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EMPowerHer



2026

Empowering Women. Shaping Policy. Driving Change.

The beginning of 2026 affirms the growing impact of women legislators in shaping Kenya's governance and policy direction. Across Parliament and in communities, women leaders continue to champion reforms that respond to the everyday realities of citizens while strengthening inclusive leadership and accountability.

In Parliament, women legislators have advanced important legislative proposals that protect dignity, expand access to services, and strengthen rights. The progress of the Sexual Offences Amendment Bill reflects continued commitment to prevention through public awareness and education. The Health Amendment Bill addresses the painful reality of families unable to access emergency care or retrieve the bodies of loved ones because of unpaid medical bills. The assent to the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act marks a significant step toward bringing civil registration services closer to communities. Progress on disability representation through the County Governments Election Laws Amendment Bill also reminds us that inclusion must remain central to democratic governance.

Beyond the chambers of Parliament, our engagement with citizens through KEWOPA Mashinani forums demonstrates that leadership must remain connected to the people we serve. Conversations in West Pokot, Naivasha, Baringo, and Samburu counties brought together women, youth, persons with disabilities, and community leaders to discuss participation, representation, and the barriers that continue to limit access to leadership. These engagements reaffirm that meaningful governance grows from listening to citizens and translating their experiences into responsive policy and oversight.

The voices heard in these forums were clear. Citizens want leadership that listens, acts, and delivers. They want governance systems that create opportunities for women and young people to participate fully in shaping the country's future.

As KEWOPA continues to champion women's leadership and inclusive governance, we remain committed to strengthening partnerships, promoting issue based politics, and ensuring that policies reflect the realities of communities across Kenya. Our collective work is building a more inclusive democracy where leadership serves all.



Hon. Leah Sankaire, MP,
Chairperson, KEWOPA

Bunge Highlights

Driving Change Through Action: Women Legislators at Work

Kenya's women legislators are transforming the policy landscape through decisive action and thoughtful leadership. Their work brings attention to pressing issues, strengthens accountability, and ensures that governance reflects the needs of all citizens. By championing meaningful reforms, they are shaping a future where public policies are more inclusive, equitable, and responsive to society.



Health Amendment Bill, National Assembly Bill No. 56 of 2024

Hon. Njeri Maina sponsored the Health Amendment Bill, 2024, which seeks to outlaw the detention of bodies over unpaid hospital bills and guarantee access to emergency medical treatment without upfront payment. The Bill amends the Health Act to require public health facilities to provide emergency services before demanding payment and criminalizes the holding of bodies as collateral. Members of Parliament expressed strong support for the proposal, noting that it safeguards the constitutional rights to life, dignity, and health. If enacted, the law will ease the financial and emotional burden on families while reinforcing access to emergency care for all Kenyans.



County Governments Election Laws (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 2 of 2024)

Sen. Crystal Asige's County Governments Election Laws (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 2 of 2024) has passed its Third Reading in the Senate. The Bill addresses gaps in disability representation, as 21 of Kenya's 47 county assemblies have no persons with disabilities, despite Article 54(2) of the Constitution requiring at least 5% representation in elective and appointive bodies.

The Bill requires political parties to structure their party lists to meaningfully include persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups. It now moves to the National Assembly for debate before returning to the Senate and proceeding for Presidential assent.



Sexual Offences Amendment Bill Advances to Second Reading

Hon. Donya Dorice Aburi moved that the Sexual Offences Amendment Bill National Assembly Bill No. 78 of 2023 be read a second time.

The Bill seeks to amend the Sexual Offences Act to provide for the promotion of national public awareness of sexual offences. The proposed amendment aims to strengthen prevention efforts through structured awareness initiatives and public education.

Bunge Highlights



Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Act

Hon. Martha Wangari's Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Act has been assented to by the President and is now part of the Laws of Kenya. The Act requires the Government to establish at least one Civil Registration Services (CRS) office in every sub-county, addressing the current gap where only 175 CRS offices serve over 400 sub-counties.

Limited access in counties such as Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana, West Pokot, Wajir, Kajiado, Samburu, Elgeyo Marakwet and Nakuru has forced citizens to travel long distances to obtain vital documents. The new law aims to bring registration services closer to communities and ease access to birth and death certificates.



Street Naming and Property Addressing System Bill, 2024

Senator Fatuma Dullo's Street Naming and Property Addressing System Bill, 2024, is at the Second Reading stage. The Bill proposes a standardized national framework for street naming and property identification to improve urban planning, enhance service delivery, and support efficient emergency response systems. It also aims to strengthen commercial activities by simplifying navigation and promoting orderly urban development. If enacted, the legislation will provide counties with a legal basis to implement uniform property addressing standards.



Labour Migration and Management (No. 2) Bill, 2024

Senator Tabitha Mutinda sponsors the **Labour Migration and Management (No. 2) Bill, 2024**, currently at the **Committee of the Whole House** stage. The Bill seeks to strengthen protection for Kenyan migrant workers by improving labour migration governance, enhancing recruitment oversight, and safeguarding workers from exploitation. It also proposes pre-departure training and welfare protection mechanisms to promote safe and dignified international employment opportunities.

Promoting Issue Based Politics to Strengthen Inclusive Leadership in West Pokot County



Promoting issue based politics is key to strengthening inclusive leadership and deepening democracy in Kenya. In West Pokot County, a town hall meeting was held to explore how citizen participation can shape governance and advance representation at county and national levels, with a strong focus on the role of women in leadership.

The forum examined the realities faced by women leaders, including access to resources, cultural barriers, and institutional challenges that limit participation. Participants discussed the constitutional and legal frameworks supporting inclusion and the importance of translating policy commitments into practical opportunities for women, youth, and other marginalized groups.

The session was led by Rael Aleutum Kasiwai, who urged men to actively support women's leadership and encouraged stronger public participation, youth engagement, and civic awareness. She emphasized the need for more citizens to register, vote, and contribute to leadership processes that promote accountability and development.

In partnership with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy under the Kenya Institutional Strengthening Program funded by FCDO through ELGIA Africa, KEWOPA continues to promote issue based politics, civic engagement, and pathways for women, youth, and persons with disabilities to participate in leadership and decision making.



Inclusion at the Heart of Leadership and Decision Making in Naivasha County



Leadership begins with inclusion. In Naivasha, Nakuru County, KEWOPA hosted a town hall forum to centre women, youth, and persons with disabilities in leadership and decision making processes. The discussions emphasized that intentional inclusion across governance platforms is critical for building responsive and representative leadership.

The forum was hosted by Hon. Jayne Kihara and in attendance was Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, who called for deliberate efforts to expand opportunities for women, youth, and persons with disabilities in leadership. They affirmed that young people and women are key drivers of social and political transformation and must be supported to participate fully in governance.

The conversation explored the realities of women's leadership in Kenya, from constitutional guarantees to community safety and dignity, with special attention to addressing gender based violence in Nakuru County. Participants identified practical policy pathways that can strengthen participation, accountability, and access to leadership spaces.

In partnership with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy under the Kenya Institutional Strengthening Program funded by FCDO through ELGIA Africa, KEWOPA continues to promote issue based politics, civic participation, and inclusive leadership. The initiative supports women, youth, and persons with disabilities to access and thrive in leadership and decision making spaces.



KEWOPA Mashinani



Citizen voices must inform lawmaking to ensure policies respond to real social and economic needs. A recent policy dialogue focused on how lived community experiences should guide public decision making and strengthen the link between commitments and implementation at national, county, and ward levels.

The forum highlighted the role of women's leadership, youth participation, and multi stakeholder collaboration in promoting accountability and closing existing gaps in service delivery. Participants emphasized that inclusive engagement strengthens oversight and ensures that policies reflect the realities communities face.

Hon. Jematiah Serگون led the discussions and underscored the need for accountability and inclusive governance. Citizen experiences shaped the identification of policy implementation gaps, grounding the dialogue in practical realities and reinforcing the responsibility of leaders to respond effectively to community priorities.

The dialogue concluded with a clear call to action. Citizen participation must move beyond consultation and directly influence policy design, budgeting, and implementation to ensure accessible, safe, and quality services. Translating policy commitments into tangible outcomes requires sustained engagement, responsive leadership, and measurable accountability.



Advancing Issue Based Leadership for Democratic Participation in Samburu County



Inclusive and issue based leadership is essential in strengthening democracy and ensuring that all voices are reflected in decision making processes. A town hall meeting in Samburu County held under the theme “Promoting Issue Based Politics in Kenya” brought together women, youth, and community leaders to discuss governance, participation, and leadership.

The forum was addressed by Hon. Pauline Lenguris, County Member of Parliament for Samburu County, who encouraged citizens to actively participate in public participation forums and contribute to shaping county and national priorities. She also urged women to pursue leadership positions and called on men to support women’s participation in politics.

Participants observed that although constitutional and policy provisions support inclusive governance, gaps remain in awareness, enforcement, and community engagement. They emphasized the need for stronger civic education, creation of safer spaces for women’s participation, and continued collaboration between leaders and citizens to advance issue based leadership.

In partnership with the Centre for Multiparty Democracy, KEWOPA continues to promote citizen engagement and women’s political participation under the Kenya Institutional Strengthening Program funded by FCDO through ELGIA Afric.



