through direct procurement where it is feasible as well as value engineering of open procurement options in line with the new directive to align public investment programmes into project prioritization.

While moving the Motion for the Second Reading of the Bill, the Leader of Majority Party observed that PPPs provide (a) window for private capital to fund public projects, especially the ones with long-term quantifiable benefits to both parties.

“This is not a new initiative. It has been there from 2012 and was first captured in the Public Private Partnerships Act of 2013 which has become antiquated and require some modification given the hindrances and the lessons that have been learnt over the last eight years it has been in operation,” He said.

During the public participation conducted by the Departmental Committee on Finance & National Planning, various stakeholders submitted memoranda on the Bill. These include the National Treasury, Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, Council of Governors, Engineers Board of Kenya, and Kenya Association of Manufacturers.

Bill submitted to the Senate

The Bill was read a First time on 25th March 2021 and committed to the Departmental Committee on Finance & National Planning. Thereafter, Second Reading was undertaken on 13th and 19th May, 2021 while the House considered the Bill at a Committee of the whole House on 30th June 2021. The Bill was passed on 30th June 2021 with amendments and forwarded to the Senate for the bicameral consideration as it is a Bill concerning county governments.

The Bill is available on the Parliament of Kenya website (<http://www.parliament.go.ke/the-national-assembly/house-business/bills>).

Got Views?



Enjoying *Bunge Review*? Got questions regarding some of the articles? Have ideas on what you would like to see in the next issue? Got ideas on how we can improve?

We would like to hear from you. Give us your feedback on;
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