



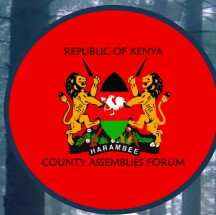
A group photo with the CAF delegation and the leadership of the Trans Nzoia County Assembly.



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

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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 AND KIDOGO EXPLORE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION.

A significant step towards strengthening legislative support for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) was taken following a high-level consultative meeting between the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and Kidogo Early Years, culminating in a shared commitment to establish a long-term strategic partnership that will advance quality and affordable early childhood services across Kenya.

Led by CAF Secretary General Hon. Chege Mwaura and Kidogo Early Years Director, Policy and Partnerships, Ms. Elaine Wacuka Hurt, the meeting explored opportunities to strengthen the role of County Assemblies in promoting responsive legislation, effective oversight, and adequate budgetary support for early childhood care and education.



A group photo following a productive engagement between CAF and the KIDOGO team.

Discussions underscored the critical responsibility of County Assemblies in creating an enabling legislative environment that supports county governments in delivering quality early childhood services. The two institutions agreed to collaborate in developing and implementing a sustainable programme that will engage relevant County Assembly committees and leadership in championing reforms that improve access to quality early childhood care and education across all 47 counties.

Speaking during the meeting, CAF Secretary General Hon. Chege Mwaura emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships in strengthening the legislative capacity of County Assemblies.

"County Assemblies have a vital role in shaping policies and allocating resources that directly impact the well-being of children and families. Through this partnership, we are strengthening county legislative support for early childhood care and education to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive from the earliest stages of life," he said.



Kidogo Early Years Director, Policy and Partnerships, Ms. Elaine Wacuka Hurt, makes a contribution during discussions with the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) delegation.

Ms. Elaine Wacuka Hurt welcomed the collaboration, noting that meaningful improvements in early childhood care and education require strong partnerships with county legislative institutions. She observed that working alongside County Assemblies would help create an enabling policy and financing environment that supports quality, accessible, and affordable services for children and their families.

The partnership marked an important milestone in advancing child-centered governance and reaffirmed the shared commitment of CAF and Kidogo to strengthening county legislative frameworks that promote quality early childhood development. By working together, the two institutions aim to support County Assemblies in driving sustainable reforms that will improve outcomes for children, families, and communities across Kenya.

COURTESY CALL STRENGTHENS INTER-COUNTY COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT FOR DEVOLUTION.

County Assemblies Forum is now focusing on Strengthening collaborations and partnerships with County Assemblies. To achieve this the Organizing Secretary, the Chief Executive Officer, and the Speaker of the Kajiado County Assembly paid a courtesy visit to the Speaker of the County Assembly of Kitui at the Assembly's premises in Kitui Town.

The engagement provided an opportunity to deliberate on issues of mutual interest aimed at enhancing institutional cooperation, fostering stronger inter-county partnerships, and promoting the exchange of experiences and best practices in legislative governance. Discussions focused on the importance of sustained collaboration among County Assemblies in strengthening legislative institutions, improving service delivery, and advancing the objectives of devolution. The leaders also explored opportunities for continued engagement in areas that support effective lawmaking, oversight, and representation at the county level.

Speaking during the meeting, the CAF Chief Executive Officer noted that partnerships among County Assemblies are essential in building resilient legislative institutions capable of responding to emerging governance challenges. She reaffirmed the Forum's



CAF Organizing Secretary, Hon. Tony Baraza, signs the visitors' book at the Speaker's office.

The Speaker of the County Assembly of Kitui welcomed the delegation and emphasized the value of continuous engagement among county legislative institutions. He observed that sharing experiences and working collaboratively provides an avenue for strengthening governance systems and advancing the collective interests of County Assemblies.

The courtesy call reaffirmed CAF's commitment to promoting collaboration, knowledge sharing, and institutional partnerships that enhance the capacity of



CAF Organizing Secretary Hon. Tony Baraza, Kajiado County Assembly Speaker Hon. Justus Ngossor, and CAF CEO Lorna Losem during a courtesy call on the Speaker of the County Assembly of Kitui, Hon Kevin Katisya. (3rd from right).

commitment to fostering collaboration that strengthens institutional capacity and promotes the effective implementation of devolved governance.

County Assemblies to effectively execute their constitutional mandate while contributing to the continued growth and success of devolution in Kenya.

OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLIES FUND GAINS MOMENTUM.

The National Treasury is now taking lead in the implementation of the County Public Finance Laws Act 2025 that was ascended to by H.E the President of the Republic Kenya in August 2025. This has commenced with the sensitization of County Assemblies on the operationalization of the County Assembly Fund. The program is aimed to deepen their understanding of the Fund's governance, financial



CAF Deputy Chairperson and Machakos County Assembly Speaker, Hon. Anne Kiusya, during the training.

"The operationalization of the County Assemblies Fund is a significant milestone in advancing the financial autonomy of County Assemblies. It will enable legislative institutions to now manage their finances independently and more effectively fulfil their constitutional mandates of legislation, oversight, and representation for the benefit of the citizens they serve,"
Hon. Anne Kiusya

management, and implementation framework, paving the way for enhanced institutional independence across County Assemblies. The programme provided participants with practical insights into the legal, governance, and operational frameworks required for the effective operationalization of the Fund.

