



# The FORUM MONTHLY

Deepening Devolution

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*Officials from the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and Oxfam Kenya, during a group photo session after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance collaboration on shared initiatives.*

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# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

## *CAF Joins National Leaders at the 23rd National Prayer Breakfast.*

The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) joined fellow Kenyans and national leaders at the **23rd National Prayer Breakfast**, held at Safari Park in Nairobi City County and hosted by the Parliament of Kenya.

The annual gathering provided a powerful platform for reflection, prayer, and renewed commitment to the values that unite the nation.

CAF was represented by Speakers from various County Assemblies, who joined **H.E. President William Ruto, Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki**, and other national leaders to reaffirm their dedication to servant leadership, democratic governance, and national cohesion. This year's theme, "**Forgiveness and Reconciliation**," delivered a timely and profound message for the country. As Kenya continues to navigate diverse political, social, and economic realities, leaders were reminded that while differences in opinion are natural in a vibrant democracy, they should never give rise to division, hostility, or hatred.



*H.E. President William Ruto, addressing the 23rd National Prayer Breakfast.*

The gathering emphasized the importance of unity, dialogue, humility, and reconciliation as essential ingredients for strengthening Kenya's peace, stability, and prosperity. Speakers and participants alike reflected on the responsibility of leadership in fostering understanding, building bridges across divides, and nurturing a culture of mutual respect.

A key message echoed throughout the event was that despite political differences, we remain one people bound by a shared destiny and an unwavering commitment to national harmony. The occasion challenged



*Attendees following the proceedings of the National Prayer Breakfast.*

leaders at all levels to embrace the courage to forgive, the humility to seek reconciliation, and the wisdom to prioritize the common good above personal or political interests. Drawing inspiration from the biblical teaching, "*Forgive as the Lord forgave you*" (*Colossians 3:13*), the Prayer Breakfast called upon all Kenyans to embrace healing, peace, and unity as foundations for a stronger and more inclusive nation.

The County Assemblies Forum remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing

democratic governance and fostering collaboration across all levels of leadership. As the nation reflects on the message of the 23rd National Prayer Breakfast, CAF joins all Kenyans in reaffirming a shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and united Kenya—where reconciliation triumphs over division and where our collective aspirations are always greater than our differences.

# CAF and Oxfam Kenya Forge Strategic Partnership to Advance Inclusive and Accountable Governance.

In a significant milestone for Kenya's devolution journey, the County Assemblies Forum (CAF), the coordinating body representing all 47 County Assemblies, formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oxfam Kenya, paving the way for a transformative partnership aimed at strengthening accountable, inclusive, and gender-responsive governance across the country. The landmark agreement signals a shared commitment to ensuring that devolution delivers tangible benefits to citizens by empowering County Assemblies to effectively represent, legislate, and oversee the use of public resources. At a time when citizens are demanding greater transparency, equity, and responsiveness from public institutions, the partnership comes as a timely investment in strengthening democratic governance at the grassroots level. Leading the CAF delegation, the Secretary General Hon. Chege Mwaura, emphasized the critical role County Assemblies play in shaping the future of communities across Kenya, "County Assemblies are not merely oversight institutions; they are engines of transformation, accountability, and people-centered development. Through strategic partnerships such as this, we can strengthen our capacity to champion policies and decisions that improve the lives of wananchi," he noted.



*CAF Secretary General Hon. Chege Mwaura and Oxfam Kenya Executive Director Mwongera Mutiga sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between County Assemblies Forum and Oxfam Kenya.*

The collaboration between CAF and Oxfam Kenya focuses on enhancing legislative oversight, advancing gender justice and the care agenda, amplifying women's leadership and participation in county governance, and promoting meaningful civic engagement in public finance and natural resource governance.



*CAF Secretary General presents CAF-branded items to Mr. Mwongera during the event.*

Beyond institutional strengthening, the partnership seeks to create more inclusive governance spaces where traditionally marginalized voices—particularly women and vulnerable groups—can actively participate in shaping policies and development priorities that affect their lives.

The signing of the MoU reflects a growing recognition that sustainable development and effective governance are built on collaboration, accountability, and citizen empowerment. By bringing together CAF's unique position as the voice of County Assemblies and Oxfam Kenya's extensive experience in promoting social justice and

inclusive development, the partnership is poised to catalyse lasting change across Kenya's devolved units. As the country continues to deepen and refine its devolution framework, this strategic alliance represents more than a formal agreement – it is a bold declaration of intent to build stronger institutions, foster greater public trust, and ensure that no one is left behind in Kenya's development journey.

As Kenya's devolution journey continues to evolve, the CAF-Oxfam Kenya partnership stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in driving meaningful change. By strengthening institutions, empowering citizens, and advancing inclusive governance, the partnership is helping shape counties that are more responsive, equitable, and accountable to the people they serve.

## *Preparations Intensify for the 1st National Productivity and Performance Conference 2026.*

Preparations for the 1st National Productivity and Performance Conference 2026 gained momentum as the Technical and Steering Committees met in Naivasha to review progress and finalize arrangements

ahead of the national event, scheduled for 17-19 June 2026 in Nairobi. Convened by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), the sessions focused on ensuring the successful delivery of the conference, which will be held under the theme



*Members of the Technical and Steering Committees pose for a group photo during a planning session for the 1st National Productivity and Performance Conference 2026.*

"Productivity for Fiscal Sustainability and Efficient Service Delivery."

As part of the preparations, the Technical Committee conducted a comprehensive review of conference abstracts and full papers submitted for presentation. Members assessed each submission against key criteria, including methodological rigor, thematic relevance, and policy impact, to ensure that the conference program is anchored in quality, evidence-based research, and practical solutions to Kenya's productivity challenges. The review also enabled the committee to organize accepted papers into thematic tracks that will form the basis of plenary and breakout discussions. These sessions are expected to explore critical issues such as performance management, fiscal sustainability, productivity enhancement, and digital transformation in service delivery.

The Steering Committee, comprising representatives from key government institutions and stakeholder organizations, also assessed overall preparedness for the conference and reaffirmed its commitment to advancing Kenya's national productivity agenda. Among those present was County Assemblies Forum (CAF) Chairperson, Hon. Seth Kamanza. With preparations entering the final phase, the committees are focused on finalizing the conference program, communicating with authors, and ensuring all logistical and technical arrangements are in place for the landmark event.

The conference is expected to bring together policymakers, researchers, public sector leaders, private sector representatives, and development partners to share insights and identify practical strategies for enhancing productivity, improving performance, and promoting sustainable economic growth.

# KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH

