



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (FIFTH SESSION)

CONVEYANCE OF PUBLIC PETITION
(No. 29 of 2026)

**REGARDING THE FUNDING OF SALARIES FOR EMPLOYEES
OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**

- 1. Honourable Members,** Article 119 of the Constitution accords any person the right to petition Parliament to consider any matter within its authority. Further, Standing Order 225(2)(b) requires the Speaker to report to the House any Petition other than that presented by a Member.
- 2.** In this regard, **Honourable Members,** I wish to report to the House that my office is in receipt of a Petition from Dr. Constantine Wasonga Opiyo, PhD, National Secretary-General of the Universities' Academic Staff Union (UASU); Dr. Charles Mukhwaya, National Secretary-General of the Kenya Universities Staff Union (KUSU); and Mr. Odoyo Genga, National Trustee of the Kenya Union of Domestic, Hotels, Educational Institutions, Hospitals and Allied Workers (KUDHEIHA).
- 3.** The Petition concerns the negotiation, funding, and implementation of the 2025–2029 Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs), as well as the funding of salaries for employees of public universities. The Petitioners state that the three trade unions collectively represent approximately thirty thousand (30,000) university employees, and that they advocate for the protection and improvement of their terms and conditions of service, as well as the promotion of the quality of university education in the country.

- 4. Honourable Members,** the Petitioners aver that the parties to the dispute signed a return-to-work formula on 23rd November 2024, committing themselves to concluding negotiations and implementing the 2025–2029 CBAs by 1st July 2025. They state that a subsequent return-to-work formula was signed on 5th November 2025, under which the parties again committed themselves to concluding the negotiations and implementing the CBAs within thirty (30) days.
- 5.** Regrettably, although these return-to-work formulas brought an end to a period of industrial unrest and were intended to restore industrial harmony in public universities, the commitments made were not honoured by the Ministry of Education and the Inter-Public Universities Councils Consultative Forum (IPUCCF).
- 6. Honourable Members,** the Petitioners further state that, on Monday, 21st September 2026, the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) informed the unions representing university staff that neither the Ministry of Education nor the National Treasury had provided a written commitment guaranteeing that the financial obligations arising from the CBAs for public universities would be met through the National Exchequer.
- 7.** This disclosure raised serious concerns regarding the credibility and practical viability of the negotiations that had been ongoing at Machakos University since 2025, particularly in the absence of a clear and binding commitment on the source of funding required to implement the agreements.
- 8. Honourable Members,** the Petitioners are concerned that the Ministry of Education and the IPUCCF nonetheless proceeded with the negotiations without first securing or disclosing a clear written commitment from the National Treasury on exchequer funding.

This left fundamental financial issues unresolved and rendered the negotiation process incomplete and potentially illusory.

9. The Petitioners contend that, in the absence of exchequer funding for the remuneration and other employment-related obligations of public university staff, any reliance on alternative funding mechanisms—including student fees and market-based funding models—would result in the discriminatory treatment of university employees. They note this is particularly disturbing when compared with other public officers whose remuneration is funded directly through the Consolidated Fund and appropriations approved by the National Assembly.
10. The Petitioners therefore raise concern that the Ministry of Education and the National Treasury have effectively adopted a funding mechanism for public universities whose legal basis is, in their view, unclear under the applicable legal framework, while relying on that mechanism to contest, limit, or deny the Government's outstanding funding obligations.
11. **Honourable Members**, the Petitioners state that the failure to resolve the dispute led the unions to embark on a nationwide strike that commenced on 2nd October 2026. During the strike, the IPUCCF presented a financial counteroffer to the unions, which the Petitioners consider inadequate and insufficient to provide a basis for concluding the outstanding CBAs.
12. The Petitioners state that efforts to resolve the dispute through ongoing engagements with the IPUCCF, the Ministry of Education, and an inter-ministerial committee have not yielded a resolution of the CBA dispute, thereby necessitating the intervention of the National Assembly.

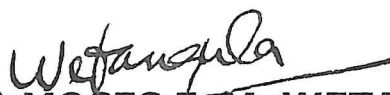
13. Honourable Members, the Petitioners therefore pray that this House urgently intervenes to:

- (i) ensure that the National Treasury makes provisions for adequate financial resources and the necessary budgetary appropriations to enable the conclusion, signing, registration, and implementation of the 2025–2029 CBAs for employees of public universities;
- (ii) ensure that the funding framework governing public universities is founded on a clear and lawful statutory basis and is consistent with the Constitution and applicable legislation; and
- (iii) make any other recommendations that the House may deem appropriate to address the concerns raised by the Petitioners.

14. Honourable Members, having determined that the matters raised by the Petitioners fall squarely within the authority of this House, and that the issues raised in this Petition are not pending before any court of law, constitutional body, or other legal body, I hereby commit the Petition to the Public Petitions Committee for consideration pursuant to Standing Order 208A.

15. The Committee is required to consider the Petition and report its findings to the House and to the Petitioners in accordance with Standing Order 227(2).

I thank you!



THE RT. HON. (DR) MOSES F. M. WETANG'ULA, SC, EGH, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Date.....22/10/26.