COUNCIL MONTHLY





Deputy President H.E. Prof Kithure Kindiki (Centre) Governors and National Government senior officials during the 28th Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC)

IBEC CALLS FOR STRENGTHENED INTERGOVERNMENTAL FISCAL COLLABORATION



Deputy President H.E. Prof Kithure Kindiki speaking during the 28th Ordinary Session of the IBEC

The 28th Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC) was convened on 29th Sep, 2025 at the Deputy President's official residence in Karen, bringing together senior officials from the National and County Governments to deliberate on critical fiscal and economic priorities.

The meeting reaffirmed the centrality of devolution in Kenya's socio-economic transformation and underscored the need for strengthened cooperation between the two levels of government, as envisioned in Articles 6(2) and 189 of the Constitution.

The Council emphasized its shared commitment to deepening fiscal responsibility, entrenching accountability, and promoting prudent public resource management to improve service delivery for all Kenyans.

During the session, the Council approved and adopted the Budget Review and Outlook Paper (BROP) for FY 2025/26 and directed the National Treasury to submit it to Parliament. It further urged the National Assembly to expedite the enactment of the County Governments Additional Allocations (No. 2) Bill for FY 2025/26 to ensure timely financing for counties.

Speaking during the session the Deputy President H.E Prof. Kithure Kindiki asserted his committment towards ensuring that devolved units are well facilitated to meet their mandate.

"To ensure that Counties are well supported, I will convene Governors from the 14 priority Counties' County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) to fast-track their operationalization and commissioning by December 31, 2025," added the Deputy President

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UGATUZI CORNER



KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH



CoG Chair H.E. FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi speaking during the 28th Ordinary Session of the IBEC

To promote the financial autonomy of County Assemblies, the Council directed all County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) for Finance to operationalize County Assembly Funds by opening designated accounts and appointing County Assembly Clerks as Fund Administrators. Additionally, both levels of government were urged to finalize sector-specific reports identifying resources for transfer to counties for integration into the FY 2026/27 Budget Policy Statement within two weeks.

"In this financial year, there has been an introduction of numerous new systems at the national level that affect budget implementation especially for Counties. While these systems are meant to be facilitative and improve on the existing processes, we note that on the contrary most have only increased administrative bottlenecks. Some of the operations through these systems are not supported by law or cognizant that the governments at both levels are distinct and interdependent" Added H.E. FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi during the summit.

Health service delivery featured prominently in the deliberations. The Council directed the Social Health Authority (SHA) to settle KSh 10.3 billion in verified pending claims owed to County Governments and work with the Council of Governors to establish a structured reimbursement framework. SHA and the Ministry of Health were urged to enhance the timeliness of claim reimbursements, ensure the availability of Health Products and Technologies (HPTs), and avoid the accumulation of pending bills.

"I wish to report that we have made major milestones in the rollout of Taifa Care, Kenya's Universal Health Coverage programme. To date, 3.6 million Kenyans have accessed free primary care, while 2.1 million have benefitted from advanced treatment such as dialysis and cancer care. We have also enrolled of 100,193 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) in the national CHW registry, a move that enhances transparency, guarantees timely stipend payments, and integrates frontline workers into digital platforms such as eCHIS." Added CS Duale

The Council N to 1,200 Primary ing and capacialso called for the immediate distribution of tablets

Health Care facilities to improve claims processty-building for county health officials.

In this financial year, there has been an introduction on numerous new systems at the national level that affect budget implementation especially for Counties.

H.E. FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, EGH

County Governments were to he granted registration rights to health facilities support maternal healthcare access adolescents under Furthermore, Council

emphasized the need to fast-track internet connectivity across Levels 4, 5, and 6 health facilities and present a rollout plan by October 30, 2025.

Finally, the Council instructed the IBEC Secretariat, in consultation with the Council of Governors, to develop standard operating procedures for convening sector consultative forums ahead of IBEC full council meetings. Agenda items relating to the Office of the Auditor General will be canvassed at technical level and presented during the next session.



CoG Vice-Chair H.E. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga (left) and PS State Department of Devolution Mr. Michael Lenasalon during the 28th Ordinary Session of IBEC

COUNTIES AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT UNITE TO TRANSFORM KENYA'S LIVESTOCK SECTOR

The Council of Governors (CoG) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) have jointly reaffirmed their commitment to reposition Kenya's livestock sector as a central driver of food and nutrition security, livelihoods, and economic growth.

At the close of a two-day consultative meeting held in September 2025, the two levels of government adopted 15 transformative resolutions to accelerate livestock development, with a particular focus on Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) where the sector is a lifeline for millions of households.

Among the headline commitments is the development of a Kenya Livestock Blueprint to guide sector-wide investments and reforms.

Counties and the national government agreed to co-finance critical infrastructure including abattoirs, feedlots, and tanneries, while also implementing large-scale rangeland restoration programmes.

"Livestock is not just an economic activity in our ASAL counties — it is a way of life, a culture, and a pillar of our survival. With these resolutions, we are sending a clear message: counties are ready to move from subsistence to commercial, structured, and sustainable livestock systems," said CoG chair H.E. FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi.

Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Sen. Mutahi Kagwe, urged counties to embrace structured partnerships with the national government to unlock the sector's full potential. "Our focus is on market-driven production—through disease control, financial access









Chair, CoG ASALs & DRM Committee H.E. Nathif Jama speaking during the two-day livestock development consultative meeting

stronger producer organizations, and structured tap lucrative markets," Kagwe said. He further

the importance of the government's animal tagging initiative: "It's not witchcraft when we tag our animals; it is to your benefit that we must do it, so we can satisfy the export market."

To strengthen resilience against droughts and emerg-

This joint agenda is historic. It is not about National or County, it is about Kenya. Together, we are charting a new path for pastoral families, small-holder farmers, and our national economy,

marketing to

emphasized

H.E. Nathif Jama, EGH

ing diseases, both parties resolved to roll out mass vaccination campaigns targeting 80% coverage by 2027, establish livestock feed reserves, and accelerate breed improvement initiatives.

Recognizing the critical role of finance and markets, the resolutions provide for the creation of a Livestock Revolving Fund with a sharia-compliant component, ensuring inclusive access to credit for pastoral communities. The meeting also endorsed the fast-tracking of the ANITRAC animal traceability system to unlock regional and international markets.

"This partnership with counties is about action, not rhetoric. If we do not invest boldly in abattoirs, feeds, and vaccination, then our pastoralists will remain vulnerable. But with these resolutions, Kenya's livestock sector can finally take its rightful place as a global player," added CS Kagwe.

Further resolutions focused on strengthening livestock data systems, harmonizing laws and policies, and recruiting additional extension officers to support farmers at the grassroots. Counties will also enhance drought preparedness and anchor livestock value chain development within the emerging County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) framework.

"Our counties have shown that with the right policies, financing, and infrastructure, the livestock sector can be the engine of resilience and inclusive growth. These resolutions now give us a roadmap, but implementation must be fast, deliberate, and well-coordinated," emphasized H.E. Mutahi Kahiga.

The resolutions reflect a strong intergovernmental partnership anchored in devolution, where national policy frameworks and county-level implementation align for maximum impact.

"This joint agenda is historic. It is not about National or County, it is about Kenya. Together, we are charting a new path for pastoral families, smallholder farmers, and our national economy," added Garissa Governor H.E. Nathif Jama.

This landmark agreement signals a new era where counties and the national government move in lockstep to unlock the full potential of Kenya's livestock sector for food security, job creation, and inclusive growth.



CS Agriculture Sen. Mutahi Kagwe speaking during the two-day livestock development consultative meeting

REDEFINING CARE FOR KENYA'S MOTHERS AND NEWBORNS.

A consultative forum brought together County health leaders, National Government agencies, development partners and health experts to sharpen strategies for reducing maternal and newborn deaths and accelerating progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Convened by the Council of Governors, the meeting reviewed progress, addressed emerging challenges and aligned priorities to increase investments in maternal, newborn and child health.

Discussions strongly underscored the importance of deeper collaboration between the two levels of Government to strengthen accountability and ensure smooth implementation of flagship health policies, including the FIF Act 2023, SHA, the Digital Health Act and the PHC Act 2023. With a focus on equity, SHA was highlighted as a transformative platform. By pooling resources, contracting providers and offering a comprehensive package of services from antenatal and delivery care to postnatal, adolescent and teen-mother support, the authority is expected to break financial barriers that deny women and children life-saving care. Counties were urged to

maximize these benefits by scaling up SHA membership registration, sensitizing communities on benefit packages and fully integrating health information systems into local service delivery.

The urgency of maternal and newborn health outcomes set the tone of the meeting. Kenya's Maternal Mortality Rate remains at 355 deaths per 100,000 live births, equivalent to losing about 5,000 mothers every year, or 13 each day. Neonatal deaths stand at 30,000 annually, translating to 92 infants lost daily. "These are not just statistics, they represent lives cut short and futures lost. Every day, it is as though a plane full of our future generation disappears before it even takes off," stressed Dr. Mary Maina of the Inter-County MPDSR team. The emotional weight of the conversation was amplified by a moving testimony from a near-miss mother whose survival story reinforced the need for sustainable, practical interventions to stop preventable deaths.

In response, the Ministry of Health assured Counties of sustained support in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health









Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr. Ouma Oluga during the consultative meeting in Mombasa

(RMNCAH). This will include investment in health infrastructure, essential commodities, capacity-building for healthcare workers and

strengthened data systems. Special When health workers and emphasis was placed policy makers come together on adolescent health we can strengthen maternal and caregiver empowerment to curb teenage and newborn care. Counties pregnancies, as well as have made significant efforts the need to expand in reducing maternal deaths Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and communiand improving the quality of **RMNCAH** ty-led care interventions.

Development partners
echoed these priorities. Lwala Community
the Kenya Paediatric Research Consortium
Counties to activate and fully operationalize
Committees, allocate specific budgets for maternal
health and embrace low-cost, high-impact interventions such as the
PPH bundle, heat-stable Carbetocin, Tranexamic acid, calibrated drapes,
uterine balloon tamponade (UBT), NASG and adequate blood supply. For
newborn survival, they recommended expanded access to Caffeine



The Controller of Budget Dr. Margaret Nyakang'o speaking during the consultative meeting in Mombasa

Citrate, CPAP machines and robust oxygen ecosystems, while also stressing the need for more investment in healthcare workers. They urged Counties to make better use of local data to guide evidence-based planning and policy making.

Both levels of Government and their partners had reaffirmed their collective resolve to accelerate progress towards equitable and quality health-care. The quarterly review concluded with a renewed sense of urgency and solidarity. With sharper priorities, sustained financing and stronger accountability, Counties are now better placed to deliver on the promise of UHC ensuring that no mother or newborn is left behind.



CoG director of health Khatra Ali speaking during the consultative meeting in Momhasa

COG LAND, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHARTS PATH FOR STRONGER URBAN GOVERNANCE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Council of Governors' Land, Housing and Urban Development Committee held its ordinary meeting on Wednesday, 10th September 2025, to deliberate on the status of programmes and projects within the sector. Central to the discussions were the Affordable Housing Programme, urban development and governance, and the adoption of critical instruments and frameworks developed under the Kenya Urban Support Programme II (KUSP II).

Opening the deliberations, Committee Chair H.E. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o underscored the centrality of urban areas in the life of counties. He described them as the "beating heart of the Counties"—dynamic hubs where social and economic life converge and cultural identity intersects. Prof. Nyong'o urged counties to rethink their approach to urbanization, stressing that inclusive and participatory planning was the surest path to resilient and sustainable cities.

"If we are to build cities that work for all, we must embrace inclusivity, foster meaningful collaboration, and tap into private sector dynamism. Only then can we realize sustainable, resilient, and prosperous urban futures for our counties," he said.



H.E. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o speaking during the Council of Governors' Land, Housing and Urban Development Committee ordinary meeting









CoG Land, Housing and Urban Development Committee Vice-Chair H.E. Susan Kihika during the Council of Governors' Land, Housing and Urban Development Committee ordinary meeting

One of the key items discussed was the Model Policy and Bill on Financing Cities and Urban Areas, developed under Sections 172 and 173 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012. Members agreed that the draft must undergo wide consultations with Counties, Cities, and Municipalities before adoption by the Committee and the full Council. Once finalized, it will serve as a minimum condition for KUSP II's second annual performance assessment.

The Committee also reviewed model organizational structures, staff establishments, grading structures, career progression guidelines, and human resource policies for Cities, Municipalities, and Towns. These instruments aim to standardize staffing and professional growth in urban institutions. However, the Committee directed that they undergo further consultations with stakeholders before adoption by the Committee, the Labour and Human Resources Committee, and the full Council.

Another highlight was the adoption of the Private Sector Engagement Framework for Cities and Urban Areas. The framework, which will now be disseminated to Counties, Cities, and Municipalities for adaptation, is intended to guide collaboration between county governments and private actors under KUSP II. The Committee stressed that stronger partnerships with the private sector are essential for unlocking resources, technical expertise, and innovation in urban service delivery.

Affordable housing featured prominently in the discussions. Members engaged with the Affordable Housing Board and recommended that allocations to County Rural and Urban Affordable Housing Committees be increased to at least five percent. They also called for a financing framework to support physical and social infrastructure for housing projects, and a standard agreement to guide County engagement with investors. The

Committee reaffirmed the central role of Counties as implementing agencies under the Affordable Housing Act, 2024, and emphasized that all projects must comply with approval processes outlined in the Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019 Concerns were raised that only 18 Counties have established the County Rural and Urban Affordable Housing Committees as required by law. The Secretariat was tasked with engaging the remaining Counties to fast-track compliance, as such structures are essential for effective implementation of the housing agenda.

The Committee also engaged with the caucus of city and municipal chairpersons and managers, where proposals were presented on retainers and the harmonization of job groups for managers and administrators. The Secretariat was instructed to consult further and provide a report for determination. The Committee also noted progress towards establishing the Inter-City and Inter-Municipality Forum under the Intergovernmental Relations Act, 2012, and called for further consultations to facilitate its operationalization.

By the close of deliberations, the Committee had reaffirmed its commitment to building stronger, more inclusive, and better-governed urban centers, while ensuring that the Affordable Housing Programme becomes a reality across all counties. The discussions reflected a recognition that Kenya's urban future will be shaped not only by sound policy and law, but also by partnerships between governments, communities, and the private sector. With frameworks being strengthened and commitments renewed, counties are now better positioned to create sustainable, resilient, and equitable urban spaces that serve all Kenyans.



H.E. FCPA Fernandes Barasa speaking during the Council of Governors' Land, Housing and Urban Development Committee ordinary meeting

DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025 CLOSES WITH CALL TO PUT CITIZENS AT THE CENTER OF SHARED PROSPERITY

As the curtains fell on the 9th Devolution Conference 2025, the Council of Governors hosted a close-out meeting with the Steering Committee, Homa Bay County leadership and CoG staff. The session served as a moment of appreciation, reminiscing and recognizing the collective effort that made the conference a success.

Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Vice Chair of the Council of Governors and Chair of the Steering Committee, reflected on the journey of hosting the 9th Devolution Conference in Homa Bay, noting that it was not without challenges. "There were moments when everything seemed like it would fall apart, program changes, logistical hiccups, even last-minute pressures. But because of teamwork, commitment and leadership, we pulled through," he said. His Excellency praised Governor Wanga's hands-on

approach, the secretariat's professionalism and the unity shown. He also lauded the warm and joyful spirit of the Homa Bay people, saying, "everywhere you turned, there was energy, music and dancing, it reminded us that leadership is also about joy, resilience and togetherness."