Highlights & Engagements

Strengthening Advocacy for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association, in partnership with Jhpiego, Kenya Paediatric Association, Help Reach Africa, and the SASA Alliance, held a capacity-building engagement to strengthen advocacy for maternal, newborn, and child health.

The session aligned partners on policy priorities and strategic actions to influence legislation, budgets, and measurable outcomes at both national and county levels. It also reinforced coordinated efforts to strengthen health systems, expand access to quality antenatal and postnatal care, and improve newborn services, with a focus on accountable financing and legislative tracking to accelerate the end of preventable maternal and newborn deaths.



Hon. Pauline Lenguris, a member of the Health Committee, delivers remarks following the maternal health dialogue.

KEWOPA Hosts Zimbabwe Delegation on Women’s Political Participation

KEWOPA hosted a high-level delegation from Zimbabwe led by Deputy Minister of Youth Empowerment, Kudakwashe Mupamhanga. The delegation included representatives from political parties, the Zimbabwe Parliamentary Youth Caucus, the Zimbabwe Institute, and the Embassy of Ireland in Zimbabwe. The visit focused on benchmarking Kenya’s progress, with particular interest in how KEWOPA advances young women’s participation in politics and champions gender-inclusive policies and legislation.

A key highlight of the engagement was remarks by Njeri Maina, who shared her journey as a young parliamentarian in the 13th Parliament, emphasizing the importance of young leaders pushing beyond expectations in leadership and public service.



High-level Zimbabwe delegation engages in benchmarking dialogue

Advancing Menstrual Health

KEWOPA engaged the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry and local manufacturers on strengthening Kenya’s menstrual health products sector. Discussions focused on supporting local manufacturing, improving competitiveness, and expanding access to safe and affordable products.

Ahead of Budget Policy Statement deliberations, KEWOPA emphasized supportive policies and incentives to advance menstrual equity while promoting industrial growth, jobs, and inclusion.



Stakeholders exchange insights after menstrual health session

Country Talks: Beyond Representation

KEWOPA participated in the Kenya edition of Country Talks: Beyond Representation convened by the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development. The forum brought together women leaders and policymakers to review country data, examine persistent gender gaps in public leadership, and advance strategies that move beyond representation to meaningful influence and decision making power.

The convening was attended by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first democratically elected female President and Nobel Laureate, who called for investment in bold women leaders shaping policy and driving sustainable change.



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female president, speaks on advancing women's leadership

Strengthening Partnerships to Advance the Care Agenda

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association, in partnership with Oxfam Kenya and Oxfam US, convened a Strategic Partnership and Learning meeting to deepen collaboration with Women Members of Parliament on advancing the care agenda and transformative women's leadership.

Discussions focused on safeguarding gender equality gains during political transitions, institutionalising the Care Policy through strengthened parliamentary oversight and sustainable financing, aligning parliamentary action to accelerate reforms, and managing political and implementation risks.



KEWOPA deputy chair with representatives from OXFAM

KEWOPA Hosts Partners on Women's Leadership

KEWOPA hosted a delegation from Journalists for Human Rights (JHR Canada) and Global Affairs Canada to explore strategic partnerships aimed at advancing women's political leadership and strengthening their visibility in the media. The engagement focused on promoting gender-responsive media coverage, countering gendered disinformation, and building communication capacity for women leaders and their teams. KEWOPA remains committed to fostering partnerships that amplify women's voices, promote positive narratives around women in politics, and support inclusive and accountable governance.



KEWOPA E.D, Mercy Mwangi, speaks to Partners on Women's Leadership

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

HON. JEMATIAH SERGON: FROM GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP TO NATIONAL INFLUENCE

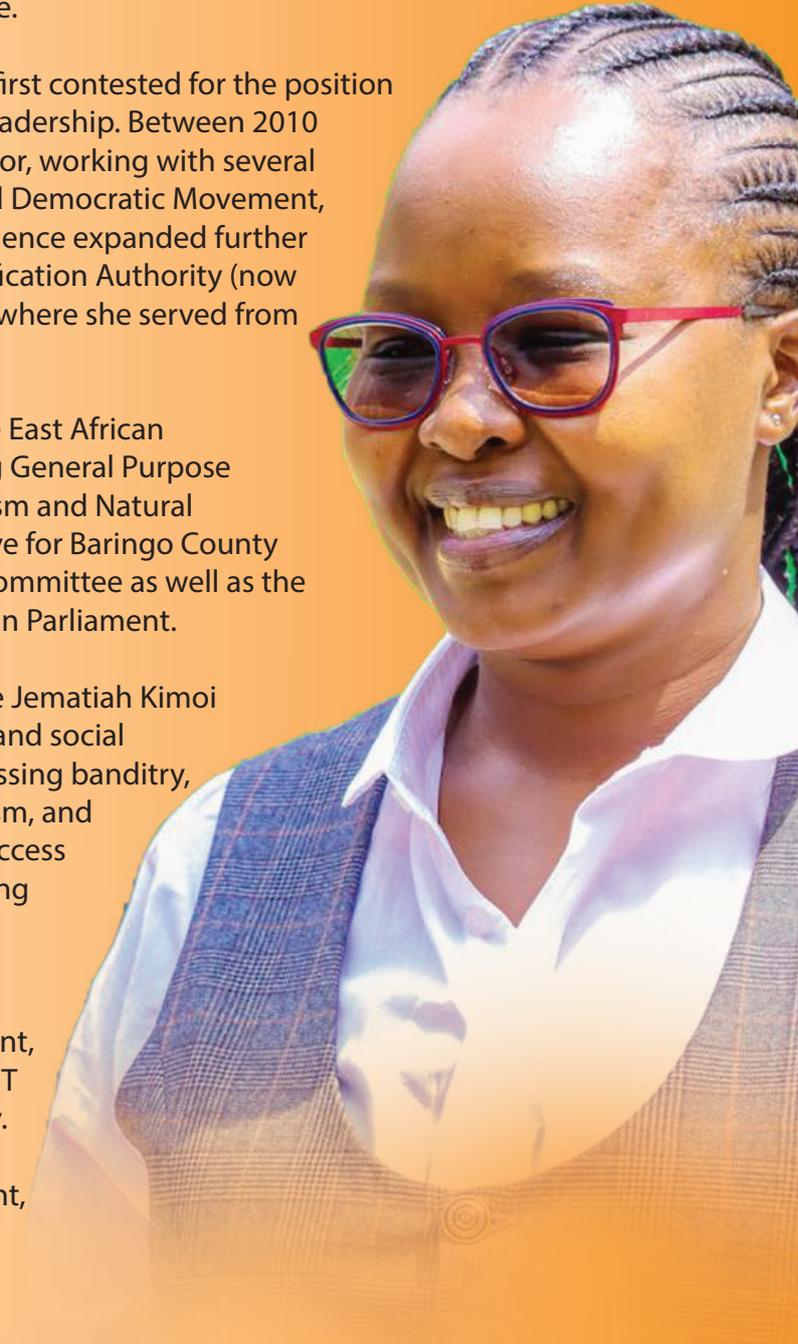
Hon. Jematiah Sergon, widely known as the “Lioness of Baringo,” is the current Woman Representative for Baringo County in the National Assembly of Kenya. Her leadership journey spans grassroots politics, regional party coordination, regional diplomacy, and national legislative service.

Hon. Sergon began her political career in 2007 when she first contested for the position of councillor, marking the start of a steady rise in public leadership. Between 2010 and 2015, she served as the Rift Valley Regional Coordinator, working with several political parties including United Republican Party, United Democratic Movement, and Orange Democratic Movement. Her leadership experience expanded further when she was appointed to the board of the Rural Electrification Authority (now Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation) where she served from 2014 to 2017.

From 2017 to 2022, Hon. Sergon represented Kenya at the East African Legislative Assembly, serving in key committees including General Purpose and Budget, Trade and Investment, and Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources. In 2022, she was elected Woman Representative for Baringo County and currently serves on the Budget and Appropriations Committee as well as the Communication, Information and Innovation Committee in Parliament.

Beyond legislative work, Hon. Sergon is the founder of the Jematiah Kimoi Foundation, which focuses on peacebuilding, education, and social empowerment. The foundation supports initiatives addressing banditry, provides sanitary pads to schoolgirls to reduce absenteeism, and has installed water tanks in over 100 schools to improve access to clean water. It also offers scholarships, vocational training for youth and women, and promotes community farming projects to strengthen food security and livelihoods.

A strong advocate for technology and youth empowerment, Hon. Sergon continues to champion digital literacy and ICT access in schools and communities across Baringo County. Through her leadership, she remains committed to advancing women’s empowerment, inclusive development, and sustainable



Hon. Jematiah Sergon
County MP, Baringo County



We extend our sincere appreciation to our esteemed partners - Parliament of Kenya, Institute of Public Finance(IPF), ACEPA, KENYA PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION, OXFARM, JHR, ELGIA AFRICA, DANIDA, URAIA, UN Women, Centre for Parliamentary Studies (CPST), NIMD-Kenya, State Department of Gender, Global Affairs Canada, NGEC, UNFPA, CREAM, JHPIEGO, ICJ, FIDA, CMD, CRAWN TRUST, Health NGOs Network (HENNET), KAS and KYPA for their invaluable support, collaboration, and commitment .

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