



CAF Executive Committee with Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Musalia Mudavadi.

Mudavadi Rallies County Assemblies to Strengthen Oversight and Safeguard the Gains of Devolution.

The County Assemblies have been challenged to strengthen their oversight, legislative, and representation functions to safeguard the gains of devolution and promote accountable governance across the counties. The call was made during the official opening of the 6th Legislative Summit convened by the County Assemblies Forum in Mombasa, which brought together legislative leaders, policymakers, development partners, and governance stakeholders for high-level deliberations on strengthening devolved governance and enhancing the effectiveness of County Assemblies.

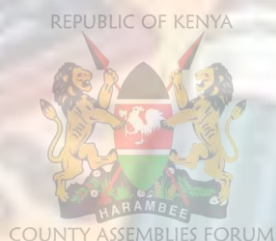
Held under the theme **“Resilient County Assemblies: Reinforcing Representation, Legislation and Oversight,”** the Summit provided an important platform for reflection on the evolving role of County Assemblies as key institutions in deepening democratic governance, promoting accountability, and advancing service delivery at the grassroots.



Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Musalia Mudavadi delivering his address during the summit.

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The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) publishes this Newsletter monthly to keep its stakeholders updated.

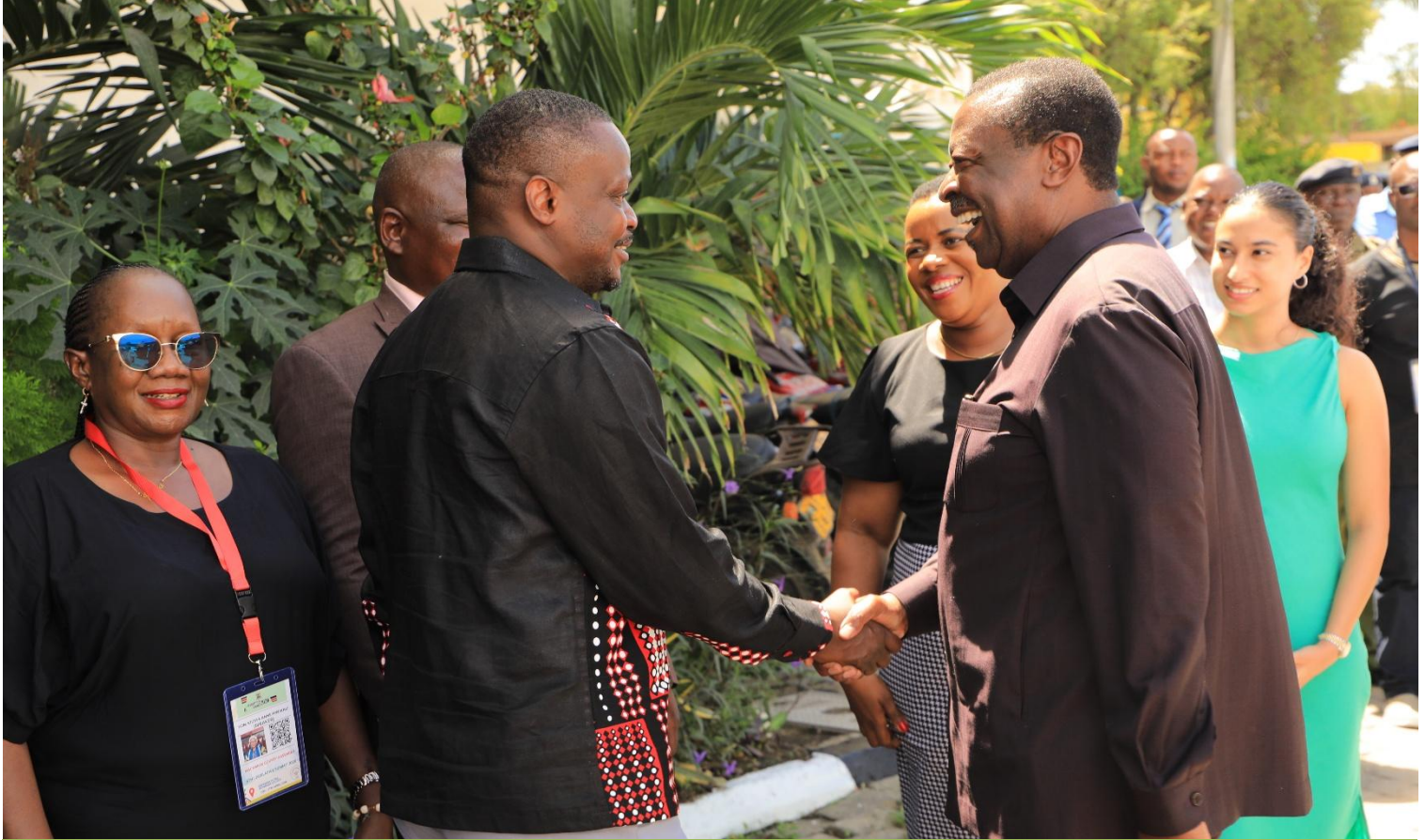


STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Mudavadi Rallies County Assemblies to Strengthen Oversight and Safeguard the Gains of Devolution.

Officially opening the Summit, H.E Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi underscored the central role of County Assemblies in the success of

prudent public finance management, observing that effective oversight remains central to sustaining transparency, accountability, and citizen confidence within devolved governance structures.



CAF Chairperson Hon. Seth Kamanza welcomes Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Musalia Mudavadi to the 6th Legislative Summit in Mombasa.

devolution, describing them as critical pillars in strengthening constitutional governance and responsive leadership within counties.

He termed the Summit theme timely, noting that resilient legislative institutions remain essential in protecting the integrity of devolved governance and ensuring that wananchi continue to benefit from effective representation, prudent oversight, and sound legislation.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary commended County Assemblies for their continued commitment to public participation and

He further highlighted ongoing interventions by his office to strengthen the legislative sector and enhance institutional independence within County Assemblies. Among the reforms highlighted were engagements with the Salaries and Remuneration Commission on remuneration review, efforts to fast-track the *County Assemblies Pensions Bill, 2024*, and initiatives geared towards advancing *financial autonomy for County Assemblies* through operational guidelines developed in collaboration with the Office of the Controller of Budget.



The Prime C. S Musalia Mudavadi giving his address at the 6th Legislative Summit in Mombasa.

Mudavadi also called upon leaders at both levels of government to uphold constitutional principles, strengthen intergovernmental collaboration, and embrace dialogue to address emerging governance challenges affecting devolved units. The Summit attracted participation from Speakers, Members of County Assemblies, Senators, constitutional commissions, development partners, and governance experts, all of whom reaffirmed

“County Assemblies remain central to the success of devolution. Strong legislative institutions are critical in safeguarding accountability, promoting public participation, and ensuring responsive governance for our people.”

— H.E. Prime C. S Musalia Mudavadi.

the importance of strengthening legislative institutions as a foundation for sustainable devolution and inclusive development.



Members in attendance during the legislative summit.

As discussions progressed, participants emphasized the need for continued reforms to enhance institutional resilience, operational efficiency, and accountability within County Assemblies, to safeguard and deepen the gains made under Kenya’s devolved system of governance.

Counties Urged to Prioritize Childcare Financing Through Stronger Planning and Legislative Action

County Governments have been urged to strengthen policy, legislative, and budgetary interventions to secure sustainable financing for childcare services and Early Childhood Development programmes across the country. The call was made during a high-level panel discussion on “Unlocking Public Financing for Child Care” held at the 6th Legislative Summit convened by the County Assemblies Forum in Mombasa.

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CPA Mary Wanyonyi and Dr. Margaret Nyakang'o join in a celebratory dance upon their arrival at the 6th Legislative Summit.

The session brought together key actors from both national and county governments to deliberate on financing gaps, legislative barriers, and governance interventions necessary to strengthen childcare systems within devolved units.

Speaking during the session, Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) Chairperson, CPA Mary Wanyonyi noted that childcare remains a devolved function under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution and emphasized the need for counties to intentionally prioritise childcare services within county planning and budgeting frameworks.

She observed that although current revenue-sharing parameters are not specifically age-based, they incorporate



A panel discussion underway during a plenary session at the summit.

population indicators that account for children under three years, thereby creating opportunities for counties to strengthen investment in childcare and Early Childhood Development programmes.

The **CRA Chairperson** further called for targeted interventions to ensure childcare financing is adequately integrated within County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and county budget processes in order to guarantee sustainability and long-term impact. She also encouraged



CRA Chairperson CPA Mary Wanyonyi making her remarks during the session.

counties to strengthen public participation in budgeting processes, improve Own Source Revenue collection, and enhance intergovernmental coordination in advancing childcare and early learning programmes. The discussions further highlighted the growing importance of childcare as a multisectoral development issue that directly impacts education outcomes, economic productivity, health, and social protection within communities.

Also speaking during the session, Margaret Nyakang'o reaffirmed her office's commitment to supporting County Assemblies in executing their constitutional mandate and strengthening accountability within devolved governance systems. She reiterated that the Memorandum of Understanding between

CAF and the Office of the Controller of Budget remains operational and continues to provide a framework for institutional collaboration and engagement between the two institutions.

At the same time, **CPA Carren Ageng'o P.S, SDCS**, called for urgent legislative and policy interventions to facilitate structured and sustainable childcare financing for children aged between 0–4 years. She noted that despite growing demand for childcare services, the absence of a clear financing and policy framework continues to hinder effective implementation and coordination of early childhood care programmes across counties.



Participants at the session emphasized the need for deliberate collaboration between County Governments, County Assemblies, national government institutions, and development partners in developing responsive childcare systems capable of addressing the evolving socio-economic needs of families and communities.

The session further reinforced the critical role of County Assemblies in advancing legislation, oversight, and budget approval processes necessary to strengthen investment in childcare services and safeguard the

"Strong and accountable County Assemblies are fundamental to the success of devolution and the promotion of prudent public finance management across the counties."

— Dr. Margaret Nyakang'o



Dr. Margaret Nyakang'o delivering her remarks during the session.

welfare of children within devolved units. The Summit attracted participation from Senators, Speakers, Members of County Assemblies, Clerks, development partners, and senior government officials, reaffirming the importance of collaborative governance in advancing the devolution agenda and strengthening people-centred service delivery. As deliberations continued throughout the Summit, participants reiterated the need to strengthen legislative capacity, institutional resilience, and responsive governance systems capable of addressing emerging socio-economic priorities within counties.

Legislative Leaders Push for Citizen-Centered Oversight to Strengthen Service Delivery.

The need for stronger, citizen-focused legislative oversight featured prominently during General Session II of the 6th Legislative Summit, as leaders and governance experts called for oversight mechanisms that go beyond financial compliance to deliver meaningful impact for wananchi.

Held under the theme **"Strengthening Legislative Oversight to Enhance Service**

Delivery: Counting More Than Money; Oversight that Delivers for Citizens," the session examined the evolving role of County Assemblies in promoting accountability, transparency, and responsive governance



Ms. Wanjiru Gikonyo delivering her presentation during the summit.

within devolved units.

The discussions emphasized that effective oversight should not solely focus on expenditure tracking, but also assess whether public programmes and policies are translating into improved livelihoods and quality service delivery for citizens.

**"Effective oversight must go beyond tracking expenditure and focus on whether public resources are translating into improved services and meaningful impact in the lives of citizens."
— Ms. Wanjiru Gikonyo**

The session was led by Ms. Wanjiru Gikonyo, who challenged County Assemblies to strengthen evidence-based oversight systems capable of measuring service delivery outcomes and enhancing public accountability within county governments.

She underscored the importance of people-centered governance approaches, noting that oversight should ultimately focus on improving the lives of citizens through efficient utilization of public resources and effective implementation of development programmes.



Ms. Sylvia Katua- GIZ- Kenya

Moderating the session, Ms. Sylvia Katua- **GIZ- Kenya**, guided discussions around the importance of collaborative governance, institutional accountability, and partnerships in strengthening oversight structures and promoting sustainable development within counties.

Contributors highlighted the importance of strengthening committee systems, enhancing legislative capacity, and promoting integrity within oversight processes in order to ensure County Assemblies effectively discharge their constitutional mandate. Participants further noted that

“ Strong oversight structures are essential in safeguarding public resources, strengthening accountability, and ensuring that devolved funds translate into meaningful development outcomes for wananchi across our counties. ”

– Hon. Emmanuel Situma – Speaker, Bungoma CA.



Hon. Emmanuel Situma – Speaker, Bungoma County Assembly, contributing to the panel discussion.

strong oversight structures remain essential in safeguarding public resources, strengthening accountability, and ensuring devolved funds translate into tangible development outcomes for citizens.

The session concluded with renewed calls for County Assemblies to adopt more responsive and results-oriented oversight approaches capable of deepening public trust and strengthening service delivery across counties.

Housing Reforms and Urban Development Take Centre Stage at Legislative Summit.

Affordable housing and sustainable urban development emerged as key priorities during the second day of the 6th Legislative Summit as leaders and



governance experts called for stronger county-led interventions in land management and housing delivery.

The high-level discussions focused on the role of devolved governments in shaping legislative and policy frameworks capable of supporting inclusive housing, efficient urban planning, and sustainable development across the country. Held under the theme *“Affordable Housing and Urban Development: The Role of County Assemblies in Kenya’s Housing Transformation,”* the session examined persistent barriers slowing implementation of housing programmes, including weak institutional coordination, policy inconsistencies, delayed approvals, and recurring land disputes.

Participants observed that despite housing and land management being fully devolved functions, many counties continue to face governance and administrative challenges that undermine the effective implementation of housing initiatives and

urban development plans. The discussions emphasized the need for counties to move beyond overreliance on the national government and instead strengthen local governance systems capable of driving housing delivery through deliberate planning, stronger oversight, and accountable leadership. Speakers further noted that successful housing transformation will require counties to streamline land administration systems, address legislative and policy gaps, and enhance collaboration among institutions responsible for physical planning, land governance, infrastructure development, and urban management. Speaking during the session, Hon. Kevin Katisya underscored the importance of empowering County Assemblies to effectively execute their oversight responsibilities within the housing and land



sector. He advocated for stronger collaboration between oversight institutions and called for enhanced legal frameworks capable of promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency within devolved governance systems.

Hon. Katsiya further urged the Senate to support legislation aimed at strengthening the operational capacity of County Assemblies, noting that robust oversight remains essential in ensuring that housing programmes and land reforms translate into tangible socio-economic benefits for wananchi.

The discussions also highlighted the importance of political goodwill, intergovernmental collaboration, and stakeholder engagement in accelerating housing reforms and improving urban planning systems within counties. Participants agreed that sustainable housing development can only be achieved through coordinated efforts involving national and county governments, development partners, the private sector, and local communities in order to ensure that housing initiatives remain affordable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of citizens.



A panel discussion underway during a plenary session at the summit



Panelists pose for a group photo after a session on "Affordable Housing and Urban Development: The Role of County Assemblies in Kenya's Housing Transformation."

