

MEMORANDUM ON THE 2026 BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT

SUBMITTED TO THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On 20th February 2026

Submitted jointly by the underlisted organizations

1. The East African Center for Human Rights (EACHRights)
2. The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA)
3. Economic and social rights centre Hakijamii
4. Elimu Bora Working Group
5. Pendekezo Letu
6. Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR)
7. Human Dignity and Wellness Center
8. Forum for African Women Educationalists, Kenya (FAWE-K)
9. Amnesty International Kenya
10. Kawangware Social Justice
11. Vijana Economic Front
12. Transparency International
13. Akili Dada

Contact person

Johnstone Shisanya

Email: johnstone@eachrights.or.ke Phone No. 0724700376

ISSUE	COMMENTS ON THE 2026 BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT	CONCERNS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Capitation for Primary Schools	The 2026 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) has not explicitly prioritized capitation for Primary Schools as a key concern for increased and sustained budget allocation.	The Primary schools' capitation budget for the current FY 2025/2026 is Kshs. 7.9 Billion, at the current rate of Kshs. 1,420 per learner, can only reach 5.6 million learners, leaving out over 1.4 million learners in the primary school age group. Despite the Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms recommending the capitation to be at least Kshs. 2,238, it has remained at Kshs.1,420.	Increase the capitation per learner to at least Kshs. 2,238. Allocate Kshs 15.7 billion for 7 million learners at the rate of Kshs. 2,238 per learner.
Capitation for Junior Schools	The BPS has not explicitly prioritized capitation for Junior Schools as a focus area for increased and sustained budget allocation.	The Junior schools' capitation budget for the current FY 2025/2026 is Kshs. 30.9 Billion, at the current rate of Kshs.15,042 per learner can only reach 2 million learners, leaving out over 1 million learners of junior school age group.	Allocate Kshs 49.5 billion for 3.2 million learners at the rate of Kshs15,042 per learner.
Capitation Senior Schools and the current Secondary Schools	The BPS has not explicitly prioritized capitation for Senior Schools and the current Secondary Schools as a priority area for increased and sustained budget allocation.	The Senior schools and Secondary schools' capitation budget for the current FY 2025/2026 is Kshs. 54.9 Billion, which at the current rate of Kshs. 22,440 per learner can only reach 2.4 million learners, leaving out over 1 million learners of senior and secondary school age group.	Allocate Kshs 78.5 billion for 3.5 million learners at the rate of Kshs.22,440 per learner
Teacher recruitment	The BPS has prioritized the recruitment of 30,000 teachers for STEM and technical subjects.	The Teachers Service Commission reports a critical shortage of 58,590 teachers needed for senior schools, yet BPS has only prioritized 30,000 teachers. The teacher shortage is not just a number; it's a crisis that threatens to undermine the entire CBE transition. 35% of junior schools have no dedicated STEM teachers at all.	Prioritize budget allocation for the recruitment of at least 60,000 teachers (on Permanent and Pensionable terms)

ISSUE	COMMENTS ON THE 2026 BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT	CONCERNS	RECOMMENDATIONS
		Critical learning areas such as Power Dynamics, Media Technology, Applied Science, etc., are not prioritised in budgeting for Senior School.	
Teacher capacity development	The BPS has prioritized the training of 50,000 teachers on competency-based pedagogies.	As of December 2024, only 21% of teachers in public junior schools were trained in STEM learning areas. This means 79% of teachers lack the required skills to implement the Competency-Based Curriculum. Most of the teachers continue to raise concerns that they have not been adequately trained (re-tooled) on the implementation of CBC.	Prioritize budget allocation of training (retooling) of at least 132,981 teachers on the implementation of CBC.
Laboratories and Specialized Workshops	The BPS outlines that emphasis will be placed on the construction and equipping of laboratories, particularly in rural schools, but falls short of including how many are to be constructed. The BPS does not outline specialized workshops required for CBC implementation as a priority area for budget allocation. While the BPS has prioritized the construction of 20,000 new classrooms and the rehabilitation of 15,000 existing classrooms, it should be noted that this is to address the need for additional classrooms but does not address the need for laboratories and specialized workshops.	Whereas the STEM pathway is envisioned to take on board at least 60% of the students in Senior Schools (Grade 10, 11, and 12), specific attention is not given by the BPS. Whereas the Art and Sports pathway is considered a critical talent development path for enhancing self-reliance and economic ventures for the bulging youth population, BPS is silent on the development of the requisite facilities for training. Whereas the country has 10,755 senior schools and each school requires at least 3 science and specialized workshops (science lab, woodwork, metalwork, ICT, or applied technology), the BSP does not explicitly show the number of laboratories and specialized workshops to be constructed.	Prioritize budget allocation for constructing at least 10,755 specialized workshops (at least one per school), and Art and Sport facilities in senior schools.