



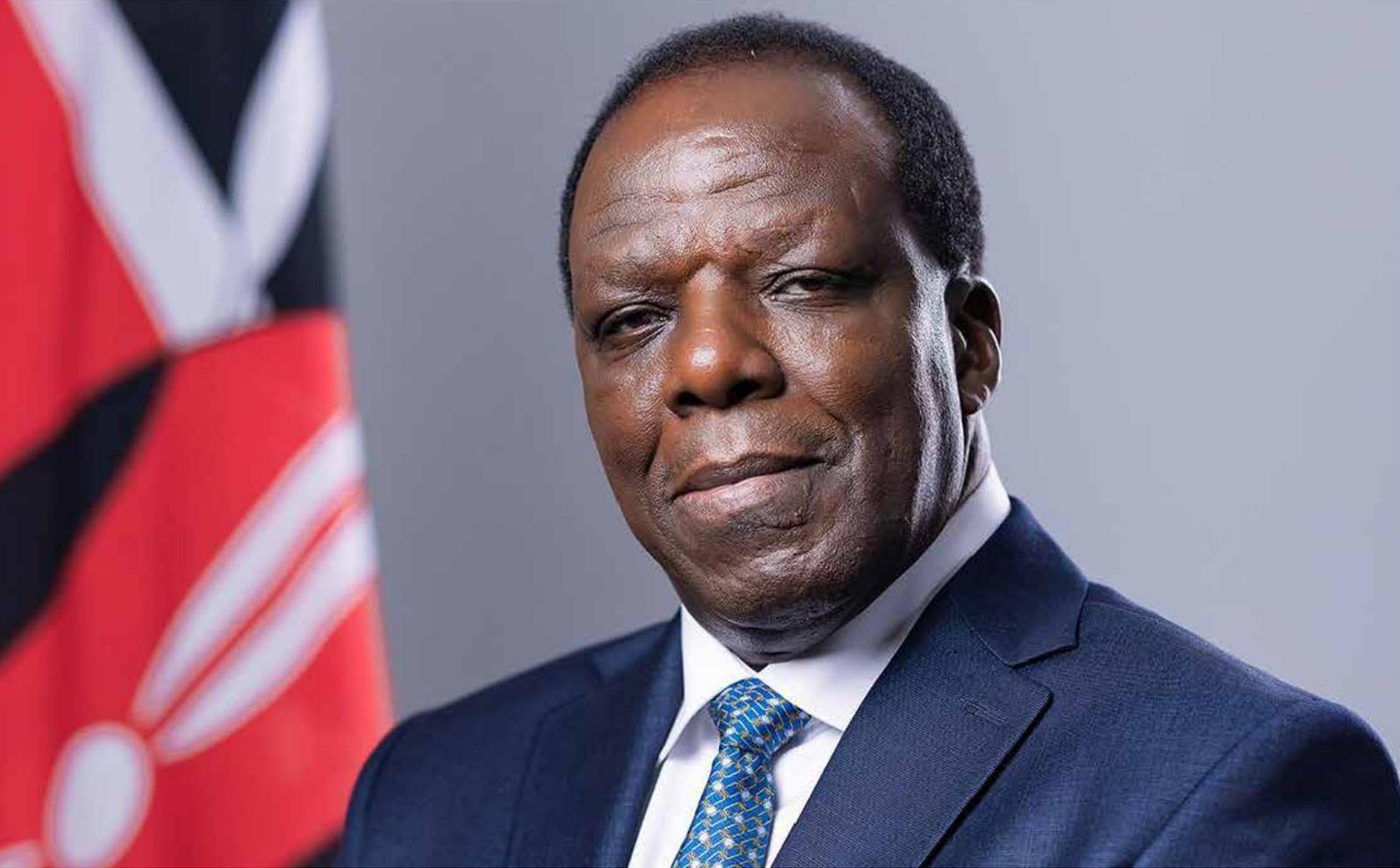
MINISTRY OF CO-OPERATIVES AND MICRO,
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs)
DEVELOPMENT



Growth Horizons

The Cooperatives and MSMEs Development Newsletter

Issue 01: December 2025



Merry Christmas and happy New Year 2026

As we celebrate Christmas and prepare for the New Year, I send my warm wishes to all Kenyans.

This year, together, we strengthened the Cooperative movement, revitalised the coffee sector, advanced key legal reforms, and expanded support for MSMEs through programmes such as NYOTA, KJET, MSMEs Connect and MSME trade fair. These efforts are about one thing, adding value to our members, entrepreneurs and communities.

