



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT (FIFTH SESSION)

CONVEYANCE OF PUBLIC PETITION
(No. --- of 2026)

**REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES 55(c) AND
248(2) OF THE CONSTITUTION TO ENHANCE YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT AND ESTABLISH THE KENYA NATIONAL YOUTH
COMMISSION**

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. **Honourable Members,** I wish to report to the House that my office has received a Petition from *Mr. Brian Omondi Ochieng* of ID No. 35XXXX09, Secretary General of the United Youth Front, a citizen of the Republic of Kenya, regarding proposed amendments to Articles 55(c) and 248(2) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 to strengthen youth empowerment, enhance access to employment opportunities and establish a constitutional commission dedicated to youth affairs.
3. The Petitioner states that, according to recent demographic data, approximately seventy-five per cent of Kenya's population comprises young people below the age of thirty-five years. He contends that despite representing a significant proportion of the country's population and development potential, many young people continue to face high levels of unemployment and underemployment.
4. **Honourable Members,** the Petitioner further states that the persistent rise in youth unemployment has adversely affected national productivity, economic growth, social cohesion and the realization of Kenya's development aspirations, including Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. The Petitioner notes that Article 55(c) of the Constitution requires the State to take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth have access to employment. However, he contends that the provision lacks sufficient specificity and enforceability, thereby limiting accountability in addressing youth unemployment.

6. Consequently, the Petitioner proposes the amendment of Article 55(c) to require the State to ensure that the youth have access to at least thirty per cent (30%) of all existing and newly created employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors.
7. **Honourable Members**, the Petitioner further observes that Article 248(2) of the Constitution establishes various constitutional commissions mandated to protect and advance the interests of specific sectors and groups within society. He argues that despite the significant demographic and socio-economic importance of the youth, there is no independent constitutional commission specifically mandated to safeguard and advance youth interests.
8. The Petitioner expresses concern that the absence of a dedicated constitutional commission has contributed to inadequate coordination of youth policies, limited youth participation in governance and insufficient institutional mechanisms for addressing challenges affecting young people, including unemployment, economic exclusion and access to opportunities.
9. The Petitioner therefore proposes an amendment to Article 248(2) of the Constitution to establish a Kenya National Youth Commission mandated to promote, protect and advance the interests of the youth, facilitate youth participation in governance and public affairs, advise Government on youth policy, and monitor the implementation of programmes relating to youth empowerment and employment.
10. **Honourable Members**, the Petitioner submits that the proposed amendments would strengthen constitutional safeguards for youth empowerment, enhance economic productivity by harnessing the creativity and innovation of young people, reduce poverty and inequality, promote social cohesion and align Kenya's legal framework with regional and international commitments relating to youth development.
11. In light of the foregoing, the Petitioner prays that the National Assembly through the Public Petitions Committee—
 - (a) initiates the process of amending Article 55(c) of the Constitution to provide that the youth shall have access to at least thirty per cent (30%) of all existing and newly created employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors;
 - (b) initiates the process of amending Article 248(2) of the Constitution to establish the Kenya National Youth Commission as an independent constitutional commission; and

(c) enacts the necessary legislation to provide for the powers, functions and administration of the proposed Kenya National Youth Commission.

12. Honourable Members, having determined that the matters raised by the Petitioner fall squarely within the authority of this House, and that 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.

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

I thank you!

THE RT. HON. MOSES WETANG'ULA, EGH, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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