



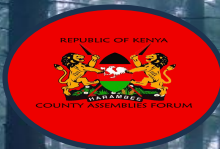
CAF Secretariat staff with facilitators during the Youth Legislators Conference.



CAF Youth Leaders Chapter representative, Hon. Susan Mwende, with colleagues during the Youth Legislators Conference.

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Monthly Newsletter

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



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

CAF ADVANCES COUNTY ASSEMBLY FUND OPERATIONALIZATION THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING- SOUTH RIFT CLUSTER.

The operationalisation of the County Assembly Fund continued to gain momentum as the County Assemblies Forum (CAF), in collaboration with the National Treasury, strengthened the capacity of County Assembly leadership and technical teams in understanding the Act and the role of the different stakeholders. The cluster covered included the following County Assemblies; Bomet, Kericho, Nyandarua, Samburu and Laikipia.

The engagement brought together representatives from County Assemblies to deepen their understanding of the Fund's legal, governance and financial management framework. Discussions focused on the practical requirements for operationalising the Fund and strengthening accountability in its management.



A group photo of participants at the County Assembly Fund Sensitization Forum in Naivasha, Nakuru County

The County Assembly Fund represents a significant step towards enhancing the financial autonomy and institutional independence of County Assemblies, while providing a stronger foundation for the effective discharge of their constitutional mandates of legislation, oversight and representation.

For CAF, the engagement formed part of its efforts to equip County Assemblies with the knowledge and institutional capacity required to translate the Fund's framework into effective practice. Through collaboration with the National Treasury and other stakeholders, CAF continues to support County Assemblies in navigating the operationalisation process and strengthening financial accountability within devolved governance.

SENSITIZATION OF COUNTY ASSEMBLIES ON THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY FUND - NYANZA & WESTERN CLUSTER

Strengthening the capacity of County Assemblies to effectively implement the County Assembly Fund remained a key focus as the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) participated in a three-day capacity-building programme convened by the National Treasury in Kakamega that Covered the 1st phase of Nyanza and Western Cluster County Assemblies as follows; Trans Nzoia, Busia, Kisumu, Siaya, Kakamega & Vihiga.

The programme brought together County Assembly leadership from the Nyanza and Western Cluster, including Speakers, Clerks and Chairpersons of Budget and Appropriations Committees, to deepen their understanding of the Fund's legal, governance and financial management framework. The discussions focused on the institutional and operational requirements necessary for its effective implementation.



A group photo of participants at the County Assembly Fund Sensitization Forum in Kakamega County.

CAF was represented by the Speakers of the County Assemblies of Vihiga, Busia, Trans Nzoia and Kisumu, alongside Western Cluster Representative Hon. Milton Boaz Omukunda and CAF Chief Executive Officer Ms. Lonah Losem.

The engagement provided County Assembly leadership with an opportunity to consider the practical measures required to strengthen accountability, financial management and institutional preparedness as the Fund moves towards implementation.

The County Assembly Fund marks a significant step towards enhancing the financial autonomy and institutional independence of County Assemblies, providing a stronger foundation for them to effectively discharge their constitutional mandates of legislation, oversight and representation. Through continued capacity building and collaboration with the National Treasury and other stakeholders, CAF is supporting County Assemblies in translating the Fund's framework into effective practice.

CAF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REVIEWS KEY PRIORITIES FOR FY 2026/27.

Strategic coordination and oversight of the Forum’s programmes took centre stage as the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) Executive Committee convened its 29th meeting at the CAF Offices, Flamingo Towers, Upper-hill.



CAF Executive Committee members during the 29th Executive Committee Meeting at the CAF Offices.