In the year ahead, the Ministry will do even more to grow value chains, create opportunities and build resilient Cooperatives and MSMEs.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, EGH
Cabinet secretary





Introducing Growth Horizons: The Cooperatives & MSMEs Development Newsletter



This first issue of Growth Horizons marks the start of a structured effort to document and communicate the work taking place across the Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs Development. The publication will provide quarterly updates on reforms, programmes, and sector developments, with a focus on how these actions translate into real outcomes for cooperatives, small businesses, and the communities they serve.

The title Growth Horizons was selected to capture two ideas that define the Ministry's current direction: growth reflecting the sector's economic role and ongoing reforms and horizons, which speaks to the broader opportunities being opened through policy changes, improved governance, and expanded market access. Together, the name reflects a sector that is moving forward and widening its impact.

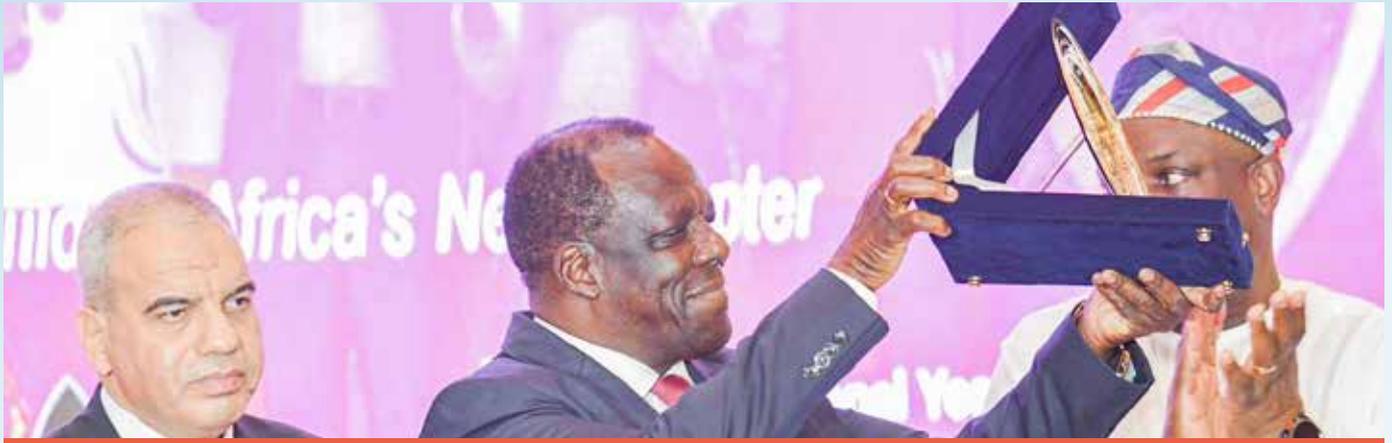
Since assuming office on 8th August 2024, the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya has overseen a broad reform agenda aligned with the Kenya Kwanza Administration's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BeTA). Several value chains are under restructuring, cooperative governance is being strengthened, and new measures are being rolled out to support MSMEs, especially at the county level. This newsletter will serve as a record of that progress and a channel for explaining why certain decisions are being made and how they affect stakeholders.

Readers can expect summaries of key initiatives, policy updates, county activities, profiles, and data-driven highlights from across the sectors under the Ministry. Our aim is to offer a clear and factual overview of developments without speculation or unnecessary embellishment.

Enjoy the read!

Frankline Pendo,
Editor

Kenya to Drive Stronger Cooperatives Across Africa as CS Oparanya Takes Over AMCCO Leadership



Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya receiving the instruments of power as Chair of the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO) for the next three years at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.

Kenya has taken a central role in shaping the future of Africa's cooperative movement following the assumption of Chairmanship of the Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO) by the Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and MSMEs Development, Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, on 8th October 2025. The appointment positions Kenya at the forefront of advancing cooperatives as engines of inclusive growth, job creation and socio-economic transformation across the continent.

The milestone was marked during the 14th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference held in Nairobi, which the CS officially opened under the theme "From Commitment to Action: Leveraging Global, Regional, and Local Partnerships for Sustainable Cooperative Development in Africa." The forum brought together ministers, policymakers, cooperative leaders and development partners from across Africa to strengthen collaboration and accelerate the impact of the cooperative model.

In his acceptance remarks, CS Oparanya emphasised that Africa must move beyond declarations to practical, results-driven action that strengthens cooperative institutions, improves governance and delivers tangible benefits to millions of members. He noted that Kenya's leadership will focus on making cooperatives more efficient, inclusive and competitive in driving sustainable development.

Over the next three years, AMCCO under Kenya's leadership will prioritise:

- Domestication of the Africa Cooperative Model Law to harmonise legal and regulatory frameworks across member states;
- Translating continental commitments into actionable outcomes through enhanced leadership and partnerships;
- Expanding cooperative education and increasing participation of women and youth to secure the sector's future;
- Strengthening the competitiveness of African cooperatives in regional and global markets, including through AfCFTA opportunities.

The CS underscored that cooperatives remain a critical tool for empowering communities, creating employment and building resilient local economies. He called on member states to deepen collaboration, embrace innovation and strengthen institutional capacity to unlock the full potential of cooperatives as a driver of shared prosperity.

Kenya's assumption of the AMCCO Chairmanship signals a renewed continental push towards practical reforms, stronger governance and a more impactful cooperative movement that delivers sustainable and inclusive development for Africa.

Steering Committees Launched to Boost Coffee Farmers' Earnings



From left: Mr. Daniel Chumno, Chairman, New KPCU; Dr. Anastacia Nyalita, CECM for Cooperatives and Business, Nairobi City County; Mr. David K. Obonyo, Commissioner for Cooperatives, Mr. Patrick K. Kilemi, Principal Secretary, State Department for Co-operatives; Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, Cabinet Secretary; Mr. Timothy Mirugi, Managing Director, New KPCU; Prof. Kamau Ngamau, PhD, EBS, Vice-Chancellor, The Cooperative University of Kenya; Hon. Njeru Ndwiga, former Minister for Cooperatives and Chairperson of the National Steering Committee.

Coffee farmers across the country are set to benefit from a stronger, more coordinated reform programme following the inauguration of the National and County Steering Committees for the Revival of Coffee Through Cooperative Societies. The new structure aims to tackle long-standing challenges that have reduced farmer incomes and weakened cooperative systems.

For years, farmers have contended with declining yields, aging trees, outdated factories, delayed payments and limited extension support. The committees will now guide targeted interventions to rebuild the sector from the ground up.

Coffee production has increased from 36,000 MT to 45,000 MT, largely due to farm rehabilitation and improved farmer support. To ensure steady access to quality planting material, universities and research institutions will produce 55 million certified seedlings by 2030, reducing farmers' costs and improving yields.

“**These reforms must translate into one thing: better earnings for the farmer.**”

Weak management in some cooperatives has led to mistrust and payment delays. The Cooperative and Coffee Bills, together with the Direct Settlement System, introduce greater transparency and ensure timely, traceable payments directly to farmers. Most value losses occur at the processing stage. The modernization of 1,176 cooperative factories and 10 mills is expected to enhance bean quality, reduce wastage and increase the proportion of earnings passed down to the farmer.

Through the Coffee Champions Model, 1,600 young people across 33 counties are already providing practical support in extension, climate-smart farming and agri-tech. Meanwhile, the “Drink Kenyan Coffee” campaign is creating opportunities for youth- and women-led coffee shops, mobile carts and barista enterprises thus building a stronger domestic market.

County Steering Committees that will be chaired by County Commissioners and co-chaired by CECs, will coordinate all interventions at local level, ensuring farmers receive support aligned with county priorities.

The revival programme is anchored on one principle: the farmer must earn more, produce more and benefit more from Kenya's coffee sector.

MSMEs Expand Market Reach as Kenya Hosts 25th EAC Trade Fair



Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya giving his remarks during the 25th EAC MSME Trade Fair at Uhuru Gardens, Nairobi.

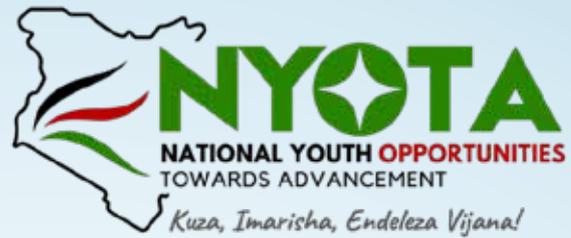
Kenya successfully hosted the 25th East African Community (EAC) MSMEs Trade Fair from 7th to 16th November 2025 at Uhuru Gardens, Nairobi, providing enterprises with a powerful platform to expand markets, build partnerships and strengthen cross-border trade across the region.

The fair was officially opened by H.E. President William Ruto, who toured exhibition stands and engaged with exhibitors alongside the Cabinet Secretary. Over 3,000 MSMEs from Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo showcased a wide range of products and services, reflecting the region's growing innovation and entrepreneurial potential. Somalia's participation for the first time marked a milestone in advancing inclusive regional integration.

The event enabled MSMEs and cooperative societies to network, exchange knowledge and explore new trade linkages, strengthening value chains and boosting regional competitiveness. It reaffirmed the critical role of MSMEs as key drivers of job creation, income generation and sustainable development across East Africa.

Through hosting the trade fair, Kenya reinforced its leadership in promoting inclusive trade, enterprise growth and deeper economic integration within the EAC bloc.

NYOTA Programme Unlocks Funding and Skills for Youth-Led Enterprises



H.E. President William Ruto giving his remarks during the official launch of the NYOTA Programme at Mumias Sports Complex, Kakamega County.

H.E. President Dr. William Samoei Ruto officially launched the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Programme on 7th November at the Mumias Sports Complex in Kakamega County, unlocking critical financial and skills support for youth-led enterprises under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BeTA).

During the launch, more than 12,155 youth beneficiaries from Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma and Busia received KSh 267 million as the first tranche of business grants to kick-start and expand their enterprises. The Cabinet Secretary lauded the President for delivering on his commitment to empower young people and commended county governments for waiving business licence fees for two years, easing the cost burden on start-ups..



Jubilant youths celebrating after receiving the first tranche of NYOTA funds directly on their mobile phones immediately following the launch.



The President participating in a panel discussion with other panelists during the launch of the NYOTA Programme.

To enhance sustainability, the CS subsequently visited Uasin Gishu County on 17th November to assess the rollout of NYOTA's Business Development Services (BDS) training, where youth entrepreneurs are being equipped with essential business and financial management skills.

The NYOTA Programme combines funding with capacity building to position young people as productive entrepreneurs, strengthen livelihoods and drive inclusive economic growth across the country.



Ms. Susan Mang'eni, Principal Secretary, State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development giving her remarks during the official launch of the Nyota Programme in Mumias Sports Complex.



H.E. the President arriving at Mumias Sports Complex, accompanied by Cabinet Secretary Hon. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, and other dignitaries.

MSMEs to Gain Stronger Trade and Growth Support as CS Engages ITC Leadership



Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya giving his remarks during Kenya Day at the 25th EAC MSME Trade Fair held at Uhuru Gardens, Nairobi.

The Cabinet Secretary, accompanied by the Principal Secretary for MSMEs Development, Ms. Susan Mang'eni, and Senior Advisor Ms. Rose Mwaura, held a strategic engagement with Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC), to strengthen collaboration in advancing Kenya's MSME agenda.

The discussions focused on aligning ITC programmes with national priorities to support enterprise growth, enhance market access and build MSME capacity. The establishment of the ITC office in Nairobi was highlighted as a key milestone that brings global trade support closer to Kenyan businesses and expands opportunities for partnership and impact.

The meeting also explored avenues for boosting cross-border trade and regional integration, including efforts to eliminate non-tariff barriers within the East African Community. Priority areas identified for support include women and youth empowerment, the creative and sports industries, and capacity-building initiatives to drive innovation and entrepreneurship.

The engagement reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening the MSME ecosystem, unlocking value across sectors and building a more inclusive, competitive and resilient economy.



Cabinet Secretary Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya shakes hands with Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC), during a courtesy call at his office in Nairobi.

Cooperative Bill Nears Finalisation as CS Pushes for Stronger Governance Reforms



Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, Cabinet Secretary; Mr. Patrick K. Kilemi, Principal Secretary, State Department for Co-operatives; Mr. David K. Obonyo, Commissioner for Co-operatives; and other Ministry officials during the review of the Cooperative Bill at The Cooperative University of Kenya in preparation for mediation.



The Cabinet Secretary chaired a ministerial committee session on 18th November at the Cooperative University of Kenya (CUK) to review all parliamentary recommendations on the Cooperative Bill in preparation for the mediation process.

He noted that the long-awaited Bill is critical in addressing key sector challenges such as mismanagement, non-remittance of member funds and governance gaps, while strengthening transparency, accountability and sustainability within the cooperative movement.

As the legislative process nears completion, the CS directed the Principal Secretary for Cooperatives, Mr. Patrick Kilemi, to initiate the development of accompanying regulations to support smooth implementation.

He also called on CUK to lead the development of a standardised cooperative education curriculum and certify trainers nationwide to improve professionalism and eliminate duplication.

The CS reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to building a more accountable, resilient and well-regulated cooperative sector that protects members and supports sustainable growth.

Kenya Demonstrates Cooperative Leadership as Nigeria and South Africa Benchmark Ahead of AMCCO



Senator Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, CON, Honourable Minister of State in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of Nigeria, leading a Nigerian delegation during a courtesy call in Nairobi.

Kenya reinforced its position as a continental leader in cooperative development by hosting high-level delegations from Nigeria and South Africa ahead of the 14th Africa Ministerial Cooperative Conference (AMCCO) held in Nairobi from 8th to 9th October 2025. The engagements focused on knowledge exchange, benchmarking and strengthening regional cooperation to advance inclusive growth through cooperatives.

On 7th October 2025, the Cabinet Secretary met Senator Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, CON, Nigeria's Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, whose delegation sought to learn from Kenya's century-long cooperative journey since 1908. Discussions highlighted the role of cooperatives in driving financial inclusion, empowering grassroots communities under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and ongoing legal reforms aimed at modernising governance and strengthening the sector.

The Ministry also welcomed Ms. Raesetja Jane Sithole, Deputy Minister of Small Business Development of South Africa, whose delegation explored Kenya's robust regulatory and institutional frameworks that have positioned its cooperative sector among the most successful in Africa. Talks centred on sharing best practices, enhancing regional collaboration and boosting the role of cooperatives in enterprise development and job creation.

The engagements underscored Kenya's commitment to fostering stronger cross-border partnerships and promoting a unified, progressive cooperative movement across Africa through shared learning and policy alignment.



Ms. Raesetja Jane Sithole, Deputy Minister of Small Business Development, Republic of South Africa, leading a South African delegation during a courtesy call.

Coffee Farmers to Earn More as Government Accelerates Sector Reforms



Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya and Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe during a High-Level Breakfast Meeting in Nairobi on the coordination of Kenya's coffee sector initiatives and the upscaling of investments.

Coffee farmers are set to benefit from better prices, faster payments and expanded market access following a high-level breakfast meeting between Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya and Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe on 8th October 2025 to strengthen coordination and scale investments in Kenya's coffee sector.

The meeting reaffirmed the Government's commitment to placing farmers at the centre of reforms under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), with a focus on building a modern, transparent and globally competitive coffee industry.

Key highlights included plans for Kenya's first-ever online coffee auction, which will open the Nairobi Coffee Exchange to global buyers, enhancing transparency and fair pricing. Progress under the Coffee Revitalisation Programme was also noted, including farmer sensitisation in 22 counties, modernisation of over 1,000 cooperative factories and operationalisation of the KSh 6 billion Coffee Cherry Advance Fund.

The Government targets increasing national coffee production from 50,000MT to 150,000MT within three years, supported by improved seedlings, modern milling and youth-led extension services. Over 200 cooperatives have already onboarded to the Direct Settlement System, ensuring 80% of sales proceeds are paid directly to farmers.

These initiatives signal a renewed push to transform the coffee sector into a profitable, efficient and farmer-driven industry that strengthens rural incomes and Kenya's export performance.



Kakamega Communities Strengthen Climate Resilience Through #MazingiraDay Tree Planting Drive



Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya leading the distribution of tree seedlings to local communities in Shianda and Mambole during the #MazingiraDay Tree Planting Drive.

Residents of Kakamega County were mobilised into climate action as the Cabinet Secretary led a tree planting exercise at Shianda and Mambole Primary Schools on 10th October to mark this year's #MazingiraDay, held under the theme "Citizen-Centric Tree Growing and Environmental Stewardship." The initiative reinforced the Government's drive to place communities at the centre of Kenya's green transformation.

Speaking during the exercise, the CS emphasised the critical role of tree growing in combating climate change, restoring degraded ecosystems and strengthening environmental resilience. He noted that the initiative supports the national target of planting 15 billion trees by 2032, aimed at increasing forest cover and mitigating climate risks across the country.