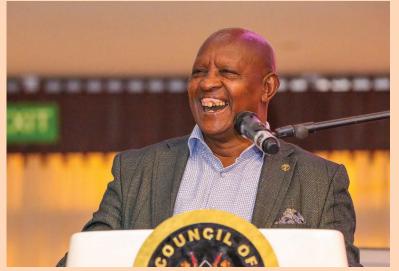
Looking ahead, Kahiga emphasized that the conference's real test lies beyond its successful organization. "This conference may have ended, but our work has just begun. The resolutions adopted in Homa Bay must not gather dust. Let us translate the energy, ideas and commitments into tangible results in our Counties," he urged. He thanked the development partners, sponsors and all the teams that made the conference possible, concluding with a challenge "Let the Devolution Conference 2025 not just be remembered as the best conference so far, but as the one that lit a path toward real equity and opportunity."







Governor Gladys Wanga expressed heartfelt gratitude for the success of the 9th Devolution Conference, recalling the initial doubts when Homa Bay was nominated as host. "Many wondered, 'Homa Bay? How? Where?' Today I can proudly say this has been the most successful Devolution Conference of our time," she said. She commended the Council of Governors Secretariat, the Steering Committee and the County team for their tireless work, even under pressure, noting that their commitment ensured nothing failed. She highlighted the lessons learned, particularly on inclusion, admitting that while challenges around logistics and accessibility arose, they reinforced the need to embed equity in every layer of planning.



H.E. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga speaking during the Devolution Conference 2025 close out ceremony

Governor Wanga further celebrated the economic stimulus the conference brought to Homa Bay through hospitality, tourism and investment interest, remarking that "after Devolution Conference 2025, Homa Bay will never be the same again." She also praised the active role of youth, from tech innovators to cultural champions, calling it a testament to generational equity. Looking ahead, she urged that the resolutions be translated into action, stressing the need to institutionalize inclusion, strengthen County capacities and sustain engagement beyond the biennial forums. "Devolution 2025 was a compass pointing us toward a future of justice, equity and shared prosperity. Our task now is to turn our words into lived realities in our Counties," she concluded.

Homa Bay Deputy Governor Joseph Magwanga, observing that the local community had benefited from the conference's presence, highlighted that the exposure and experience of hosting such a major national forum had strengthened Homa Bay's resolve to remain at the forefront of Devolution.



 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{H.E.}}$ Gladys Wanga speaking during the Devolution Conference 2025 close out ceremony

"When this journey began, there was doubt about whether Homa Bay could deliver. But today, you have transformed our County into a place recognized across the country and beyond. This calls for celebration. On behalf of our Governor and the people of Homa Bay, I sincerely thank the Council of Governors, the Secretariat and every team member whose hard work made this possible. It is only through teamwork that such success can be achieved and we are truly grateful. May God bless you as you continue to serve the people of Kenya,"

There were moments when everything seemed like it would fall apart, program changes, logistical hiccups, even last-minute pressures. But because of teamwork, commitment and leadership, we pulled through

H.E. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, EGH

Mary Mwiti,
CEO of the
Council of
Governors,
thanked both
the Secretariat
and the host
County for their
commitment
and dedication.

he emphasized.

"Today's close-out is about recognizing the journey we walked together, celebrating the milestones achieved and committing to carry forward the lessons learned. Governor Wanga, your hands-on leadership from late-night inspections to rallying your officers, gave us confidence and ensured every detail came together seamlessly. We are deeply grateful for the commitment and responsiveness you dedicated to this conference. I also commend the Steering Committee, peers and the entire team for their tireless energy across sessions and side events, a true reflection of accountability and our shared resolve to strengthen Devolution." She emphasized that beyond policy discussions, the human connections and teamwork witnessed in Homa Bay demonstrated the true spirit of Devolution.



CoG CEO Mary Mwiti speaking during the Devolution Conference 2025 close out ceremony

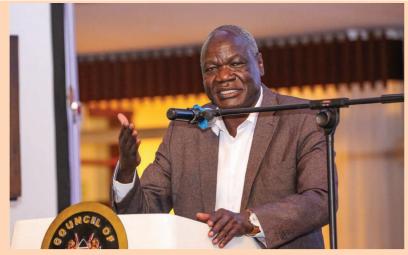
Michael Lenasalon, Principal Secretary in the State Department for Devolution reaffirmed the National Government's commitment to strengthening Devolution, "This conference has highlighted the need to finalize the transfer of devolved functions, strengthen legal frameworks and adopt digital innovation to improve efficiency in service delivery. From automation in revenue collection to smarter urban planning and stronger Early Childhood Development systems, Counties are showing us the way forward. The State Department for Devolution is committed to working with Counties to ensure these resolutions are implemented and that we report tangible progress at the next conference. Devolution must work better to promote inclusion and social justice and together we can make it happen," He emphasized.

The meeting concluded with a shared sense of pride and optimism, affirming that the Devolution Conference 2025 had set a high standard for collaboration and the advancement of Devolution as a catalyst for equity, social justice and inclusion.









Homa Bay Deputy Governor H.E.Joseph Magwanga speaking during the Devolution Conference 2025 close out ceremony



The PS State Department of Devolution Mr. Michael Lenasalon speaking during the Devolution Conference 2025 close out ceremony

UGATUZI CORNER



H.E. Governor Paul Otuoma, CoG CEO Mary Mwiti and CoG Secretariat during the side meeting with the Coalition for Clear Vision at UNGA 2025

County leadership has reaffirmed its commitment to integrating eye health into Kenya's primary health systems, underscoring the importance of equitable access to essential services. During a high-level side meeting with the Coalition for Clear Vision on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), County leaders resolved to embed eye screenings and glasses provision across all 47 County health systems, while leveraging schools, pharmacies, and community networks to extend outreach. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Coalition and the Council of Governors will formalize this partnership, enabling the scale-up of successful pilot programs nationwide and mobilizing sustainable financing. Additionally, public awareness campaigns will play a central role in normalizing the wearing of glasses and fostering a self-sustaining market for eye health solutions.

COMMUNITY-LED DIALOGUE TRANSFORMS HEALTHCARE AT ST. MARKS LELA

St. Marks Lela Health Centre in Kisumu County has become a shining example of how community-led accountability can transform health services. Once a Level 2 dispensary, the facility was upgraded to a Level 3 health centre, now serving a catchment population of nearly 12,000 people across Lower Korando, Upper Korando and Otonglo. Despite its growth, the centre struggled with major challenges such as overburdened staff, frequent drug stock-outs, limited infrastructure and no structured way for residents to raise their concerns. Many patients, frustrated by poor services, chose to stay away, worsening health outcomes in the community.

To bridge this gap, the County Government of Kisumu introduced the Community Scorecard (CSC) initiative in 2020, later strengthened by National guidelines in 2021. Through this model, community members, health workers and local leaders came together in dialogue sessions to openly assess services, identify gaps and agree on solutions. Residents scored services based on quality, availability of drugs, responsiveness and other key indicators, while facility staff committed to act on the feedback. The process was supported by DANIDA PHC, which provided training, organized dialogue days, and backed preventive and promotive interventions.

The results have been remarkable. Outpatient visits grew from 100 to 450 per month as trust in the facility increased. Antenatal care and community referrals improved, while waiting times were reduced with the help of Community Health Promoters (CHPs) at the registration desk. A secure perimeter fence was constructed for safety and a CHP desk was set up to strengthen follow-ups. CHPs now play a crucial role by making household visits, tracing children and expectant mothers who miss care, and offering basic treatment and health education. Their visibility has earned them trust as vital links between households and the health system.

Today, quarterly community scorecard meetings are fully institutionalized, bringing together residents, health workers and County officials to review progress and refresh action plans. The initiative has not only improved service delivery at St. Marks Lela but also inspired replication in other wards. More importantly, it has restored confidence in public healthcare by proving that when communities are heard, they take ownership and when health workers listen, outcomes improve for all.



CoG Health & Knowledge Management team, Health workers and community members during the documentation of Community-Led Dialogue at St. Marks Lela Kisumu County





