The meeting brought together members of the Committee to take stock of CAF’s ongoing work and review planned activities for the 2026/27 Financial Year. Members received updates on key programmes and deliberated on emerging issues and matters requiring strategic attention in advancing the Forum’s mandate. Among the key engagements considered was the Youth Legislators Conference, held on August 20–21, 2026, which brought together young legislators and stakeholders to advance discussions on youth leadership, participation and strengthening youth voices in devolved governance. The deliberations provided an opportunity for the Committee to assess progress, provide strategic guidance and ensure that CAF’s programmes and engagements remained aligned with the interests and needs of County Assemblies. The meeting reaffirmed CAF’s commitment to effective coordination and representation of Kenya’s 47 County Assemblies, while strengthening collective efforts to advance accountable, responsive and people-centred devolved governance.



CAF's Organizing Secretary Hon. Tony Barasa, during the E.C meeting.

CAF GOVERNING COUNCIL REVIEWS PRIORITIES AND FLAGSHIP ENGAGEMENTS FOR FY 2026/27.

Providing strategic direction for the Forum’s work remained at the heart of discussions as the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) Governing Council convened in Nairobi under the leadership of CAF Chairperson, Hon. Seth Mwatela Kamanza, Speaker of the Kwale County Assembly. The Council reviewed key priorities and flagship engagements for the 2026/27 Financial Year, considering initiatives aimed at strengthening collaboration among County Assemblies and advancing their collective voice on matters affecting devolved governance.



CAF Secretary General, Hon. Chege Mwaura, delivering his remarks during the General Conference (G.C.) meeting.



CAF Treasurer, Hon. Philip Muigai, making a presentation on the Forum’s financial matters during the meeting.

Among the engagements reviewed was the Youth Legislators Conference 2026, held on August 20–21, which brought together young legislators and stakeholders to advance conversations on youth leadership, participation and strengthening youth voices in devolved governance.

The discussions provided an opportunity for the Council to assess the Forum’s priorities and give strategic

direction on programmes aimed at supporting County Assemblies in effectively discharging their constitutional mandates.

The meeting reaffirmed the Council’s commitment to strengthening collaboration, representation and advocacy for Kenya’s 47 County Assemblies, and to advancing a strong, accountable and people-centred devolved governance system.



Hon. Umulkaltuma Abdisalan making her contributions during the meeting.

INAUGURAL YOUTH LEGISLATORS CONFERENCE 2026; YOUTH LEADING CHANGE.

Convened by CAF, the conference themed “Youth Leading Change: Strengthening Youth Voices in Devolved Governance.” brought together young legislators, emerging leaders and governance stakeholders for candid conversations on political participation, leadership, democratic governance, representation, policy influence and the realities of preparing for public leadership. The platform brought together perspectives from



Guests arrive and register ahead of the Youth Legislators Conference.

County Assemblies, government, civil society, electoral governance practitioners and organisations working to strengthen youth participation in leadership.

For two days in Nairobi, the question was not whether young people have a place in leadership, but how they can be better prepared, supported and empowered to shape the decisions that affect their communities and the future of devolution.

At the heart of the conference was a recognition that youth participation in governance must go beyond being counted during elections. Young people need the knowledge, networks, confidence and institutional spaces to participate meaningfully in decision-making and to translate their aspirations into policy and action.

The first session on Elections, Leadership, Preparedness and Democratic Consolidation challenged participants to consider what it takes to move from political participation to purposeful and effective leadership. Discussions emphasised the importance of understanding electoral processes, preparing early for leadership, engaging meaningfully in governance and strengthening democratic institutions.



Ms. Carolin Unger, Deputy Country Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Kenya Country Office, delivering her remarks.

prepare holistically for leadership, including politically, financially and emotionally, while building networks and alliances that can strengthen their collective influence.

The sessions on Political Participation and Rights further explored the role of young people in democratic processes and the importance of understanding their rights and responsibilities as citizens and leaders. Contributors challenged both young people and institutions to rethink how political participation is structured and whether existing institutions are sufficiently prepared to create space for a new generation of leaders.

