

# EMPowerHer



July 2026 Edition

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# Chair's Remarks

As the digital landscape continues to reshape political engagement, June presented an important opportunity for KEWOPA to strengthen the capacity of women leaders to navigate emerging technologies while safeguarding their participation in public life.

This month, our work centred on addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV)—an increasingly complex challenge that threatens women's leadership through online harassment, disinformation, cyberbullying, impersonation, and coordinated digital attacks. These forms of violence are not simply attacks on individuals; they undermine democratic participation by attempting to silence women's voices and discourage their leadership.

In response, KEWOPA convened a series of capacity-building initiatives for women Members of Parliament and the communications professionals who support them. Through specialised trainings on Artificial Intelligence, digital security, online safety, and responsible political communication, participants gained practical skills to navigate evolving digital spaces, counter harmful online content, protect their digital presence, and communicate effectively with the public. These investments recognise that resilient leadership in today's political environment requires both informed leaders and well-equipped communications teams.

Beyond strengthening individual capacity, KEWOPA also advanced national dialogue on legislative and policy responses to TFGBV by engaging partners and stakeholders in developing an operational roadmap to address this growing challenge. These conversations reaffirmed the urgent need for stronger legal protections, survivor-centred responses, and coordinated action to ensure that digital spaces remain safe, inclusive, and accessible for women and girls.

Our progress this month reflects the strength of collaboration. We are grateful to our partners, including the Communications Authority of Kenya, Oxfam Kenya, IREX, the National Police Service, UNFPA Kenya, and COVAW, whose continued support enables us to respond to emerging governance challenges with innovation and purpose.

As KEWOPA looks ahead, we remain committed to strengthening women's leadership, promoting the responsible use of technology, and championing policies that protect women both online and offline. By investing in safer digital spaces today, we are helping build a more inclusive democracy where women leaders can participate, influence, and lead with confidence.

Together, we will continue shaping a future where technology empowers, rather than excludes, women in leadership. Read this and more of the work we were engaged in this month



**Hon. Leah Sankaire, MP**  
Chairperson, KEWOPA

# Bunge Highlights

Throughout the month, KEWOPA members continued to play a pivotal role in shaping Kenya's legislative agenda by sponsoring Bills, moving Motions, proposing amendments, and raising matters of national importance in Parliament. Their work addressed a wide range of issues, including agriculture, education, healthcare, road safety, clean energy, environmental sustainability, technology, and youth empowerment. This month's Legislative Spotlight highlights some of the women legislators whose contributions reflect KEWOPA's commitment to responsive, inclusive, and impactful law-making.



## ***Hon. Hamida Kibwana – Motion on Mainstreaming a National Framework for Clean Cooking in Kenya***

Senator Hamida Kibwana had an active legislative month, leading efforts to advance the Motion on Mainstreaming a National Framework for Clean Cooking in Kenya, which seeks to promote access to clean, affordable cooking solutions. She also steered the Nuts and Oil Crops Development Bill through the Committee of the Whole stage, sought a statement on the rising cases of missing children, and raised a question on housing approvals and supporting infrastructure, demonstrating her focus on agriculture, social welfare, and public service delivery.



## ***Hon. Veronica Maina – Motion on Declaring Road Traffic Accidents a National Disaster***

Senator Veronica Maina championed key legislative proposals aimed at improving public safety and supporting farmers. She sponsored the Motion seeking the declaration of road traffic accidents as a national disaster, calling for stronger national interventions to address the growing loss of lives on Kenyan roads. She also continued advancing the Agriculture Produce (Minimum Guaranteed Returns) Bill, which seeks to safeguard farmers by ensuring fair and predictable returns for agricultural produce.



## ***Hon. Karen Nyamu – Autism Management Bill, 2025***

Senator Karen Nyamu continued advancing legislation focused on health, technology, and the extractive sector. During the month, she sponsored the Autism Management Bill at Second Reading, aimed at improving the diagnosis, care, and inclusion of persons with autism. She was also featured as the sponsor of the Artificial Intelligence Bill and the Mining (Amendment) Bill, highlighting her involvement in shaping policy on emerging technologies and natural resource governance.

# Bunge Highlights



## ***Hon. Rahab Mukami – Motion on Mandatory Guidance and Counselling Programmes in Schools***

Hon. Rahab Mukami moved a Motion calling for the establishment of mandatory guidance and counselling programmes in all primary and secondary schools. The proposal seeks to strengthen learners' mental well-being, promote positive behaviour, and provide structured psychosocial support within the education system to address emerging social and emotional challenges facing young people.



## ***Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba – Motion on Power Subsidies for Export-Oriented Agricultural Production***

Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba moved a Motion urging the development of a policy on power subsidies for export-oriented agricultural production. The proposal seeks to lower electricity costs for agricultural producers engaged in value addition and export, enhancing the competitiveness of Kenyan products in international markets while supporting economic growth and job creation.



## ***Millie Odhiambo – Fisheries Management and Development Bill, 2023 (Amendments)***

Hon. Millie Odhiambo contributed to legislative reforms by moving amendments to the Fisheries Management and Development Bill, 2023. The proposed amendments seek to strengthen the legal framework governing the fisheries sector, supporting sustainable management of aquatic resources while improving governance and the livelihoods of communities that depend on fishing.

## KEWOPA Holds Policy Cafe on Inclusive Electoral Governance in Homa Bay County



*Participants at the Inclusive Electoral Governance training in Homa Bay County*

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association KEWOPA, in partnership with Uraia and with support from the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya and Somalia, held a policy cafe on Inclusive Electoral Governance in Homa Bay County. The forum was led by Senator Hon. Beatrice Akinyi Ogolla and brought together women, youth, community leaders, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders to discuss barriers to participation in electoral and governance processes.

The discussions focused on access to political spaces, political financing, voter registration and verification, party primaries and nominations, violence against women in politics, and the exclusion of young people from decision making. Participants also developed advocacy priorities and community recommendations to inform legislative and policy reforms aimed at strengthening electoral accountability, transparency, and inclusive participation.

The Town Hall forms part of KEWOPA's ongoing efforts to amplify community voices and promote inclusive electoral governance through engagement with policymakers, electoral institutions, and political parties.



# KEWOPA Strengthens Women Entrepreneurs Through SPALTA Phase II Workshop in Samburu County



Participants during the SPALTA Phase II Women Entrepreneurs Capacity Building Workshop in Maralal, Samburu County.

KEWOPA, in partnership with the Institute of Public Finance (IPF), conducted a two-day Women Entrepreneurs Capacity Building Workshop in Maralal, Samburu County under the Strengthening Parliamentary Leadership for Transformative Action on Health and Gender Outcomes (SPALTA) Programme Phase II.

The workshop equipped women entrepreneurs with practical skills in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, business planning, marketing, customer service, wealth creation, and business sustainability. Participants also explored business growth strategies, strategic partnerships, and access to finance through linkages with banks and SACCOs.

Hon. Pauline Lenguris attended the training and highlighted the importance of financial literacy in supporting sustainable businesses while also speaking on efforts to improve maternal healthcare services in Samburu County.

The workshop reflects KEWOPA's commitment to strengthening women's economic empowerment by expanding business opportunities, increasing financial inclusion, and supporting sustainable enterprise development.



## Highlights & Engagements

### Building Digital Skills for Women Leaders in the Age of Artificial Intelligence



*Women members of parliament and partners come together for the training on TFGBV*

As digital technologies continue to shape leadership, governance, and political engagement, the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA), in partnership with Oxfam, the Communications Authority of Kenya, the National Police Service, IREX, and other partners, held a series of trainings in June 2026 on Artificial Intelligence (AI), online safety, digital rights, and emerging technologies. The programme comprised two trainings for women Members of Parliament and two additional trainings for the communications teams that support them.

The sessions explored the opportunities and risks presented by artificial intelligence, with discussions focusing on digital rights, responsible technology use, online safety, misinformation, disinformation, and technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV). Women Members of Parliament examined practical approaches to protecting their digital presence and responding to online abuse, while communications teams focused on the use of AI in political communication, safeguarding online freedoms during elections, and managing digital communication in an evolving information environment.

A key highlight of the programme was the launch of the Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) Gap Analysis Report by CRAWN Trust. The report provides critical evidence on online and technology-enabled violence against women and girls in Kenya, informing policy, programming, and coordinated action to promote safer and more inclusive digital spaces.

The initiative reflects KEWOPA's ongoing efforts to promote digital literacy and online safety while equipping women leaders and their communications teams with the skills to use emerging technologies responsibly and engage effectively in an increasingly digital world.



*Godfrey Kiriimi, a participant, speaks during the TFGBV training session.*

## KEWOPA Advances Advocacy for Sustainable Financing of Family Planning Commodities



*Hon. Pauline Lenguris shares insights on sustainable financing of family planning commodities.*

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association convened parliamentarians to strengthen advocacy for sustainable domestic financing of family planning commodities and improve access to reproductive health services across Kenya.

The discussions examined Kenya's family planning landscape, commodity security, financing gaps, and the role of Parliament in securing sustainable funding for reproductive health programmes. Participants explored strategies to increase budget allocations, promote timely disbursement of funds, strengthen accountability, and enhance domestic resource mobilization.

The engagement also provided an opportunity to develop advocacy priorities and build consensus on actions needed to support long term financing for family planning programmes. Through these efforts, KEWOPA continues to champion policies and investments that improve the health and well being of women, girls, and families across Kenya.

## Advancing Legal Reforms to Address Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) continues to threaten women's participation in leadership, governance, and democratic processes through online harassment, intimidation, misinformation, digital impersonation, and other forms of abuse. In partnership with UNFPA Kenya and the Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), KEWOPA convened stakeholders to co-design an operational roadmap aimed at strengthening Kenya's legislative and policy response to TFGBV.

The meeting focused on identifying legal and policy reform priorities, strengthening prevention and accountability measures, and advancing survivor-centred responses. KEWOPA reaffirmed that protecting women from technology-facilitated violence is essential to ensuring safe digital spaces where women can participate in public life, exercise their rights, and contribute fully to democratic governance.



*Hon. Irene Mayaka speaks at the TFGBV operational roadmap meeting*

# Beyond the Ballot: Investing in Women's Leadership



For women Members of Parliament, taking the oath of office is only the beginning. Every day, they negotiate legislation, scrutinise budgets, represent their constituents and navigate political spaces that remain unequal. They continue to face barriers ranging from violence against women in politics and online abuse to the unequal responsibilities of unpaid care work. In this environment, leadership requires more than determination. It requires functional institutions, evidence based development, partnerships and collective action.

That is the thinking behind the new strategic partnership between the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) and Oxfam Kenya.

For years, KEWOPA has brought together women legislators across political parties to champion gender equality, influence legislation and strengthen women's leadership in Parliament. Building on this foundation, the partnership combines KEWOPA's leadership within Parliament with Oxfam Kenya's demonstrable work in advancing gender justice and women's rights. Together, the two organisations will strengthen the ability of women parliamentarians to influence legislation, champion care-responsive governance, promote gender-responsive budgeting and address violence against women in politics.

The partnership will also strengthen collaboration between Parliament, women's rights organisations and other stakeholders, ensuring that policies and public investments are informed by the lived realities of women and girls.

As Kenya prepares for the 2027 General Elections, conversations about increasing women's representation are gaining momentum. But representation alone is not enough. Kenya's democracy also depends on women leaders having the influence, knowledge and partnerships needed to shape national priorities and hold institutions accountable.

Backing women leaders beyond the ballot is therefore not simply about supporting women in politics. It is about strengthening the leadership that shapes our laws, budgets and public institutions. When women have the opportunity to lead effectively, Parliament is better equipped to respond to the realities of Kenyan women, families and communities. Everyone stands to benefit.

# HON. NAISULA LESUUDA, CBS

## *A Voice for Peace, Youth Empowerment and Inclusive Leadership*

*Hon. Naisula Lesuuda, the Member of Parliament for Samburu West, is one of Kenya's most distinguished women leaders, recognized for her commitment to peacebuilding, youth empowerment, and inclusive governance. Serving in the 13th Parliament since September 2022, she continues to make significant contributions through her roles on the Appointments Committee, the Budget and Appropriations Committee, and the Public Accounts Committee, where she helps shape national policy, oversee public expenditure, and strengthen accountability.*

*A passionate advocate for social transformation, Hon. Lesuuda has dedicated much of her public life to promoting peace and expanding opportunities for young people and girls. As the founder of the Naisula Lesuuda Peace Foundation, she has led initiatives that foster dialogue, reconciliation, education, and leadership, particularly in conflict-prone communities. Her advocacy has also seen her serve as an International Labour Organization (ILO) Champion, championing decent work and opportunities for young people.*

*Her legislative record reflects a commitment to practical lives of Kenyans. She sponsored the Public Service Internship Bill, which was successfully passed, creating a stronger legal framework for internship programmes and improving pathways for young graduates to gain meaningful work experience. She also sponsored the Kenya Roads (Amendment) Bill, which is currently before Parliament, demonstrating her continued focus on improving public infrastructure and service delivery.*

*Hon. Lesuuda's leadership has earned both national and international recognition. She was named among Forbes Africa's 30 Under 30 in 2014 and has been awarded the Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW) and the Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear (CBS) for her outstanding service to the nation. Through her work in Parliament and beyond, she continues to inspire a new generation of leaders while advancing peace, accountability, and inclusive development across Kenya.*



**Hon. Naisula Lesuuda, CBS  
MP, Samburu West**

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Women are diversifying their livelihoods and venturing into business, but financial literacy is key to helping those businesses grow and thrive.

Hon. Pauline Lenguris  
County MP, Samburu



“

Every mother deserves a safe delivery, and every child deserves a healthy start to life through timely immunization.

Hon. Beatrice Ogolla  
Nominated Senator



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The Equalisation Fund must reach marginalised communities, especially women and girls who face the greatest barriers to essential services, with constituency representatives involved in its implementation.

Hon. Leah Sankaire  
County MP, Kajiado



“

We must increase funding for vocational training, enterprise, innovation, sports, digital skills, and affordable credit to expand opportunities for young people. Investing in youth strengthens Kenya's economy and secures sustainable development.

Hon. Zamzam Mohammed  
County MP, Mombasa



“

Long standing inequities in girls' education continues to limit women's opportunities and meaningful participation in leadership.

Hon. Fatuma Jehow  
County MP, Wajir



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Online attacks are not merely personal; they are designed to silence women, discourage leadership and undermine democracy.

Hon. Beth Syengo  
Nominated Senator



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Artificial Intelligence is no longer a digital concept, it is now a part of our everyday lives.

Hon. Esther Passaris  
County MP, Nairobi

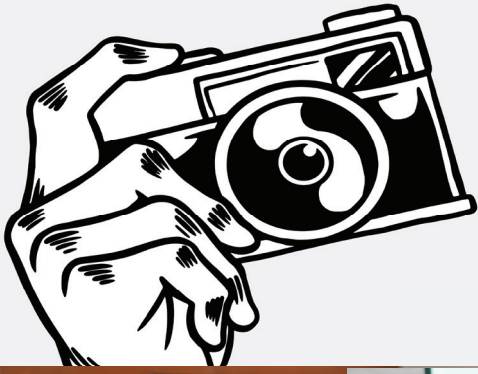


## DID YOU KNOW?

Gender-responsive budgeting is not a separate budget for women. It ensures public resources address the different needs of women, men, girls, and boys. Through legislation, oversight, and representation, KEWOPA champions equitable and inclusive budgeting.



# Snapshots



We extend our sincere appreciation to our esteemed partners for their invaluable support, collaboration, and commitment.

**United Nations Agencies**

UN Women

**Government Institutions and State Agencies**

Parliament of Kenya, State Department of Gender, National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)

**Development Partners and Bilateral Agencies**

Global Affairs Canada, Royal Danish Embassy

**Research and Policy Institutions**

Institute of Public Finance (IPF), African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA), Centre for Parliamentary Studies (CPST)

**Civil Society Organizations and Networks**

Uraia, CREAM, ICJ, FIDA, Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), CRAWN Trust, Health NGOs Network (HENNET), ELGIA Africa