The session concluded with renewed calls for counties to take greater ownership of the housing agenda by prioritizing policy implementation, strengthening institutional oversight structures, and advancing reforms aimed at promoting efficient land management and sustainable urban development. The discussions further reinforced the critical role of County Assemblies in shaping responsive legislative frameworks capable of supporting long-term housing reforms and strengthening devolved service delivery across the country.

Financial Autonomy Takes Centre Stage as Leaders Push for Stronger County Assemblies.

Calls for stronger financial autonomy and institutional independence dominated discussions during General Session IV of the 6th Legislative Summit as governance leaders and public finance experts explored reforms aimed at strengthening County



Dr. Margaret Nyakang'o delivering her presentation during the session.

Assemblies and safeguarding the gains of devolution. The high-level session brought together legislators, constitutional office holders, governance practitioners, and public finance experts to deliberate on the institutional and financial reforms necessary to enhance accountability, improve oversight effectiveness, and reinforce the operational resilience of County Assemblies.

Discussions focused on the critical role of financial independence in enabling County Assemblies to effectively execute their

constitutional mandates of legislation, representation, and oversight.

Participants observed that although significant progress has been made in strengthening devolved governance structures, many County Assemblies continue to face operational challenges arising from delayed exchequer disbursements, limited financial autonomy, and gaps within existing legal and institutional frameworks.

The enactment of the County Assembly Fund was widely recognized as a major milestone towards enhancing financial independence and protecting Assemblies from operational uncertainties that often undermine oversight functions and service delivery.

The session featured contributions from key governance actors, including Margaret Nyakang'o, Sheila Masinde, Moses Kajwang', and Roble Nuno, among others.



Sen. Moses Kajwang', CPAC Chairperson, Senate, making his contribution during a session.

Moderating the discussion, Sheila Masinde emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration between state and non-state actors in strengthening accountability systems and advancing institutional reforms within devolved governance structures.

The Controller of Budget reaffirmed her office’s commitment to enforcing fiscal discipline and strengthening accountability across County Governments and County Assemblies. She noted that while audit outcomes continue to reveal areas requiring improvement, there has been encouraging progress in financial accountability within the legislative sector. Participants welcomed reports indicating that several County Assemblies attained unqualified audit opinions during the 2024/2025 financial year, while others successfully considered Auditor-General reports within the constitutional timelines provided under Article 229 of the Constitution. These developments were described as positive indicators of growing institutional maturity, improved oversight practices, and strengthened commitment to accountability among County Assemblies. From the Commission on Revenue Allocation, CEO,



Ms. Sheila Masinde - moderating a session.

“Financial independence remains a critical pillar in enabling County Assemblies to execute their legislative and oversight mandate effectively while safeguarding accountability within devolved governance.”
— Commission on Revenue Allocation, CEO, Roble Nuno



CRA CEO, Roble Nuno during a session.

Roble Nuno, highlighted ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening Assembly operations, including expenditure ceilings designed to safeguard Assembly budgets, legislative proposals supporting financial autonomy, and targeted capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing oversight effectiveness. Despite the progress made, participants acknowledged that achieving fully resilient County Assemblies will require stronger legal protections, improved

institutional coordination, and sustained investment in governance systems that promote transparency, accountability, and operational independence. The session concluded with renewed calls for collaborative action between national and county governments, constitutional commissions, and governance stakeholders in advancing reforms that strengthen County Assemblies as independent and effective institutions within Kenya's devolved governance framework.



Hon. Charles Thiong'o – Speaker, Kiambu County Assembly, contributing to discussions during the session.

Participants further emphasized that strong and financially independent County Assemblies remain essential in safeguarding democratic governance, strengthening accountability, and ensuring responsive service delivery to wananchi across the counties.



Panelists pose for a group photo after a session on strengthening governance and financial autonomy of County Assemblies for sustainable development.

Electoral Integrity and Inclusion Take Centre Stage as Summit Calls for Stronger Democratic Safeguards.