The conversations also underscored the need to move beyond leadership defined by titles. Young leaders were challenged to view leadership through the lens of purpose, service, integrity and impact, whether or



CAF Chairperson, Hon. Seth Kamanza, undergoes registration verification upon arrival at the Youth Legislators Conference.

The conversation then moved beyond elections to the realities of navigating Kenya’s political landscape. Participants reflected on the importance of building authentic grassroots connections, earning the trust of communities, challenging the status quo and approaching leadership with purpose. The strategic use of social media also emerged as an important tool for young leaders to connect with citizens, communicate directly and influence public conversations.

A recurring message throughout the discussions was that leadership begins long before one occupies public office. Young people were encouraged to



Mr. Ronnie Ojwang, Country Director, Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), delivering his remarks.

not they occupy formal political positions. The emerging message was clear: young people should not have to wait for positions before beginning to contribute to their communities.



A picture of a section of participants during the Youth Legislators Conference.

An equally important dimension of the conference was the conversation on mental wellness, resilience and youth empowerment. The session brought together experts and practitioners to examine the pressures associated with leadership and the importance of psychological wellbeing, resilience and healthy support systems. The discussion reinforced the need for leadership development programmes to recognise the person behind the position and equip young leaders to navigate the emotional and personal demands of public service.

The conference also brought into focus the responsibility of institutions in creating opportunities for young people to lead. Speakers challenged stakeholders to go beyond preparing young people for leadership and to ensure that institutions are equally prepared to make room for them, share power and provide meaningful avenues for participation.

This was perhaps one of the conference's strongest messages: preparing young leaders is only half the work; institutions must also be willing to open the doors of leadership.

For County Assemblies, this conversation carries particular significance. As institutions closest to citizens, County Assemblies play a critical role in shaping legislation, budgets, oversight and policies that



Panelists during General Session I on Elections, Leadership, Preparedness & Democratic Consolidation.



Panellists and participants during General Session II on Emerging Leaders & the Future of Democratic Governance.

directly affect young people. Strengthening youth voices within devolved governance therefore means creating opportunities for young legislators to contribute to these processes while ensuring that the priorities of young citizens are reflected in decisions made at the county level.

The presence and participation of young legislators from across the country demonstrated that youth leadership is not a distant aspiration. It is

already taking shape within Kenya's devolved institutions. The challenge is to nurture that leadership, strengthen its capacity and create the institutional environment in which it can thrive.

Closing the conference, CAF Chairperson Hon. Seth Kamanza reaffirmed the Forum's commitment to strengthening youth participation in devolved governance and announced plans to pursue an inaugural Youth Members Conference as part of CAF's annual calendar.

The commitment provides a pathway for the conversations started in Nairobi to continue beyond the conference room. It also reinforces CAF's role in creating platforms through which young legislators can learn from one another, engage with stakeholders, build networks and contribute to shaping the future of devolution.

The Inaugural Youth Legislators Conference 2026 ultimately left participants with a shared responsibility: to move from conversation to action. For young leaders, that means building the competence, courage and connections needed to lead. For institutions, it means creating genuine space for young people to influence decisions. And for CAF, it means continuing to provide platforms that strengthen youth leadership and ensure that young voices are not only heard, but reflected in the governance of Kenya's counties.

The future of devolved governance will be shaped by the leaders we prepare, the institutions we build and the space we create for young people to lead today.



Panellists during General Session IV on Mental Wellness, Resilience & Youth Empowerment.

CAF DEEPENS GENDER-RESPONSIVE FOOD SECURITY EXPERTISE AT FAO LEARNING WORKSHOP.