The program is organized in phases and clusters, with the first phase commencing in July 2026 with the Eastern region cluster of Machakos, Isiolo, Marsabit, Makueni, Kajiado and Garissa.

Representing CAF in the first meeting taking place in Kitui County, Vice Chairperson and Speaker of the Machakos County Assembly, Hon.

Anne Kiusya reaffirmed the Forum's commitment to strengthening the institutional independence of County Assemblies through sustained collaboration and capacity development.

Participants also examined governance structures, accountability mechanisms, and sound financial management practices necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the Fund. The discussions emphasized the importance of transparency, prudent resource management, and institutional accountability in achieving the Fund's objectives.

The programme reinforced the shared commitment of CAF and the National Treasury to supporting County Assemblies in implementing the Fund and strengthening legislative institutions that are better equipped to advance effective, accountable, and responsive devolved governance across Kenya.

COUNTY ASSEMBLY FUND SENSITIZATION FORUM IN TRANSNZOIA COUNTY.

Building on the momentum generated during the inaugural capacity-building programme held in Kitui County, the regional rollout of forums on the operationalization of the County Assemblies Fund continued in Trans Nzoia County, bringing together County Assembly leaders and technical officers to strengthen preparedness for the effective implementation of the Fund. The Trans Nzoia Forum brought together West Pokot, Uasin Gishu, Turkana, Kakamega, Nandi and Elgeyo Marakwet County Assemblies.

Representing the County Assemblies Forum (CAF), the Speaker of the County Assembly of Kakamega, Hon. James Namatsia, reaffirmed the Forum's commitment to supporting the successful operationalization of the County Assemblies Fund across all 47 County Assemblies.

"The operationalization of the County Assemblies Fund is a transformative milestone for County Assemblies. Through



Speaker of the County Assembly of Kakamega, Hon. James Namatsia, delivers his remarks during the training.

these regional engagements, we are strengthening the capacity of our institutions to effectively execute their constitutional responsibilities while reinforcing accountability and good governance," he said.

CAF Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Lonah Losem, commended the National Treasury and Economic Planning for sustaining the regional training programme, noting that the phased approach would ensure consistent capacity development across the country. She appreciated the initiative to support County Assemblies to operationalize the Fund and noted that the Act does not fully provide financial autonomy of County Assemblies since County Assemblies still requires approval of the CECM Finance to have either Funds move from CRF to the County Assembly Fund. She reaffirmed CAF's commitment to mobilizing participation from all County Assemblies to support the successful implementation of the Fund.

The Trans Nzoia engagement attracted Speakers, Clerks, Chairs of County Assemblies Budget and Appropriation Committees, and County Assemblies Directors of Finance from the participating counties, providing a platform for peer learning, experience sharing, and collaborative discussions on the practical implementation of the Fund. The continued regional rollout reflects the shared commitment of CAF and the National Treasury to strengthening the institutional and financial autonomy of County Assemblies, laying a firm foundation for more effective legislative governance and the continued success of devolution.



CAF CEO, Lonah Losem, addresses participants during the training.

CAF SECRETARY GENERAL REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO SUCCESSFUL ROLLOUT OF COUNTY ASSEMBLIES FUND.

The second day of the regional capacity-building programme in Trans Nzoia County saw the participation of the County

Participants keenly follow the address by CAF Secretary General, Hon. Chege Mwaura, during the County Assembly Fund rollout in Trans Nzoia.





CAF Secretary General, Hon. Chege Mwaura, addresses participants during the County Assembly Fund rollout in Trans Nzoia.

Assemblies Forum (CAF) Secretary General, Hon. Chege Mwaura, reaffirm the Forum's commitment to supporting the successful implementation of the Fund across all 47 County Assemblies.

Addressing participants, Hon. Mwaura emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration among key stakeholders in ensuring the successful rollout of the Fund. He noted that the regional training programme reflects a shared commitment to equipping County Assemblies with the capacity required to effectively discharge their constitutional mandates of legislation, oversight, and representation.

"The successful implementation of the County Assemblies Fund will enhance the institutional and financial independence of County Assemblies, enabling them to better serve the people through effective legislation, oversight, and representation. Continued collaboration among stakeholders is essential in achieving this shared objective," he said.

Hon. Mwaura also commended the National Treasury and Economic Planning for spearheading the regional training programme, describing it as a critical investment in strengthening the governance and operational capacity of County Assemblies. He reaffirmed CAF's commitment to working closely with all stakeholders to ensure the Fund is successfully operationalized across the country.

ENGAGEMENT WITH TRANS NZOIA ENGAGEMENT.COUNTY ASSEMBLY.

The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the collaborations with County Assemblies in courtesy visit to the Trans Nzoia County Assembly.

Led by CAF Secretary-General Hon. Chege Mwaura, the delegation, comprising Organizing Secretary Hon. Tony Barasa, Western Cluster Representative Hon. Milton Omukunda, Chief Executive Officer Ms. Lonah Losem, and members of the Secretariat, held high-level discussions with the leadership of the Trans Nzoia County Assembly on institutional collaboration and the future of devolved governance.

Speaking during the meeting, Hon. Chege Mwaura noted that CAF



(R-L) CAF Organizing Secretary Hon. Tony Barasa, Trans Nzoia County Speaker Hon. Andrew Wanyonyi, Secretary-General Hon. Chege Mwaura, and CAF, CEO Ms. Lonah Losem.

had made significant progress in advancing the implementation of County Assembly autonomy despite the initial challenges experienced in various counties. He emphasized that the Forum remains committed to working with County Assemblies and key stakeholders to strengthen institutional independence and safeguard the gains of devolution. The SG also took members through the activities of the Forum for the current financial year, CAF achievements for the last financial year, updates on the engagement with the Salaries and Remuneration Commission on the salaries and remuneration of state officers in the County Assemblies, update on the various legislations under consideration in National Parliament. Further the urged for support from Trans Nzoia County Assembly to the Forum to ensure that it effectively and efficiently serve the county assemblies.

Hon. Mwaura further reaffirmed the Forum's commitment to engaging the Senate and other key stakeholders on critical reforms, including the establishment of Ward Development Funds, full implementation of County Assembly autonomy, pension benefits for Members of County Assemblies, and a review of expenditure ceilings to enhance legislative oversight and accountability. The delegation also recognized the Trans Nzoia County Assembly as one of the first assemblies to operationalize a CAF account, demonstrating its commitment to supporting the Forum and strengthening collaboration among member assemblies.



A section of members during the engagement.

Receiving the delegation, Speaker Hon. Andrew Wanyonyi welcomed the continued engagement, describing the visit as timely following the operationalization of the County Assembly autonomy framework. He reaffirmed the Assembly's commitment to supporting collaborative initiatives that strengthen County Assemblies and promote effective, accountable devolved governance.

The Speaker also informed the meeting that the Assembly had received communication from the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) on the revised remuneration structure for Members of County Assemblies. He observed that the communication had come at a critical time, as the Assembly was preparing to reconsider the county budget estimates, thereby providing an opportunity to factor the revised remuneration into the budget approval process.

Contributing to the discussion, Minority Leader Hon. Cheloti welcomed the salary review, noting that the upward revision would boost the morale of Members of County Assemblies after years of remuneration uncertainty. He expressed confidence that improved terms of service would motivate members to continue serving their constituents effectively.

The Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Moses Lupao, called for the uniform implementation of the SRC salary review across all County Assemblies to promote equity and consistency nationwide. He noted that harmonized implementation would enhance members' welfare while reinforcing the legislative, oversight, and representative functions of County Assemblies, ultimately strengthening devolution and improving service delivery.

The engagement underscored CAF's continued commitment to working closely with County Assemblies to champion institutional reforms, strengthen legislative capacity, and build partnerships that advance effective governance and the successful implementation of devolution across Kenya.

CAF AND HURIA FORGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN DEVOLUTION AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE.

A new partnership aimed at enhancing the performance of County Assemblies and strengthening democratic governance has been forged following the signing of a four-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and Human Rights Agenda (HURIA).

The agreement was signed during the Coast County Assemblies Regional Consultative Meeting, where County Assembly leadership from the six coastal counties convened to deliberate on the County Assemblies Performance Index (CAPI)—an evidence-based institutional assessment framework designed to measure and strengthen the performance of County Assemblies across key governance and institutional domains.

The strategic partnership will provide a framework for collaboration in advancing legislative excellence, strengthening petition systems, promoting meaningful citizen participation, and enhancing democratic accountability within County Assemblies. It also seeks to support institutional reforms that foster transparency, responsiveness, and effective governance across the coastal region.

Speaking during the engagement, CAF leadership described the partnership as a significant milestone in the Forum's efforts to strengthen County Assemblies through strategic collaboration and evidence-based institutional development.

"Strong legislative institutions are fundamental to the success of devolution. This partnership provides an important opportunity to enhance the performance of County Assemblies, strengthen public participation, and promote accountable governance that responds to the needs of citizens," the Forum noted.



CAF Chairperson Hon. Seth Kamanza, CEO Lule Mwatsefu, pose for a photo after the signing of the MOU.



CAF Chairperson Hon. Seth Kamanza giving his remarks during the meeting.

The consultative meeting also provided an opportunity for County Assembly leaders to examine the County Assemblies Performance Index (CAPI) and its role in assessing institutional performance, identifying areas for improvement, and supporting continuous learning across County Assemblies. Participants emphasized the importance of evidence-based decision-making in strengthening legislative effectiveness and improving service delivery.

The four-year collaboration between CAF and HURIA reflects a shared commitment to building resilient, transparent, and people-centered County Assemblies that are better equipped to fulfil their constitutional mandate. Through the partnership, the two institutions will work closely with County Assemblies to strengthen democratic governance and advance the long-term success of devolution in Kenya.

KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH