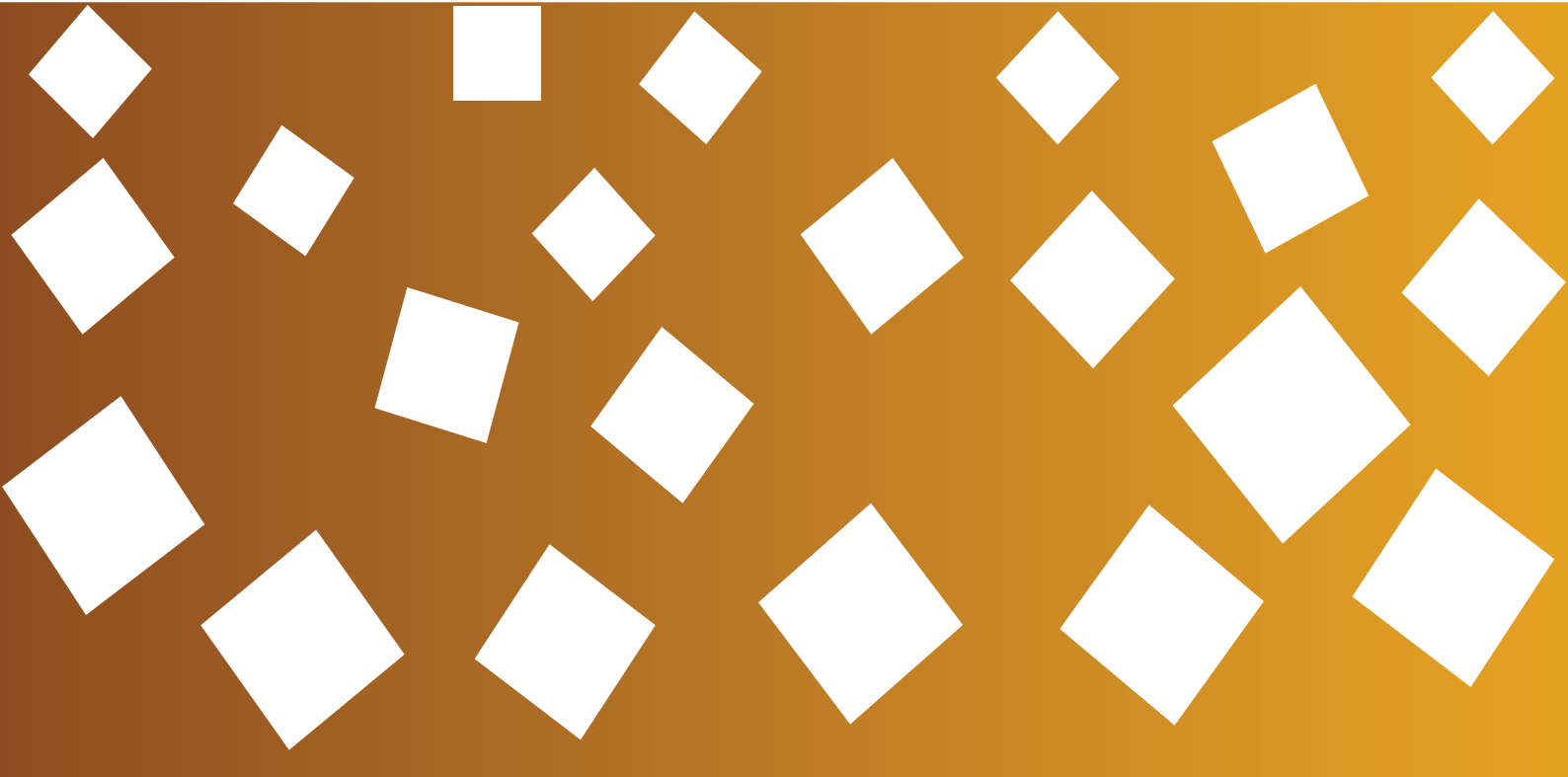
**Professional Associations / Parliamentary Caucuses**

Kenya Paediatric Association, Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA)

**International NGOs and Implementing Partners**

Oxfam, Journalists for Human Rights (JHR), Jhpiego, Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD-Kenya), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Center for Reproductive Right(CRR)

We value each partnership and remain committed to strengthening these collaborations in advancing our shared goals.



This newsletter was made possible by KEWOPA Communications Department - Vincent Korir under the leadership of Mercy Mwangi(ED) and Rosemary Juma(PM)