Strengthening its capacity to advance gender-responsive food systems, CAF joined a five-day learning workshop convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with Tanager, held from 24–28 August 2026. The workshop focused on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

The workshop brought together participants for interactive learning sessions, practical exercises and peer-to-peer exchanges aimed at strengthening understanding of the Guidelines and their application within local governance and food systems. The Voluntary Guidelines provide a globally endorsed framework for integrating gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls into policies and actions addressing food security and nutrition. For County Assemblies, their domestication presents an opportunity to strengthen legislation, budgeting and oversight across sectors including agriculture, land and nutrition, while addressing barriers that limit women’s and girls’ access to land, markets and productive resources. By translating the Guidelines into county-specific legislation, policies, budgets and oversight frameworks, County Assemblies can contribute to more inclusive food systems, improved household nutrition and greater economic empowerment of women at the grassroots. CAF’s participation reinforces its commitment to strengthening the capacity of County Assemblies to advance inclusive, responsive and gender-sensitive devolved governance. Through continued knowledge sharing and capacity development, CAF will support County Assemblies in localising relevant global frameworks and translating them into meaningful interventions that respond to the needs of women, girls and communities across Kenya.

CAF Chairperson to Join IBEC as Member Following Landmark Amendments.

Key issues shaping Kenya’s intergovernmental relations and devolved governance took centre stage as CAF Chairperson, Hon. Seth Kamanza, led a delegation to the 30th Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC), hosted and chaired by the Deputy President, H.E. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, at his official residence in Karen, Nairobi.

The meeting marked a significant milestone for Kenya’s devolved governance system, with the Council considering and adopting amendments that will see the Chairperson of the County Assemblies Forum become a member of IBEC.

The development is a major step towards strengthening the institutional voice and representation of County Assemblies within Kenya’s intergovernmental fiscal and economic decision-making framework. As the legislative arm of county governments, County Assemblies play a critical role in approving



A section of participants during the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC).

budgets, appropriating public resources and exercising oversight over the use of public funds. Their direct representation at IBEC therefore provides an important avenue for their perspectives to inform discussions on matters affecting county finances and the implementation of devolution.

The amendments were considered alongside a range of matters critical to intergovernmental relations and Kenya’s economic development. These included the status of the 3rd National Wage Bill Conference, the 2024



H.E. Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki addressing attendees during the 30th IBEC meeting.

National Performance and Productivity Conference, implementation of the 2026 IBEC resolutions, and proposed amendments to Sections 187(1), 187(2) and 187(4) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

The Council also considered matters relating to the change of the IBEC Secretariat and regularisation of IBEC membership, as well as the operationalisation of County Assembly Funds. The inclusion of the CAF Chairperson in IBEC is particularly significant in the context of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the financial and institutional autonomy of County Assemblies. It creates a formal platform through which the collective voice of the 47 County Assemblies can be represented in high-level discussions on public finance, resource allocation and intergovernmental relations.

The meeting also touched on the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) programme as part of the broader

national agenda to enhance productivity, local industrialisation and economic opportunities across counties. The discussions reinforced the importance of collaboration between the two levels of government in translating national development priorities into tangible outcomes at the county level. Speaking during the meeting, Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki underscored the importance of productivity to Kenya’s economic transformation, stating:

“CAIPs is the greatest thing happening in Kenya, and if we get it, Singapore will be a reality.”

The IBEC deliberations further emphasised the importance of sustained cooperation between the National Government and County Governments in strengthening public finance management, enhancing productivity and improving service delivery.

For CAF, the formal inclusion of its Chairperson in IBEC represents an important advancement in strengthening the voice of County Assemblies within the intergovernmental framework. It reflects the growing recognition of County Assemblies as critical actors in shaping policies and decisions that directly influence the effectiveness, accountability and sustainability of devolution.

CAF remains committed to advancing the collective interests of County Assemblies and ensuring that their constitutional mandate, institutional independence and role in Kenya’s devolved governance architecture continue to receive the attention they deserve.



CAF Chairperson, Hon. Seth Kamanza, IGR TC CEO, Dr. Kipkurui Chepkwony, and Hon. Mwangi Kagwe in a discussion during the 30th IBEC meeting.

Stakeholders Begin Shaping Kenya's Development Agenda Beyond Vision 2030

The Kenya Vision 2030 Secretariat, in collaboration with the State Department for Economic Planning, convened a multi-stakeholder consultative meeting on 24 August 2026 at the Central Bank School of Monetary Studies in Nairobi to deliberate on Kenya's development priorities beyond Vision 2030. The meeting brought together representatives from government, county governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, professional bodies and development partners as Kenya begins laying the groundwork for its next long-term development framework.

Discussions focused on key priorities that will shape the country's post-2030 development agenda, including strengthening devolution and intergovernmental coordination, promoting integrity and accountability in public institutions, improving education and skills development, expanding access to quality healthcare, and ensuring meaningful youth participation in national planning.

Participants underscored the importance of an inclusive and participatory process that captures the aspirations and experiences of Kenyans across sectors and levels of society. The meeting also emphasised the need to take the conversation to the grassroots and deliberately involve Kenya's growing youth population in shaping the country's future.

For the devolved governance sector, the consultations provide an opportunity to reflect on the progress and lessons of devolution and strengthen the contribution of County Governments and County Assemblies to Kenya's long-term development. Effective legislation, oversight, accountability and collaboration between the two levels of government will be critical to translating the next development blueprint into tangible outcomes for citizens. The consultations are expected to continue across sectors and at the grassroots level, with stakeholder recommendations informing the development of the successor framework to Vision 2030.

CAF Strengthens Engagement in Ethics, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Efforts.

Strengthening ethics, integrity and accountability in public leadership took centre stage as stakeholders convened for the Sector Coordinating Committee Consultative Meeting held from 25–27 August 2026 at Lake Naivasha Resort, Naivasha.



A group photo of participants during the Sector Coordinating Committee Consultative Meeting.

The meeting brought together stakeholders to review progress and strengthen coordination in Kenya's fight against corruption, with discussions focusing on the National Ethics and Anti-Corruption Policy, updates on the Kenya Integrity Plan (2023–2028), and the role of stakeholders in promoting citizen participation and accountability. A significant focus was placed on the 2027 General Elections, with participants drawing lessons from the 2022 elections and exploring ways to strengthen leadership and integrity throughout the

electoral cycle. Discussions examined court jurisprudence on leadership and integrity, oversight of political parties' codes of conduct, and the importance of meaningful citizen engagement before, during and after elections.

The meeting also explored approaches to preventing and addressing corruption, including enhanced citizen participation, social accountability, partnerships with civil society, innovation and digitisation, and coordinated implementation of integrity initiatives.

CAF's participation underscored the critical role of County Assemblies in promoting ethical leadership, accountability, public participation and good governance at the county level. Through legislation, oversight and representation, County Assemblies remain important institutions in ensuring that public resources are used responsibly and that citizens have a meaningful voice in governance.

The engagement further reaffirmed the importance of coordinated action among public institutions, civil society, citizens and other stakeholders in strengthening Kenya's integrity systems and building public confidence in governance processes.

CAF Mourns the Passing of Hon. Beatrice Njoki Mitaru

The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) mourns the untimely passing of Hon. Beatrice Njoki Mitaru, a nominated Member of the Kirinyaga County Assembly representing Persons with Disabilities, who passed away on 24 August 2026.

Hon. Mitaru will be remembered for her vibrant spirit, dedicated service and commitment to advancing the interests of persons with disabilities. At CAF, she was among the founders and served as Chairperson of the County Assembly Disability Caucus (CADICA), contributing to efforts to strengthen representation and inclusion within devolved governance.

On behalf of CAF and the 47 County Assemblies, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Kirinyaga County Assembly, the family of Hon. Mitaru, her friends and the people of Kirinyaga County.



May her family find strength and comfort during this difficult time, and may her legacy of dedicated public service and advocacy for inclusion continue to inspire.

Rest in Eternal Peace Hon. Mitaru.

KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH



