

Issue no: 3 - 2026

# EMPowerHer



2026

*Empowering Women. Shaping Policy. Driving Change.*

# Chair's Remarks

KEWOPA advanced women's political participation economic empowerment and inclusive governance through legislative and community level engagements across key sectors. Women legislators championed bills and motions on reproductive health artificial intelligence environmental governance road safety and teenage pregnancy while strengthening accountability and responsive lawmaking. Women's Economic Empowerment was strengthened through financial literacy training in Kitui where women gained skills in savings credit management enterprise development access to finance and AGPO opportunities while reinforcing gender responsive budgeting as a tool for inclusion.

We convened a multi stakeholder dialogue on inclusive electoral governance bringing together women youth Persons with Disabilities civil society and electoral actors to address barriers to participation violence in politics and reforms needed across the electoral cycle. We continue to emphasize early preparation for the 2027 elections mentorship leadership development and protection from electoral violence including Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence. The National Gender Sector Working Group meeting reinforced these priorities and reaffirmed commitment to the Two Thirds Gender Rule while highlighting femicide and gender based violence as urgent national concerns.

The launch of the National GBV Reporting WhatsApp Platform +254724884444 strengthened access to confidential reporting psychosocial support legal aid counselling and referrals supporting safer spaces for women and girls. Regional engagement in Malawi strengthened peer learning and collaboration on women's political leadership across Southern Africa. Submissions on the Finance Bill 2026 promoted a fair equitable and predictable tax system that protects vulnerable populations and supports economic stability.

Going forward KEWOPA remains focused on strengthening women's leadership pipelines advancing legislative reforms deepening partnerships and addressing gender based violence including femicide to build a safer more inclusive and equitable democracy.



Hon. Leah Sankaire, MP  
Chairperson, KEWOPA

# Bunge Highlights

## Driving Change Through Action: Women Legislators at Work

In March, during International Women's Month, this highlights summary captures how 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.



### **Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill – Co-sponsored by Sen. Catherine Mumma**

The Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill seeks to establish a legal framework governing assisted reproductive health services in Kenya. The proposed legislation aims to safeguard the rights of individuals and couples seeking fertility treatment, regulate service providers, and ensure ethical standards in the use of reproductive technologies. The Bill is expected to enhance access to safe, quality, and accountable reproductive health services.



### **Statement on Teenage Pregnancies in Kenya – Sen. Consolata Wakwabubi**

Nominated Senator Consolata Wakwabubi raised concerns over the persistent challenge of teenage pregnancies in Kenya and called for urgent interventions to protect adolescents. The statement seeks information on measures being implemented to address the drivers of teenage pregnancies, strengthen reproductive health education, and ensure support systems for affected girls. The issue remains a critical concern due to its impact on education, health, and socio-economic outcomes.



### **Artificial Intelligence Bill – Sponsored by Sen. Karen Nyamu**

The Artificial Intelligence Bill seeks to establish a regulatory framework for the development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence technologies in Kenya. The proposed legislation aims to promote innovation while addressing issues related to ethics, privacy, accountability, and data protection. As AI adoption continues to grow, the Bill is expected to provide guidance on responsible use and governance of emerging technologies.

# Bunge Highlights



## **Motion on Road Traffic Accidents as a National Disaster – Sen. Veronica Maina**

Sen. Veronica Maina is sponsoring a motion calling for road traffic accidents in Kenya to be declared a national disaster. The motion highlights the significant loss of lives, injuries, and economic costs associated with road crashes and urges the government to strengthen prevention, enforcement, emergency response, and public awareness measures. The proposal seeks to elevate road safety as a national priority requiring coordinated action across sectors.



## **Statement on Family Planning Commodities – Sen. Tabitha Mutinda**

Sen. Tabitha Mutinda requested a statement regarding the shortage of family planning commodities across the country and the need to ring-fence funding for reproductive health services. The Senator highlighted the importance of ensuring a consistent supply of family planning commodities to support maternal health, reduce unintended pregnancies, and safeguard reproductive health rights. The statement seeks accountability and sustainable financing solutions to address recurring shortages.



## **Environmental Management and Coordination (Amendment) Bill – Co-sponsored by Sen. Crystal Asige**

The Environmental Management and Coordination (Amendment) Bill proposes reforms aimed at strengthening environmental governance and sustainability efforts in Kenya. The legislation seeks to enhance environmental protection measures, improve compliance mechanisms, and promote responsible management of natural resources. The Bill reflects growing efforts to address environmental challenges while supporting sustainable development.

## Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment Through Financial Literacy in Kitui County



*Participants at the Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment Training under SPLTA Phase II Programme.*

The Financial Literacy and Women's Economic Empowerment Training under the Strengthening Parliamentary Leadership for Transformative Action Phase II Program brought together women leaders, participants, and stakeholders to strengthen knowledge and skills aimed at advancing women's economic participation and sustainable livelihoods.

The training focused on financial literacy, savings, credit management, business planning, enterprise growth, access to finance, financial products, and AGPO procurement opportunities. Discussions highlighted the importance of building financial resilience and expanding opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

A key area of focus was Gender Responsive Budgeting and the role of public finance in advancing Women's Economic Empowerment. Participants explored public expenditure tracking, budget advocacy, and the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment as tools for promoting economic inclusion and equity.

The mentorship session featuring women leaders and private sector representatives provided an opportunity to discuss challenges facing women in business and leadership and the need for stronger partnerships, policy implementation, and inclusive economic opportunities. Participants reaffirmed the importance of investing in women's entrepreneurship and financial empowerment as drivers of economic growth and sustainable development.



# Promoting Inclusive Electoral Governance Through Women and Youth Leadership



Participants engage in discussions at the multi-stakeholder dialogue on inclusive electoral governance.

KEWOPA, in partnership with Uraia and with support from the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya and Somalia, convened a multi stakeholder dialogue on Enhancing Inclusive Electoral Governance through Women and Youth Led Advocacy and Policy Engagements. The forum brought together women leaders, youth representatives, civil society organizations, Persons with Disabilities, electoral stakeholders, local administrators, and community representatives to discuss democratic participation and inclusive governance.

The engagement focused on increasing public participation in electoral processes, supporting women's leadership, promoting balanced nominations within political parties, addressing violence in politics, and confronting the growing challenge of femicide. Participants examined barriers that continue to limit the participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in leadership and decision making spaces.

Discussions also explored reforms needed across the electoral cycle to support more women seeking elective positions. Participants identified the need for increased civic education, stronger advocacy networks, improved access to political financing, and greater capacity building on electoral laws and processes to strengthen inclusive participation.

The forum highlighted the importance of creating safe and accessible political spaces where women, youth, and Persons with Disabilities can engage meaningfully in governance processes.



## Highlights & Engagements

### Strengthening Women's Political Participation Ahead of 2027

At the Second Bi-Annual National Gender Sector Working Group Meeting attended by Cabinet Secretary for the State Department for Gender, Hon. CS Hanna Cheptumo, stakeholders highlighted the need for early preparation to strengthen women's political participation ahead of the 2027 General Election. Discussions focused on mentorship, leadership development, visibility, campaign support, and protection from electoral violence, including Technology Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV). KEWOPA Chairperson Hon. Sopiato Leah Sankaire called for early investment in women aspirants, noting that many are lost during party primaries when support often comes too late. She reaffirmed KEWOPA's commitment to the implementation of the Two-Thirds Gender Rule and election reforms that promote inclusion. The meeting also launched the National GBV Reporting WhatsApp Platform (+254724884444), which provides confidential reporting, psychosocial support, legal guidance, counselling, and referral services for women and girls.



*Hon. Leah Sankaire speaking at GSWG meeting*

### Regional Solidarity Advances Women's Political Leadership in Malawi



*Rosemary Juma at Lilongwe Caucus meeting*

In Lilongwe, Malawi, women leaders from across the region gathered for the Oxfam-supported Women Caucus Visit to reflect on Malawi's recent election experiences and explore practical strategies to strengthen women's political leadership in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. The engagement provided a platform for peer learning, strategic collaboration, and regional solidarity, allowing women leaders to share experiences, strengthen networks, and identify pathways toward more inclusive and gender-responsive governance. Discussions also highlighted the importance of strong partnerships between women parliamentary caucuses and development partners in advancing women's political participation and leadership across the region. Also present were Hon. Thokozire Lunji and Malawi's Minister of Energy and Mining, Hon. Jean Mathanga.

## Advocating for Equitable Taxation Through the Finance Bill



*Venecity Kajuju, CPA(K), presenting KEWOPA submissions on the Finance Bill 2026.*

KEWOPA, in partnership with the Institute of Public Finance, presented submissions to the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning on the Finance Bill 2026, advocating for a fair, inclusive, and equitable tax system. The submissions called for a review of the PAYE framework to reduce the tax burden on low- and middle-income earners, while emphasizing the need to protect household incomes, strengthen equity, and ensure tax policies support economic stability and recovery.

Representing KEWOPA, Venecity Kajuju, CPA(K), highlighted concerns over policy unpredictability and the impact of proposed VAT reclassifications on households and businesses.

The presentation urged a stable tax environment that supports investment and planning, alongside stronger taxpayer protections, climate-responsive taxation, and policies that address the needs of women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Participants stressed that taxation should advance equity and inclusion while enabling sustainable development and shared prosperity.

## KEWOPA WYDE Political Parties Programme Strategic Engagement

KEWOPA, in partnership with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Kenya, convened a strategic reflection and capacity-building engagement under the WYDE Political Parties Programme aimed at strengthening female voices in Parliament through targeted skills development and stronger strategic networks. The forum provided a platform to assess progress made, reflect on the evolving political landscape, identify persistent barriers facing women leaders, and refine KEWOPA's strategic priorities for the period ahead.

During the engagement, Hon. Beatrice Akinyi Oyomo Ogolla, Hon. Consolata Wakwabubi, and Hon. Jayne Kihara, MP shared candid reflections on the realities of women's leadership in Parliament, highlighting challenges related to visibility, cultural barriers, and media portrayal.

They underscored the importance of delivering leadership with dignity while intentionally shaping public narratives around women's leadership. The discussion reinforced the need for women MPs not only to be represented in public discourse, but to actively tell their own stories in clear, strategic, and impactful ways, thereby strengthening their influence in governance and representation.



*Senator Consolata Nabwire speaks during strategic engagement forum.*



The partnership between the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) and the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA) continues to demonstrate the power of collaborative leadership in advancing inclusive governance and responsive policymaking in Kenya. United by a shared commitment to representation, accountability, and democratic participation, the two caucuses have worked together to amplify the voices of women and young people in legislative processes and national development conversations. Their collaboration has strengthened parliamentary engagement on governance reforms, leadership development, climate action, gender equality, and public participation.

Over the years, KEWOPA and KYPA have convened joint policy dialogues, leadership forums, and capacity-building initiatives aimed at equipping Members of Parliament with the knowledge and skills needed to respond to emerging governance challenges. These engagements have provided platforms for legislators to examine issues such as electoral integrity, constitutional implementation, devolution, youth inclusion, and women's political participation.

The partnership has also contributed to efforts to increase the representation of women and young people in decision-making spaces. Through advocacy and stakeholder engagement, the two caucuses have championed policies and legislative measures that promote inclusive leadership and address barriers to political participation for underrepresented groups.

The two caucuses have further played an important role in strengthening public participation in parliamentary processes. Through engagements with citizens, civil society organizations, and development partners, they have encouraged greater transparency, accountability, and citizen involvement in lawmaking and oversight functions. These efforts have helped bridge the gap between Parliament and the public while fostering trust in democratic institutions.

In addition, KEWOPA and KYPA have collaborated on initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional capacity within Parliament. By facilitating knowledge exchange, policy research, and leadership training, the caucuses have supported Members of Parliament to engage more effectively in legislative, oversight, and representative roles.

Through these collective efforts, KEWOPA and KYPA have built a strong partnership that transcends gender and generational divides. Their collaboration continues to shape policies that respond to the needs of women, youth, and marginalized communities while contributing to a more inclusive, accountable, and people-centred Parliament.

As Kenya continues to navigate complex social, economic, and environmental challenges, the partnership between KEWOPA and KYPA remains an important example of how coordinated leadership can drive meaningful policy change and strengthen democratic governance for all.

## Strengthening Judicial & Legislative Capacity to Advance Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health Rights



*Participants at the regional training on Sexual Reproductive and Maternal Health Rights.*

Ensuring access to sexual, reproductive, and maternal health services requires strong laws, responsive institutions, and effective leadership. To advance this agenda, KEWOPA, in partnership with the Center for Reproductive Rights, convened a regional training for judges and parliamentarians aimed at strengthening judicial and legislative capacity to promote Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health Rights. The training brought together key actors from the justice and governance sectors to explore the legal, policy, medical, and social dimensions of reproductive health.

Discussions focused on the role of the judiciary and legislature in safeguarding reproductive rights and addressing barriers affecting women, girls, and adolescents. Participants examined national, regional, and international human rights frameworks guiding access to reproductive healthcare, including adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights, maternal healthcare, assisted reproduction, and the role of African human rights mechanisms in advancing accountability.

A central theme was that reproductive health is both a constitutional and human rights obligation requiring coordinated institutional action. The engagement highlighted the need for progressive jurisprudence and responsive legislation that uphold dignity, equality, informed choice, and access to quality healthcare services. Particular attention was given to eliminating obstetric violence and strengthening protections within maternal healthcare systems.



# SENATOR BEATRICE OGOLLA, MP

## Educator. Public Servant. Legislator.

Hon. Beatrice Ogolla, MP, is a Nominated Senator in the Senate of Kenya with a distinguished record in education, public administration, and legislative leadership. An educationist by profession, she served for over 22 years as a teacher and Head of Department in secondary schools, contributing to educational development and mentorship.

She is an alumna of the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, and the Kenya School of Government. She attended Ogande Girls High School, Asumbi Girls High School, and Segla Girls Primary School. From 2013 to 2022, she served as a County Executive Committee Member in Homa Bay County, overseeing Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development, Energy and Natural Resources, and Water and Environment. She led policy implementation and service delivery across these sectors. She also served on the Board of Directors of the Kenya Maritime Authority from 2007 to 2012, providing strategic oversight and governance.

In the Senate, Hon. Ogolla serves on the Committee on Energy, the Committee on Information, Communication and Technology, and the Committee on Lands, Environment and Natural Resources.

She is the sponsor of the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Bill (Senate Bills No. 17 of 2023), which was passed by the Senate and referred to the National Assembly for consideration. The Bill seeks to strengthen maternal, newborn, and child healthcare services, improve access to quality care, and reduce preventable maternal and child deaths.

Through her legislative work, Senator Ogolla continues to champion maternal health, sustainable development, natural resource management, and improved public service delivery.



**Beatrice Ogolla**  
**Nominated Senator**

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A strong democracy depends on a peaceful and inclusive political environment where women, youth, and marginalized groups can participate meaningfully in leadership, decision-making, and governance.

Hon. Margaret Kamar  
Nominated Senator

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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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As we approach the next election, we must champion the acceptance of women in leadership and inspire more women to step forward, serve, and lead.

Hon. Ann Muratha  
County MP, Kiambu

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Reproductive health is a constitutional and human rights obligation that demands deliberate leadership, accountability, and sustained action across all institutions.

Hon. Sabina Chege  
Nominated MP

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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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Women are the backbone of our societies. When women are empowered to lead, communities prosper, economies grow, and nations thrive.

Hon. Beth Syengo  
Nominated Senator

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Budgets are more than financial documents; they reflect national priorities and values

Hon. Esther Passaris  
County MP, Naitrobi

## DID YOU KNOW?

The National GBV Reporting WhatsApp Platform provides confidential reporting and support services, including psychosocial support, legal guidance, counselling, and referrals reach it anytime on:

**+254724884444**



# 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

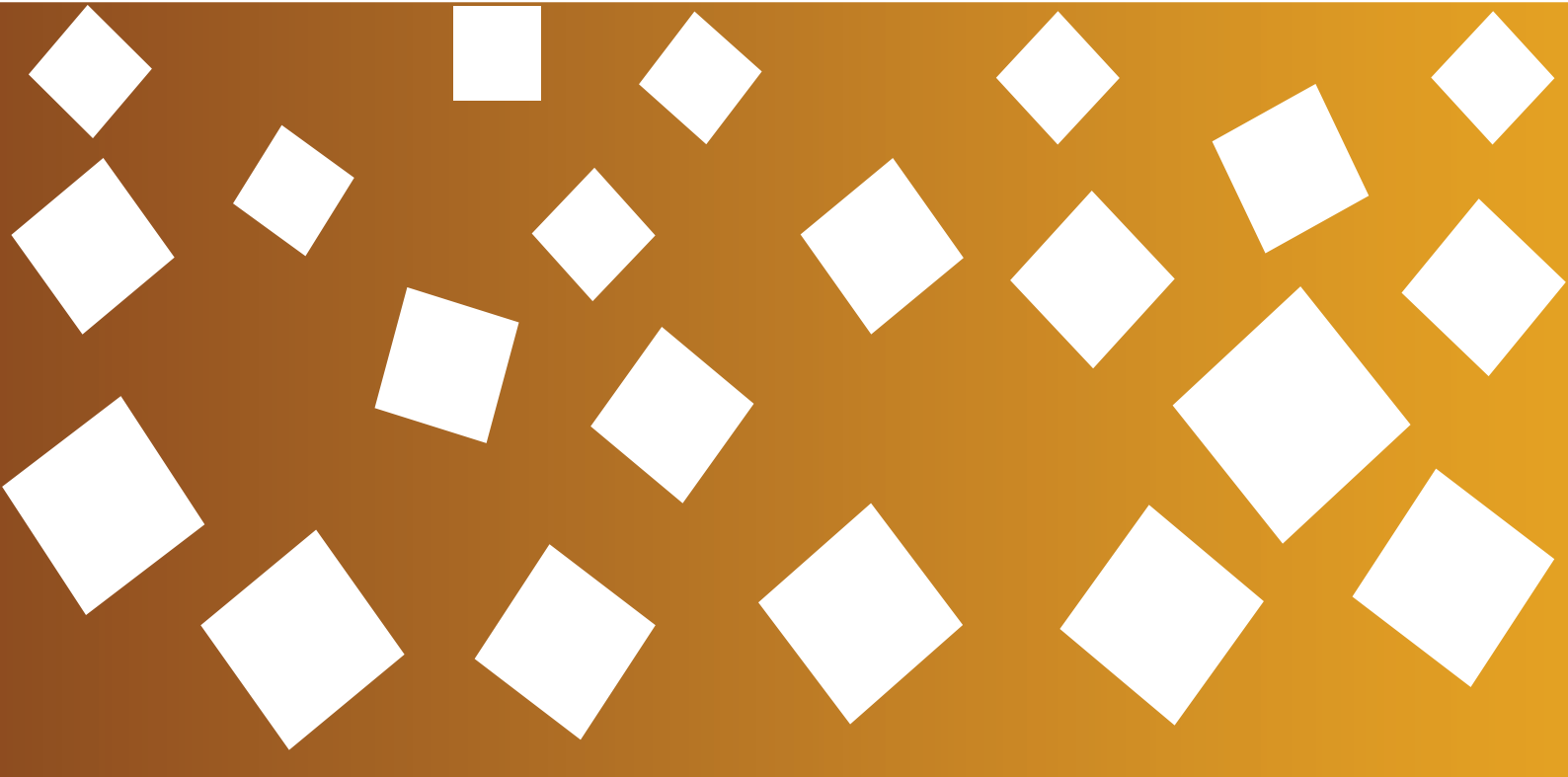
**Professional Associations / Parliamentary Caucuses**

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.



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