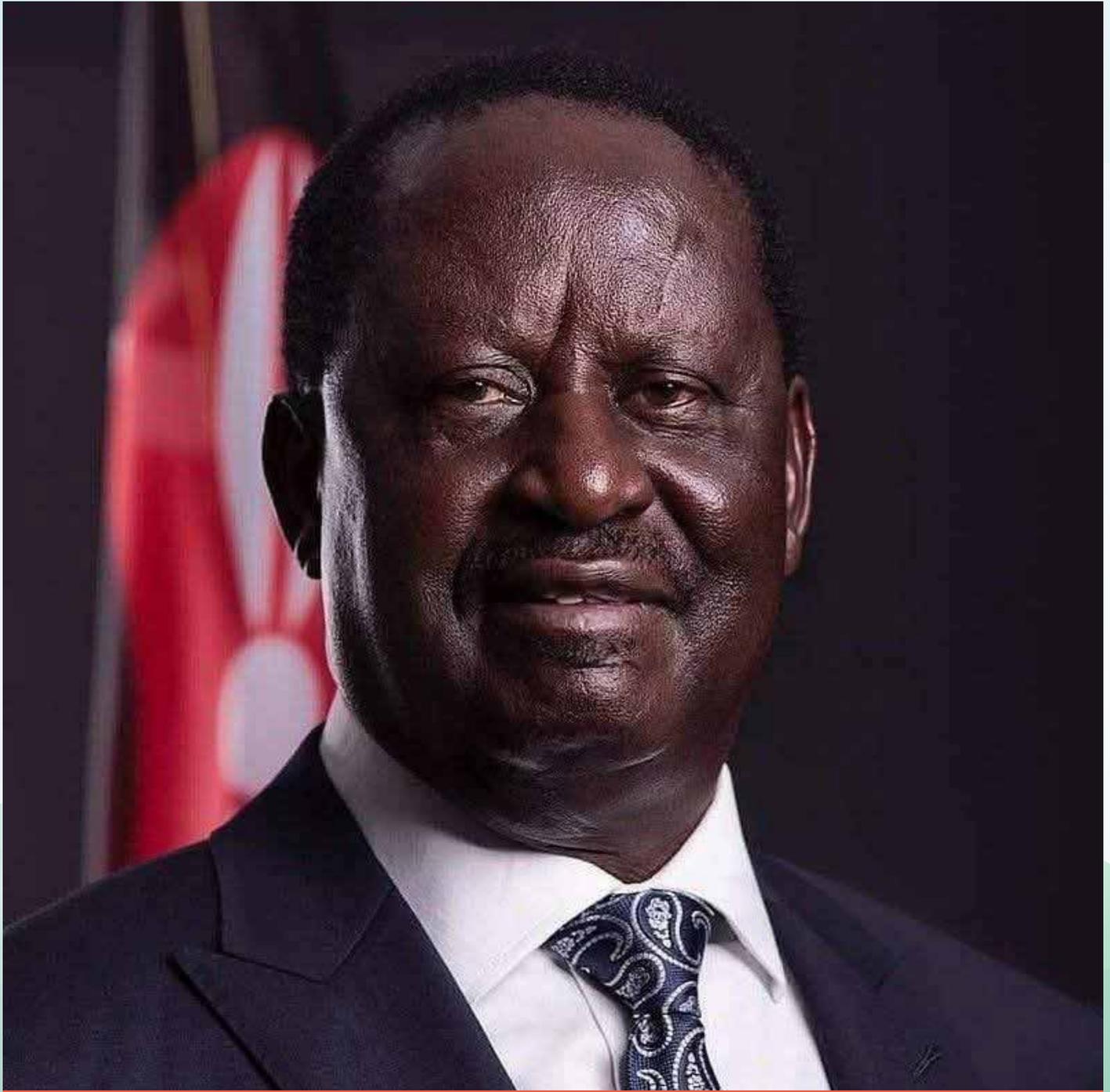
The CS called on citizens to take ownership of environmental conservation, stressing that sustainable stewardship must be citizen-led and rooted at the community level. He reaffirmed that collective action is key to building a cleaner, greener and more climate-resilient Kenya for present and future generations.

He was joined by Hon. Christopher Aseka, MP for Khwisero; Hon. Titus Khamala, MP for Lurambi; Hon. Elsie Muhanda, Kakamega County Woman Representative, MCAs, National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) and other stakeholders, demonstrating strong leadership collaboration in advancing environmental sustainability.

The #MazingiraDay initiative underscored the Cabinet Secretary's commitment to translating climate policy into tangible community action, reinforcing tree growing as a cornerstone of Kenya's green transformation agenda.

Tribute to Rt. Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga

The Ministry honours Rt. Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga for his immense contribution to Kenya's democratic journey and national development. A fearless reformist, statesman and Pan-Africanist, his lifelong commitment to justice, constitutionalism and the empowerment of the Kenyan people leaves an enduring legacy. We join the nation in reflecting on his life, leadership and service to the Republic.



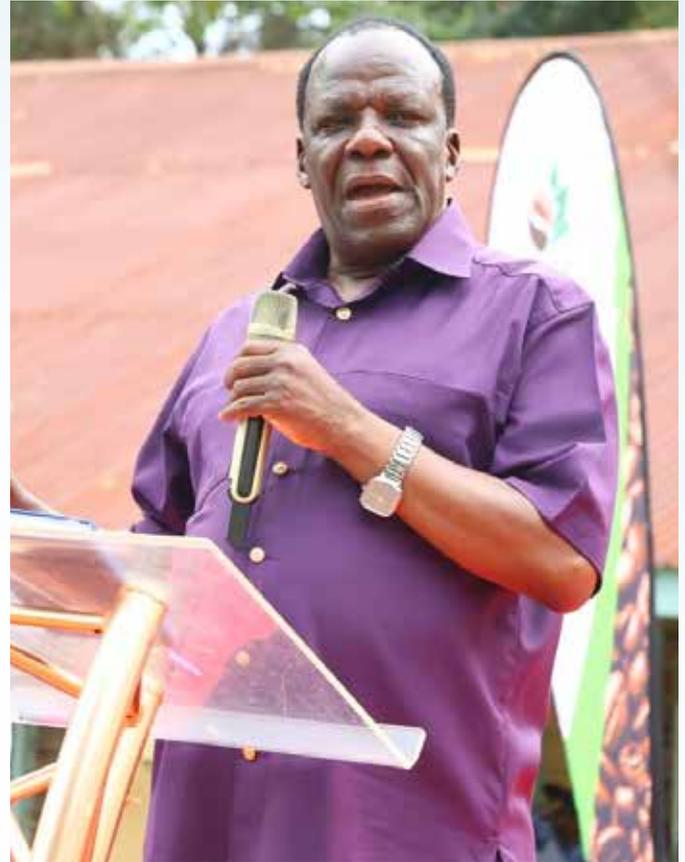
Coffee farmers in Kakamega County are set to increase production

Coffee farmers in Kakamega County are set to increase production and improve their livelihoods following the distribution of 100,000 coffee seedlings led by the Cabinet Secretary on 24th October in Ikolomani and Butere constituencies. The exercise marked the official launch of the planting season under the New KPCU's Revival of Coffee Through Cooperatives Programme.

The initiative seeks to revitalise coffee farming, restore the crop's economic significance and strengthen cooperative societies as key drivers of rural transformation. By providing farmers with high-quality seedlings, extension services and improved market access, the programme is expected to enhance productivity, raise household incomes and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

The CS reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting coffee farmers and repositioning the sector as a viable source of income and employment. He noted that strengthening cooperatives remains central to rebuilding the coffee value chain and securing long-term prosperity for farming communities.

The rollout of the seedlings underscores the Government's broader agenda of empowering smallholder farmers, stimulating rural economies and restoring coffee as a key contributor to Kenya's agricultural growth.



Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya leading the distribution of 100,000 coffee seedlings in Ikolomani constituencies, Kakamega County.

4th MSMEs Connect Forum Advances Inclusive Growth Agenda in Kisumu



The 4th MSMEs Connect Forum, a flagship programme spearheaded by the Ministry of Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, was held on 28th November 2025 at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Sports Ground, Kisumu City, under the theme “Building a Sustainable MSMEs Ecosystem for Inclusive Growth.”

The forum brought together MSMEs operators, cooperatives, financial institutions, county governments, development partners, and policymakers to engage on practical solutions for strengthening enterprise growth and competitiveness. As a direct engagement platform, the MSMEs Connect Forum is designed to bridge the gap between policy and enterprise by bringing Government services and support closer to entrepreneurs.

Participants were guided on key Government initiatives supporting MSMEs, including the Hustler Fund, the NYOTA Programme, support through Kenya Industrial Estates (KIE), and the expansion of green financing options. These interventions are improving access to affordable finance, strengthening enterprise capacity, and opening up new market opportunities for MSMEs across the country.

The forum also emphasised the importance of financial literacy, proper record-keeping, and responsible borrowing as foundations for sustainable business growth. MSMEs were encouraged to adopt sound financial management practices to enhance resilience, improve access to credit, and support long-term competitiveness.

The Kisumu forum reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to building a sustainable and inclusive MSMEs ecosystem that empowers enterprises to grow, create jobs, and contribute meaningfully to Kenya’s economic transformation.



Pictorial: MSMEs Trade Fair at Uhuru Gardens



CS Releases SACCO Supervision Annual Report as Sector Assets Hit Over KSh 1 Trillion



Mr. David Sandagi, Ag. CEO, SASRA; Mr. Patrick K. Kilemi, Principal Secretary, State Department for Co-operatives; Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, Cabinet Secretary; and Hon. Jack Ranguma, SASRA Board Chairman, during the release of the SACCO Supervision Report in Nairobi

On 25th September 2025, the Cabinet Secretary officially released the SACCO Supervision Annual Report 2024, announcing that the assets of regulated SACCOS have surpassed the KSh 1 trillion mark, a historic milestone that underscores the sector's growing strength and central role in Kenya's financial system.

The Report shows remarkable growth over the past decade, with SACCO assets rising from KSh 301.54 billion in 2014 to KSh 1.08 trillion in 2024, reaching KSh 1.13 trillion by August 2025. Membership also expanded significantly from 3.08 million to 7.40 million, while deposits increased from KSh 205.97 billion to KSh 749.43 billion, reflecting increased public confidence and deepening financial inclusion.

The CS highlighted the sector's growing digital capability, citing the expansion of SACCO agency banking, with 4,247 agents processing transactions worth over KSh 31.65 billion in 2024. He further noted SASRA's designation as the SACCO Sub-Sector Cyber Security Operations Centre as a critical safeguard against emerging cyber threats.

Despite the strong performance, the CS expressed concern over governance weaknesses, unsafe dividend practices, unregulated BOSA-only SACCOS and rising non-remittances of member deductions amounting to KSh 3.49 billion, affecting more than 55,000 members. He reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to tighten supervision, enforce governance standards, promote mergers and strengthen regulatory reforms to protect members' savings and sustain sector stability.

In officially declaring the Report released, the Cabinet Secretary called on stakeholders to utilise it as a key reference for informed policymaking, accountability and the continued strengthening of a resilient, transparent and member-centred SACCO industry.



Preparations Begin for Cooperative International Conference 2026



Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, in a grey suit, flanked on his right by H.E. Ken Lusaka, Governor of Bungoma County, and on his left by H.E. Hon. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, EGH, Governor of Kisumu County, together with other Steering and Planning Committee members of the Cooperative International Conference 2026, during a breakfast meeting in Nairobi.

Preparations for the upcoming Cooperative International Conference 2026 took a significant step forward on 4th November as the Cabinet Secretary unveiled the Conference Planning Committee during a consultative engagement with key stakeholders.

The CS hosted representatives from the County Government of Kisumu, the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) and the Cooperative International Conference Organizing Committee for discussions on the Conference, scheduled to be held in Kisumu County early next year under the theme “Empowering Communities through Cooperative Innovation and Sustainable Development.”



Empowering Communities through Cooperative Innovation and Sustainable Development



The Conference is expected to provide a strategic platform for strengthening partnerships between Kenya’s cooperative movement and international networks, while advancing innovation, sustainability and inclusive growth through cooperative models that empower communities and enhance local economies.

The Cabinet Secretary commended Kisumu County and all partners for their leadership in positioning the region as a rising hub for cooperative excellence and reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to supporting initiatives that drive the cooperative agenda and spur socio-economic transformation nationwide.

CS Pushes Cooperative Bill and Tougher SACCO Regulation



On 19th November 2025, the Cabinet Secretary addressed the 4th Annual Cooperative Movement Stakeholders' Forum at Lake Naivasha Resort, reaffirming the Ministry's commitment to strengthening the cooperative and SACCO ecosystem as a key pillar of Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BeTA).

He emphasised that the cooperative sector remains central to Kenya's socio-economic transformation, with SACCOs playing a pivotal role in advancing financial inclusion, supporting entrepreneurship, enhancing agricultural productivity and expanding opportunities for MSMEs. He noted that cooperatives continue to empower communities, particularly those traditionally excluded from mainstream financial systems.

The CS announced that the Cooperative Bill has now reached the mediation stage, with strong prospects of conclusion by March next year. He observed that the long-awaited legislation aligns with the Constitution and clearly defines the roles of County Governments and the National Government in cooperative development. Significantly, the Bill seeks to address persistent challenges within the SACCO sector, including the long-standing issue of non-remittances.



Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya giving his remarks during the 4th Annual Cooperative Movement Stakeholders' Forum at Lake Naivasha Resort.

He further highlighted the Ministry's intention to strengthen SASRA's mandate to regulate the entire SACCO space. Once the review of the Sacco Societies Act is finalised, all senior officers in the SACCO industry will be subjected to vetting by SASRA to determine their fitness to hold office, a critical step towards restoring professionalism, integrity and accountability.

The Cabinet Secretary reaffirmed the Ministry's resolve to build a transparent, resilient and future-ready cooperative movement that delivers sustainable prosperity and inclusive growth for all Kenyans.

Joseph Choge Steps in to Strengthen Kenya's Dairy Value Chain



Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya (centre) flanked by the Board Chairman, Mr. David Maina Kamiru, and the newly appointed Managing Director, Mr. Joseph Malel Choge, together with other members of top management, during his visit to New Kenya Co-operative Creameries Ltd (NKCC) for a high-level engagement in Nairobi.

On 4th December 2025, the Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Hon. FCPA Dr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, EGH, held a strategic engagement with the leadership of New Kenya Co-operative Creameries Ltd (NKCC). The meeting brought together Board Chairman Mr. David Maina Kamiru and newly appointed Managing Director Mr. Joseph Malel Choge, who now takes over the helm of one of Kenya's key agro-processing institutions.

The Cabinet Secretary underscored the important role of dairy cooperatives and smallholder farmers in Kenya's agricultural economy, noting that strengthening the dairy value chain, from production and collection to processing and market access remains a central Government priority. He expressed confidence that NKCC's renewed leadership comes at a crucial moment as the sector works to modernise processing capacity, stabilise milk prices, and improve farmer earnings.



Discussions focused on expanding value addition, enhancing quality assurance, boosting operational efficiency, and deepening collaboration with cooperative sector partners. Hon. Oparanya emphasised that successful reform will require coordinated action across institutions including the State Department for Cooperatives, the Cooperative Alliance of Kenya, the International Cooperative Alliance, KUSCCO Ltd, and New KPCU PLC.

As the year concludes, the Cabinet Secretary reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to building a more inclusive and competitive dairy sector. The appointment of Joseph Malel Choge signals new momentum for NKCC and renewed action toward efficiency, innovation, and value creation for Kenyan farmers.



“New KCC is entering a new chapter under Joseph Malel Choge, with renewed focus on fair farmer earnings, efficiency, and value addition across the dairy chain.”





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