County Assemblies' Forum June 2026

The ForumMonthly

Devolution (Vol. 3, Issue 6)

Participants pose for group photos during the CAF Women Caucus Workshop on advancing women's leadership and inclusive governance.

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

County Assembly of Bungoma Attains ISO 9001:2015 Certification.

Bungoma County Assembly has achieved a major milestone in its journey towards institutional excellence after being awarded the **ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) Certification** by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).


Kenya Bureau of Standards
Standards for Quality life

SYSTEM CERTIFICATION SCHEME

Certificate of Registration

Awarded to:

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

Organizational No.

KEBS/QMS/SC/463

This is to certify that the above organization has been audited and found to comply with the requirements of:

ISO 9001:2015 - Quality Management System

Disclaimer :
This certificate is system generated and therefore does not require signature.
You may confirm validity and authenticity of this certificate by scanning the QR Code.

Certificate No. 25977684/Rev 00

ISO 9001 REGISTERED FIRM
QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Date of Issue
2026-06-03
Date of Expiry
2029-06-02
Date of First Issue
2026-06-03

The scope of the certification is;
Activities as specified in the authorized annex(es) bearing the registration number

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The internationally recognized certification affirms the Assembly's commitment to quality service delivery, accountability, and continuous improvement in the execution of its legislative, oversight, and representative functions. It also demonstrates that the Assembly has established and maintained effective management systems that meet globally accepted quality standards.

Issued on 3 June 2026, the certification follows a rigorous assessment process that evaluated the Assembly's operational systems, procedures, and service delivery mechanisms. The successful certification confirms that the institution's processes are aligned with international best practices and are geared towards meeting the needs and expectations of its stakeholders.

The achievement reflects the collective dedication of the Assembly's leadership, Members, and staff in strengthening institutional capacity and fostering a culture of quality across the organization. Through sustained efforts to enhance efficiency, streamline processes, and improve performance, the Assembly has demonstrated its commitment to delivering services that are effective, transparent, and responsive to the people of Bungoma County.

As county assemblies continue to play a critical role in advancing devolution, the achievement by the County Assembly of Bungoma underscores the value of investing in strong institutional systems that promote professionalism, transparency, and excellence in public service.

The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) congratulates the County Assembly of Bungoma on this commendable achievement and applauds its unwavering commitment to quality and institutional excellence. The certification serves as a shining example of how county assemblies can leverage quality management systems to strengthen governance and better serve their citizens.

CRA Concludes Stakeholder Consultations on Review of Marginalisation Policy.

Ensuring that development reaches every corner of the country requires policies that accurately identify and respond to the needs of marginalised communities. In line with this objective, the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) has concluded a week-long stakeholder consultation exercise as part of the ongoing review of the Policy on the Criteria for Identifying Marginalised Areas for Purposes of the Equalisation Fund.

A section of members from county assemblies poses for a group photo during the Stakeholder Consultations on the Review of the Marginalization Policy.

The consultations brought together key stakeholders whose experiences and perspectives are critical to shaping a more responsive and effective policy framework. Throughout the week, the Commission engaged Governors and county officials from areas identified as marginalised under the First and Second Policies, members of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget, the Senate Standing Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and Regional Integration, and Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) representing marginalised areas under the Second Policy.

The engagement sessions provided an important platform for stakeholders to reflect on the Policy's implementation, assess its impact on communities, and identify emerging challenges and opportunities. Participants shared practical experiences from their respective regions and proposed recommendations to strengthen the criteria for identifying marginalised areas and enhance the effectiveness of the Equalisation Fund. Speaking during the consultations, **CRA Chairperson CPA Mary W. Chebukati, CBS,** commended stakeholders for their active participation and valuable contributions to the review process. She emphasized the importance of inclusive engagement in ensuring that the revised Policy is evidence-based, responsive to current realities, and capable of supporting equitable development across the country.

CRA Chairperson CPA Mary W. Chebukati, CBS, speaks during the Stakeholder Consultations on the Review of the Marginalization Policy.

The consultations mark a significant milestone in the review process and reaffirm CRA's commitment to a participatory approach in policy development. By bringing together leaders and representatives from affected regions, the Commission is working to ensure that the voices of marginalised communities remain central to decisions that directly impact their development.

As the review progresses, CRA will continue engaging additional stakeholders, including Members of the National Assembly, civil society organisations, and the public. These engagements are expected to enrich the review process and contribute to a stronger policy framework that enhances the impact of the Equalisation Fund and promotes inclusive development for all Kenyans.

CAF and OCoB Develop Joint Roadmap to Strengthen Public Financial Management and Accountability.

The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and the Office of the Controller of Budget (OCoB) have convened a strategic engagement aimed at developing a joint Work Plan to guide the implementation of their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

A group photo during the CAF–OCoB joint roadmap meeting on public financial management and accountability.

The development of the Work Plan marks a significant step towards translating the commitments under the MoU into practical actions that will enhance collaboration between the two institutions. The roadmap will provide a structured framework for joint initiatives focused on strengthening public financial management, promoting transparency and accountability, and building the capacity of County Assemblies to undertake their constitutional oversight mandate effectively.

Through this partnership, CAF and OCoB seek to enhance coordination and knowledge sharing, while supporting County Assemblies in strengthening oversight of public resources and promoting responsible financial governance at the county level. The engagement underscores the shared commitment by both institutions towards prudent utilization of public funds, improved accountability mechanisms, and the delivery of quality services that respond to the needs and aspirations of citizens.

As key actors in Kenya's devolved governance framework, CAF and OCoB continue to champion collaborative approaches that support effective oversight, fiscal responsibility, and the realization of the objectives of devolution for the benefit of all Kenyans.

CAF CEO Lonah Losem addresses participants during the CAF–OCoB joint roadmap meeting.

Productivity at the Heart of Public Sector Transformation as CAF participates in the National Productivity and Performance Conference 2026

Productivity, accountability, and citizen-centred service delivery took centre stage during the 1st National Productivity and Performance Conference 2026, held from 17–19 June at the Kenya School of Government, Nairobi.

Convened by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) ***"Productivity for Fiscal Sustainability and Effective Service Delivery,"*** the three-day conference brought together civil and public servants across the National and County Governments to deliberate on strategies for enhancing productivity and performance in the public sector.

Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei, EGH, FKISM, officially opens the National Productivity and Performance Conference 2026.

The conference provided a platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaboration towards building a high-performing public sector anchored on measurable results, efficient use of resources, and improved outcomes for citizens. During the official opening, Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei, EGH, FKISM, emphasized the importance of citizen-centred governance, noting that public institutions must remain focused on delivering meaningful impact to Kenyans.

SRC Chairperson Sammy Chepkwony delivers remarks during the National Productivity and Performance Conference 2026.

He called on public institutions to move beyond measuring activities and instead focus on productivity, value creation, and tangible outcomes. He emphasized the need for stronger performance management systems, elimination of inefficiencies, and a whole-of-government approach to implementation to enhance fiscal sustainability and service delivery. The conference also placed emphasis on the relationship between productivity and performance, with discussions focusing on the need to reward actual performance and measurable results.

A key takeaway was the call for public servants to be increasingly recognized for productivity, value creation, and service delivery outcomes—not merely for positions held or presence at work. Participants noted that effective performance management must become a driver of excellence, accountability, and continuous improvement within the public sector.

CAF Advances the Conversation on Productivity and Accountability in Devolved Governance.

The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) was among the key institutions that contributed to the national dialogue, participating in a breakout session themed "Productivity for Fiscal Sustainability and Efficient Service Delivery." Represented by its Chairperson, Hon. Seth Kamanza, CAF reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening public financial management, promoting accountability, and enhancing efficiency within county governments.

CAF Chairperson Hon. Seth Kamanza makes a presentation during the breakout session themed "Productivity for Fiscal Sustainability and Efficient Service Delivery.

During the panel discussion, CAF highlighted the importance of progressively adopting results-based budgeting frameworks that link resource allocation to measurable outcomes. The approach, the Forum noted, is critical in improving service delivery efficiency, promoting prudent use of public resources, and ensuring that citizens realize meaningful benefits from devolution. CAF further underscored the critical role of County Assemblies in exercising oversight, promoting fiscal discipline, and ensuring accountability in the management of public resources across the 47 counties.

The conference concluded with the participation of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Kenya, who joined leaders and stakeholders in emphasizing the importance of a high-performing public service anchored on efficiency, accountability, and delivery of sustainable development outcomes. The President reiterated the need for public institutions to focus on creating tangible impact for citizens, emphasizing that the government's success must ultimately be measured by the improvements Kenyans experience in their daily lives.

As Kenya continues to pursue a more accountable and results-oriented public sector, CAF remains committed to supporting County Assemblies in strengthening oversight, embracing innovation, and driving improved performance for better service delivery.

When institutions embrace continuous innovation, clear accountability, and measurable outcomes, they create a culture of productivity and high performance—laying the foundation for greater competitiveness and lasting prosperity.

H.E. President William Ruto delivers remarks during the closing ceremony of the National Productivity and Performance Conference 2026.

Advancing Women Leadership and Inclusive Governance: CAF Women Caucus Workshop Strengthens the Path Towards Greater Representation.

The County Assemblies Forum (CAF), with support from Oxfam Kenya, convened a two-day County Assemblies Women Caucus Workshop to advance transformative women's leadership and strengthen inclusive participation in county-level electoral processes.

The workshop brought together women leaders, stakeholders, and governance actors for dialogue, capacity building, and knowledge sharing on strategies to enhance women's participation and representation in leadership and decision-making spaces. The forum was officially opened by CAF Vice Chairperson, Hon. Anne Kiusya, who reaffirmed the importance of empowering women leaders and creating an enabling environment for increased participation in governance processes.

CAF Vice Chairperson, Hon. Anne Kiusya, officially opens the Women Caucus Workshop.

Addressing participants, Commissioner Anne Nderitu, CBS, called on women leaders and stakeholders to actively encourage more women to seek elective positions ahead of the upcoming elections. She emphasized the need for collective action in strengthening women's representation and urged political parties to uphold the constitutional principle of inclusion by ensuring that at least one-third of their candidates for elective positions are women. The discussions further explored the critical role of political parties in advancing inclusive governance and creating pathways for women, youth, and marginalized groups to participate meaningfully in leadership.

IEBC Commissioner Anne Nderitu, CBS, addresses participants on the electoral legal framework and election preparedness.

During a session facilitated by the Registrar of Political Parties, Mr. John Cox Lorionokou, participants reflected on the role of political parties in promoting equitable representation, strengthening internal party democracy, and supporting mechanisms that enhance women's access to elective positions. Mr. Lorionokou highlighted the importance of upholding constitutional principles of inclusivity and emphasized the need for collaboration among political parties, government institutions, and stakeholders in building a more representative political landscape. The session provided participants with insights into the legal and policy frameworks governing political parties and their role in supporting gender-responsive electoral processes.

Mainstreaming Care in County Planning and Budgeting.

Recognizing and addressing the care economy is critical to advancing women's participation in leadership and governance. During a session on Mainstreaming Care in County Planning and Budgeting, participants examined how unpaid care work continues to place a disproportionate burden on women, limiting their time and opportunities to engage in politics, leadership, and electoral processes.

Ms. Jackline Migide, Gender Justice Lead, Oxfam Kenya, addresses participants during the Women Caucus Workshop.

Discussions introduced the 5Rs Framework—Recognise, Reduce, Redistribute, Represent, and Reward—as a practical approach to integrating care considerations into county planning and budgeting. Participants also emphasized the need for county governments to invest in care-supportive infrastructure and incorporate care indicators into County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and budget processes.

The session underscored that mainstreaming care within development planning is essential for promoting gender-responsive governance and creating an enabling environment for increased women's participation in leadership and decision-making.

Ms. Juliana Kiio, Executive Director of the Democracy Trust Fund, presents on "Advancing Women's Representation: The CA750 Strategy".

The second day of the workshop focused on practical strategies for advancing women's representation, with a key presentation on **"Advancing Women's Representation: The CA750 Strategy"** delivered by Ms. Juliana Kiio, Executive Director of the Democracy Trust Fund. The session highlighted the existing gender gap in county leadership, noting that women remain significantly underrepresented in county assemblies, with only 201 women leaders serving alongside 1,632 men. The discussions underscored that while progress has been made, the journey towards gender parity requires deliberate and coordinated action.

Ms. Carolin Unger, Deputy Director, KAS Country Office, delivers her remarks.

Participants also reflected on the barriers that continue to limit women's participation in elective politics, including the high cost of electoral campaigns in Kenya, which remains a major challenge for many aspiring women leaders.

The CA750 Roadmap is a structured, collaborative, and evidence-based approach aimed at addressing systemic barriers and creating opportunities for increased women's participation and representation in county assemblies. The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment among participants to strengthen inclusive governance systems where women have equal opportunities to lead, influence policy, and contribute meaningfully to the future of devolution.

Through initiatives such as the County Assemblies Women Caucus, CAF continues to support efforts that promote inclusive leadership, strengthen democratic participation, and advance the role of women in shaping governance outcomes across Kenya's 47 counties.

Counties received KSh 428 billion equitable share from the National Cake.

County governments are set to receive Ksh 428 billion in equitable share for the 2026/27 financial year following an agreement reached by Parliament through the mediation process on the Division of Revenue Bill 2025.

The allocation provides counties with additional fiscal space to deliver essential services, implement development projects, and address local priorities.

For County Assemblies, the allocation presents an opportunity to strengthen budget oversight and ensure that public resources are utilized efficiently and accountably. As custodians of oversight at the county level, assemblies will play a critical role in scrutinizing budgets, monitoring expenditure, and safeguarding value for money in service delivery.

Deal at last! MPs, senators agree to allocate counties Sh428 billion

- After a series of negotiations and consultations, House teams reach a compromise.
- Initially, MPs wanted counties to get Sh420b while senators proposed Sh454 billion.

EDWIN NYARANGI, NAIROBI

The National Assembly and Senate Mediation Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill 2026 co-chairs Alego Usonga MP Samuel Atandi and Mandera Senator Ali Roba during the committee meeting at Parliament on June 9, 2026. [Boniface Okendo, Standard]

The Senate and National Assembly Mediation Committee has finally reached a compromise to allocate Sh428 billion to the counties as equitable share of revenue for the 2026/27 financial year after the 18-member team held seven marathon meetings since last Friday.

The team reached a deadlock on Monday evening with the Senate insisting on Sh440 billion while the National Assembly maintained that counties should receive Sh425 billion, leading to an adjournment of the meeting.

Co-chaired by Mandera Senator Ali Roba and Alego Usonga MP Samuel Atandi, the mediation committee on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2026, called on members to support the Sh428 billion allocation for devolution to function effectively.

The Senate had sought to have counties allocated Sh454 billion, while the MPs recommended Sh420 billion. The Council of Governors had proposed Sh534.96 billion, while the Commission on Revenue Allocation recommended Sh458.94 billion.

Concluded negotiations

"I am extremely relieved that the members of our teams have agreed to the Sh428 billion allocation, which we will defend on the floor of both Houses to ensure county governments carry out their activities effectively," said Atandi, who is also the National Assembly's Budget and Appropriations Committee chair.

He said the two sides had also agreed to minimise supplementary estimates from the National Treasury that disrupt budget processes, a concern that had been raised by senators.

Roba, who is also the chairman of the Senate Finance and Budget Committee, said their objective was to ensure both the national and county governments discharge their mandates effectively, which is why the Senate moved from its initial proposal of Sh454 billion.

Members of both teams held tough negotiations from Friday, taking several breaks to consult before eventually settling on the figure.

"I would like to request my colleagues in the Senate to accept the Sh428 billion figure agreed upon with our counterparts in the National Assembly to end the stalemate," said Roba.

Migori Senator Eddy Oketch maintained a firm stance, arguing that because the gap between what the MPs and senators were pushing for had narrowed to only Sh4 billion, the two sides should have converged at Sh430 billion. "We have held seven meetings and, in the spirit of concluding this mediation, let us agree on Sh430 billion."

Kibwezi West MP Mwengi Mutuse said the national budget was under pressure from election preparations and lawmakers would not want allocations to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission or the security affected.

Nominated Senator Tabitha Mutinda described the talks as tough negotiations, saying the compromise was reached in the best interest of devolution. She hoped their colleagues would support them.

Samburu West MP Naisula Lesuuda said leaders rely on services delivered by counties and the committee had sought the best possible balance to ensure counties receive sufficient funding.

Narok Senator Ledama ole Kina said counties cannot spend money they do not have, unlike the national government, which can increase spending through supplementary budgets. He said agreeing to Sh428 billion should not be viewed as a defeat for the Senate but as a compromise for the benefit of the counties. "We would like guarantees that counties will receive the Sh428 billion. In the past, delays in the disbursement of funds have affected service delivery in counties."

Mombasa Senator Mohammed Faki argued that the National Treasury should operate as an independent institution and suggested adjournment until Wednesday, when the National Assembly delegation might reconsider the Senate's proposal of Sh430 billion.

Atandi said legislators had a constitutional duty to allocate available resources fairly. Following consultations, he said, the committee concluded that Sh428 billion was sufficient.

Roba dismissed proposal that counties were underperforming and that they didn't deserve additional funding.

Oketch said the Constitution requires equitable revenue-sharing disputes to be resolved using the most recently approved revenue figures, adding that the Sh420 billion initially proposed by the National Assembly was based on outdated revenue projections. He said the scientifically derived figure should actually be Sh494 billion.

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IN FIGURES...

- Mediated allocation: Sh428 billion equitable share for counties in FY 2026/27
- Senate's initial proposal: Sh454 billion
- National Assembly's initial proposal: Sh420 billion
- Senate position during mediation: Sh440 billion, later Sh432 billion
- National Assembly position during mediation: Sh425 billion, later Sh428 billion
- Council of Governors proposal: Sh534.96 billion
- Commission on Revenue Allocation proposal: Sh458.94 billion
- Previous county allocations: 2024/25: Sh387 billion, 2025/26: Sh415 billion, 2026/27 (agreed): Sh428 billion
- Increase from 2025/26: Sh13 billion
- Next step: The Sh428 billion deal to be defended and approved in both the Senate and National Assembly.

The agreement underscores the continued growth of devolution and reaffirms the importance of adequate funding in enabling counties to meet the expectations of citizens.

What this means for county assemblies.

- Strengthen scrutiny of county budgets and expenditure.
- Promote transparency and accountability in the use of public resources.
- Ensure that allocations translate into tangible benefits for citizens.
- Support evidence-based oversight and performance monitoring.


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