Strengthening electoral integrity and rebuilding public trust in democratic processes emerged as a key focus during the final session of the 6th Legislative Summit, as governance experts and policymakers underscored the need for fair, inclusive, and resilient electoral systems in Kenya.



Comm. Anne Nderitu – IEBC, making her presentation during the Summit.

The session, themed *“Towards Fair and Inclusive Elections,”* brought together electoral practitioners, governance experts, and policy stakeholders to deliberate on reforms and strategic interventions aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and credibility within electoral processes. Discussions led by Anne Nderitu and moderated by Mulle Musau explored emerging challenges affecting electoral management, including institutional preparedness, coordination gaps, inclusivity concerns, and risk management frameworks. Participants emphasized that continuous electoral reforms remain essential in strengthening public confidence, safeguarding democratic gains, and ensuring that electoral systems remain

responsive to evolving governance needs.

The session further highlighted the importance of proactive planning and strengthened institutional collaboration in addressing systemic gaps that continue to affect electoral administration and participation across the country. Contributors also stressed the need to ensure that electoral processes are inclusive and gender-responsive, guaranteeing equitable representation and safeguarding the participation of all groups in society, with no voice left behind.



Hon. Juddy Kengo, MCA, Kwale, contributing to the discussion.

The discussions reaffirmed the central role of democratic institutions in upholding constitutionalism and protecting the integrity of Kenya's electoral system through credible, transparent, and well-managed elections. Participants noted that resilient electoral systems are fundamental to strengthening governance, sustaining public trust in public institutions, and promoting peaceful and credible democratic transitions. As the Summit came to a close, stakeholders reiterated their commitment to advancing collaborative reforms and policy interventions aimed at strengthening democratic governance and reinforcing the country's devolved governance architecture.



Hon. Mickey Ochieng' – DOS, CAF, contributing to discussions during the session.

The 6th Legislative Summit ultimately provided a vital platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collective reflection on strengthening governance, accountability, and institutional resilience within Kenya's democratic and devolution framework.



Panelists pose for a group photo after the session themed "Towards Fair and Inclusive Elections: Gender-Responsive Planning, Preparedness, Readiness, and Risk Management in the Electoral Process."

Conclusion: A Defining Moment for Strengthening Devolution and Institutional Resilience.

The 6th Legislative Summit concluded in Mombasa, having provided a robust platform for reflection, dialogue, and strategic engagement on the future of Kenya’s devolved governance system.



CAF Secretary General Hon. Chege Mwaura delivering his remarks during the closing ceremony of the summit.

Throughout the Summit, discussions consistently reaffirmed the central role of County Assemblies in strengthening legislation, enhancing oversight, and deepening public participation as key



Hon. Elizabeth Alila – Representative of the Nyanza Cluster, reading the communiqué during the closing ceremony.

pillars of accountable governance. The deliberations further underscored the importance of institutional independence,

financial autonomy, and strengthened intergovernmental collaboration in ensuring that devolution delivers on its promise to wananchi. From affordable housing and urban development to childcare financing, financial autonomy, and electoral integrity, the Summit highlighted the interconnected nature of governance reforms required to build resilient institutions capable of responding to emerging socio-economic challenges. Stakeholders collectively emphasized that the gains of devolution can only be sustained through deliberate policy action, strong legal frameworks, and coordinated



Hon Emmanuel Situma – Speaker Bungoma County Assembly

efforts among national and county governments, constitutional commissions, development partners, and other governance actors.

As delegates departed Mombasa, there was a shared sense of renewed commitment to advancing reforms that strengthen County Assemblies as effective, independent, and people-centred institutions at the heart of Kenya’s governance architecture.

The Summit ultimately reinforced CAF’s continued mandate to champion strong legislative institutions, promote accountability, and support the deepening of devolution as a transformative governance framework for the country.



The CAF Secretariat team poses for a group photo after the summit.



CAF Booth during the 6th Legislative Summit.

KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH

