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REPUBLIC OF KENYA


THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FIFTH SESSION – 2026

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT ON-

CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC PETITION NO. 9 OF 2025 REGARDING
RECOGNITION OF THE CHUKA PEOPLE AS A TRIBE IN KENYA

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 01 APR 2026	
DAY: Wednesday	
TABLED BY:	Hon. Muchangi Karumba chair, Public Petitions
CLERK-AT-TABLE:	Mado Miniam

Directorate of Audit Appropriations &
General-Purpose Committees
Clerk's Chambers
Main Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI



MARCH, 2026

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

On behalf of the Public Petitions Committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, it is my pleasant privilege and honour to present to this House the Report of the Committee on the Public Petition No. 01 of 2025 regarding recognition of the Pare Community as a tribe in Kenya. The petition was presented to the House pursuant to Standing Order No. 225 (2) (a) by the Member for Taveta on behalf of the Pare Community of Kenya in Taita Taveta County.

The petitioners prayed that the National Assembly, through the Public Petitions Committee, inquire into the matter with a view to securing urgent recognition of the Pare Community of Kenya as a tribe of the Republic of Kenya.

The Committee observed that, On the threshold to be recognized as a tribe, it was observed that there was no threshold but criteria is language, number of people, customs, beliefs and practices.

The Committee further noted that distinct data on Pare community is hardly available due to the fact that the community has been enumerated as communities under stateless.

In response to the prayer that the Committee inquire into the matter with a view to securing urgent recognition of the Chuka Community of Kenya as a tribe of the Republic of Kenya, the Committee notes the desire of the Chuka Community to be distinctively recognized as a tribe in Kenya and recommends that the Ministry of Interior and National Administrations through its internally developed framework to evaluate petitions for ethnic community recognition initiates and finalizes evaluation of the recognition of the Chuka as a tribe in Kenya within six months of tabling of this report.

The Committee appreciates the Offices of the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly for providing guidance and necessary technical support. The Chairperson expresses gratitude to the Committee Members for their devotion and commitment to duty during the consideration of the Petition.

On behalf of the Committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 199, I now wish to lay the Report on the Table of the House.

HON. MUCHANGI KAREMBA, CBS, M.P.

CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

PART ONE

1. PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

The Public Petitions Committee was established under the provisions of Standing Order 208A with the following terms of reference:

- a) considering all public petitions tabled in the House;
- b) making such recommendations as may be appropriate with respect to the prayers sought in the petitions;
- c) recommending whether the findings arising from consideration of a petition should be debated; and
- d) advising the House and reporting on all public petitions committed to it.

1.2 Committee Membership

The Public Petitions Committee was constituted in October 2022 and comprises the following Members:

Chairperson

Hon. Muchangi Karemba, CBS, M.P.

Runyenjes Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Vice Chairperson

Hon. Janet Jepkemboi Sitienei, M.P.

Turbo Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, M.P.

Mavoko Constituency

**Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya
(WDM-K)**

Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze, M.P.

Kitui West Constituency

**Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya (WDM-
K)**

Hon. Ntwiga Patrick Munene, M.P.

Chuka Igambang'ombe Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Maisori Marwa Kitayama, M.P.

Kuria East Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Joshua Chepyegon Kandie, M.P.

Baringo Central Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Beatrice Kadeveresia Elachi, M.P.

Dagoretti North Constituency

Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)

Hon. Bernard Muriuki Nebart, M.P.

Mbeere South Constituency

Independent

Hon. Biego Paul Kibichy, M.P.

Chesumei

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi, M.P.

Kangema Constituency

Maendeleo Chap Chap Party (MCCP)

Hon. John Bwire Okano, M.P.

Taveta Constituency

**Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya (WDM-
K)**

Hon. Peter Mbogho Shake, M.P.

Mwatate Constituency

Jubilee Party (JP)

Hon. Sloya Clement Logova, M.P.

Sabatia Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Suzanne Ndunge Kiamba, M.P.

Makueni Constituency

**Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya
(WDM-K)**

1.3 Committee Secretariat

The Public Petitions Committee is facilitated by the following members of the secretariat:

Lead Clerk

Mr. Victor Weke

Principal Clerk Assistant II

Ms. Miriam Modo

First Clerk Assistant

Ms. Kafuyai Wamae

Third Clerk Assistant

Ms. Nancy Akinyi

Research Officer III

Ms. Roselyne Njuki

Principal Serjeant-at-Arms

Mr. Pascal Valerian

Hansard Officer III

Ms. Felistus Muiya

Public Communication Officer

Mr. Benard Toroitich

Third Clerk Assistant

Mr. Clinton Sindiga

Legal Counsel II

Mr. Arkan Mumin

Research Officer III

Mr. Paul Shana

Serjeant-at-Arms

Mr. Collins Mahamba

Audio Officer III

Mr. Calvin Karungo

Media Relations Officer III

PART TWO

1 BACKGROUND OF THE PETITION

1.1 Introduction

1. Public Petition No. 9 of 2025 regarding recognition of the Chuka Community as a tribe in the Republic of Kenya was presented to the House on 10th April 2025 by the Member for Chuka Igamba Ng'ombe on behalf of the Chuka Community of Kenya in Tharaka Nithi County.
2. The Constitution of Kenya in its preamble affirms the national pride in the ethnic, cultural and religious diversity as the bedrock of unity of a Sovereign nation;
3. Article 44 of the Constitution recognizes that “every person has the right to use the language, and to participate in the cultural life, of the person's choice” and, a person belonging to a cultural or linguistic community has the right, with other members of that community to enjoy the person's culture and use the person's language;
4. The Chuka community has a population of more than one hundred and seventeen thousand (117,000) people who are primarily located in Tharaka Nithi County and owing to the historical, cultural, social and economic aspects of the Chuka community, there is need to formally recognize them as a distinct tribe in the Republic of Kenya;
5. The Chuka community traces their origins to the coastal region of Kenya, from where they migrated inland and eventually settled in the southeastern slopes of Mount Kenya and have a cultural and historical claim to the land known as *Magundu Ma Chuka*, which is now part of Mount Kenya National Park and Forest Reserve;
6. Although the Chuka community has maintained governance structures, economic activities and cultural practices that distinguish them from their neighbors, the Chuka community has not been recognized as a tribe;
7. The members of the Chuka community have their own unique language that has unique phonetic characteristics, that are substantially distinct from those of its neighboring tribes; including the naming system and circumcision rites that makes it distinct from the neighboring tribes unique and historical governance and leadership system comprising Councils of elders such as *Kiama gia Nkome* and *Kiama kia Mugongo* which have been and still are crucial in providing community leadership and direction and in resolving conflicts involving the Chuka community;

8. The Chuka community plays a fundamental role in Kenya's socio-economic growth and the enhancement of Kenya's economy primarily through agriculture and trade;
9. Efforts to have this matter addressed by relevant authorities have been futile; and that the matter presented in this petition is not pending before any Court of law, or any constitutional or legal body.

1.2 Prayer

10. The Petitioners prayed that the Committee inquire into the matter with a view to securing urgent recognition of the Chuka Community of Kenya as a tribe of the Republic of Kenya.

PART THREE

3 STAKEHOLDERS' SUBMISSIONS ON THE PETITION

3.1 The Petitioner

On Tuesday 29th April 2025, the Member for Chuka Igamba Ng'ombe, Hon, Patrick Munene, MP, accompanied by members of the Chuka Community, appeared before the Committee and submitted as follows—

11. The recognition of the *Chuka* community as a distinct tribe in Kenya has long been a historical concern. The *Chuka* people have historically been grouped together with other communities such as the *Meru* and *Tharaka*, despite being a distinct ethnic group residing in Tharaka Nithi County.
12. Literature and educational materials in the *Chuka* language are severely lacking. Most publications in local languages are available only in *Kikuyu* or *Meru*, and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) does not recognize *Chuka* as a separate tribe in its official records. As a result, even Chuka children are taught in other languages, contributing to an identity crisis.
13. Efforts to recognize the *Chuka* identity began many years ago, particularly through the initiative to translate the Holy Bible into the Chuka language.
14. Currently, *Chuka* is not recognized as a community or a distinct tribe. Most Chuka children grow up learning and speaking other languages, and many are unable to express themselves in their mother tongue. This has led to a significant cultural and linguistic identity crisis. There is minimal literature or documentation available on Chuka language or ethnicity.
15. Scholarly work on the *Chuka* includes a thesis by Prof. Mwaniki Henry titled “*A Precolonial History of the Chuka of Mount Kenya c.1400–1908*”. Additionally, American author Jeffrey A. Fadiman wrote a book titled “*When We Began There Were Witch Men: An Oral History from Mount Kenya.*” However, it is alleged that out of 103 individuals interviewed for the book, 100 were from the Meru community and three were white men, with no Chuka representation.
16. In “*The Vanishing Tribes of Kenya*” by Major G. St. J. Orde-Browne, the *Chuka* were described as a community quickly being assimilated into larger neighbouring tribes such as the

- Kikuyu and Meru. The author warned that without careful and sympathetic intervention, the Chuka would lose their language and cultural identity.
17. The *Chuka* Religious Community has also faced challenges in communication, especially in Protestant churches, where the Kikuyu Bible is still widely used. Recognizing this gap, Bible Translation and Literacy (BTL)—a Christian organization founded in 1981—established the need for a Chuka Bible in 2010. Given the linguistic differences, religious communication has been difficult. The Chuka community, in partnership with BTL, has since developed the Chuka language, and the New Testament is soon to be launched in *Chuka*.
 18. The *Chuka* language is unique, with seven distinct vowels that differ from those of neighbouring communities. The language of the communities to which Chuka has previously been classified appears foreign even to the *Chuka* people. This linguistic and cultural disconnect has further complicated identity, especially during cultural rites such as marriage, where the *Chuka* are not officially recognized as a distinct tribe.
 19. The Petitioners emphasized the urgent need for the *Chuka* language to be officially registered and for the *Chuka* to be recognized as a distinct tribe. This would support the development of educational materials, cultural preservation, and formal recognition in national identity.

3.2 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

On Wednesday, 18th June 2025, the Director General Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), Dr. Macdonald Obudho appeared before the Committee and submitted as follows—

20. Ethnicity and tribal data collected through censuses and surveys serve several important purposes, especially in diverse nations like Kenya. These purposes include resource allocation; representation and inclusion; cultural and historical documentation, policy development; and conflict resolution and social integration.
21. Over the years, various ethnic communities living in the country have sought to be recognized as distinct tribes or sub-tribes of Kenya. This has mainly been driven by the desire to obtain statistical information, assert rights, and advance community interests. Recent examples include the *Makonde*, *Kenyans of Asian Heritage*, and the *Shona and Pemba communities*, who were given formal recognition in the last decade.
22. These communities were granted recognition after formally submitting petitions requesting the Government to recognize them as ethnic communities of Kenya.

Since independence, KNBS has collected data on ethnicity and tribes to enhance understanding of the diverse nature of the people of Kenya and advance equitable development across all spheres of life.

23. Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on ethnicity and tribes is supported by various legal provisions, including:
 - (i) Preamble to the Constitution of Kenya, which affirms the national pride in ethnic, cultural and religious diversity being the bedrock of unity as a sovereign nation; and
 - (ii) Articles 11 and 44 of the Constitution, which enshrine the duty of the Government to promote and protect the diverse cultural heritage of Kenya.
24. To ease the production of statistics on ethnicity and tribes, KNBS assigns codes to the various ethnic/tribal communities at the beginning of any statistical project that collects data on ethnicity.
25. These codes are purely for statistical purposes and do not imply legal authority on the part of KNBS to confer official recognition of ethnic and tribal communities living in Kenya.
26. During the 1969,1979, 1989, 2009 and 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC) the number of ethnic/tribal communities enumerated varied between 37 and 42. This was mainly due to inclusion of more ethnic/tribal communities and the relegation of some to sub-communities.
27. In 1999, data on ethnicity was not collected during the census.

	1969	1979	1989	1999	2009	2019
No. of main ethnic communities	42	38	40	N/A	37	42
No. of sub-ethnic Communities	0	0	0	N/A	71	75

Table

1. Trend in the Number of Ethnic/Tribal Communities Enumerated during past KPHCs (*Source Kenya Population and Housing Census, 1969-2019*)

28. The process used by KNBS to assign statistical codes to ethnic communities is guided by the following:

- (i) Gazette notices issued by the Government recognizing ethnic communities as an integral part of the tribes of Kenya; and

- (ii) Recommendations made to KNBS by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) recommending the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on ethnic communities whose interests need to be protected and promoted. These ethnic communities include those that are regarded as minorities and marginalized.
29. Distinct data on Chuka communities is scarce because the community has been enumerated under the larger Meru ethnic community.
30. The Chuka Community are mainly found in Tharaka-Nithi County. *Chukas* are one of the nine sub-groups of the larger Meru ethnic community. The other sub- groups of the Meru ethnic community are *Igoji, Imenti, Tigania, Mitine, Igembe, Mwimbi, Muthambi* and *Tharaka*.
31. The Tharaka ethnic community is currently being enumerated distinctly from the rest of the sub-groups of the Meru ethnic community. The Table below shows the population of Meru and Tharaka communities enumerated in Tharaka-Nithi County during the 2009 and 2019 KPHC. The population of the Meru ethnic community includes members of the Chuka sub-ethnic community.

	2009	2019
Meru	199,731	205,279
Tharaka	145,424	163,273

Table 2. *Population of Meru and Tharaka ethnic Communities enumerated in Tharaka-Nithi County in 2009 and 2019*

32. Once the petition is endorsed by the National Assembly and gazetted as so, KNBS will go ahead to distinctly enumerate the two communities in the 2029 KPHC.
33. The Bureau requested the leaders to encourage their community members to always identify themselves with the correct name of their preferred ethnic community whenever they participate in censuses and surveys undertaken by KNBS. This will enable the Bureau to collect, analyse and disseminate more accurate and comprehensive statistical information on these communities.
34. Regarding the criteria used to recognize tribes and sub-tribes, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) relied on the precedence established during the ethnic enumeration in the 1969 Kenya Population and Housing Census. In subsequent years, recognition of tribes and sub-tribes was granted based on petitions submitted to relevant government agencies.

3.3 Ministry of Interior and National Administration

35. The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Affairs appeared before the committee and responded to the petition as follows—

Background

36. The Chuka are an Ethnic Community primarily residing in Tharaka-Nithi County on the south-eastern slopes of Mount Kenya. They are considered one of the sub-groups of the Meru, speaking *Gichuka*, a dialect of the *Kimeru* language. Other Meru sub-groups include the *Tharaka*, *Muthambi*, and *Mwimbi* in Tharaka-Nithi County, and the *Igembe*, *Tigania*, and *Imenti* in Meru County. The *Gichuka* dialect shares close lexical similarity with the language of their *Embu* neighbours.

37. The *Chuka* are primarily agriculturalists cultivating cash crops such as coffee and tea, alongside subsistence crops like maize, beans, and bananas. Dairy production is also increasingly significant in the region. The *Chuka* and the more numerous *Tharaka* consider each other closely related, often referring to each other as *Ciongoi* or *Ciombandi* to denote their kinship. However, some cultural practices differ; for instance, the *Chuka's* circumcision practices align more closely with those of the *Embu* than the *Tharaka*.

Identity and recognition

38. The State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services, under the Ministry through the Directorate of National Registration Bureau (NRB), oversees the recognition of ethnic communities in Kenya and assigns them unique ethnic identification codes. This enables individuals to declare their specific ethnicity when registering for national identity documents. Recognition enhances a community's access to political representation, facilitating advocacy for their needs at both national and county levels.

39. It also supports equitable resource allocation, including land, education, and development projects. In Tharaka-Nithi County, the *Tharaka* are recognized as a distinct ethnic group with a unique code, separate from the *Meru*. The *Chuka* are however not currently recognised as a community. During national identification registration, the *Chuka* typically identify as Meru rather than *Tharaka*.

Determination of ethnic uniqueness

40. The Ministry of Interior and National Administration, employs an internally developed framework to evaluate petitions for ethnic community recognition. Key aspects of the framework are highlighted as follows for consideration by the Committee in assessing the petition—

- (i) **Documentation of historical origins:** The *Chuka* leadership, should compile a report tracing the *Chuka's* origins, showing their divergence from the broader Meru community. This report should detail the geographical comprehensive historical point of dispersal for Meru sub-groups and map all *Chuka* settlement areas. This documentation will support fact-finding visits by Parliament, the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services, and other stakeholders.
- (ii) **Stakeholder documentation:** To foster an inclusive approach, the *Chuka* Community should engage and document the perspectives of key stakeholders, including the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services. The petition must include a comprehensive list of petitioners from the *Chuka* community, signed to confirm their support. Additional documentation could include views from the Meru, Tharaka, and *Chuka* Councils of Elders (e.g., *Nchuri Ncheke*, *Kiama gia Nkome* and *Kiama kia Mugongo*), as well as endorsements from notable academic, religious, political, and cultural leaders within the *Chuka* community. A resolution from the Tharaka-Nithi County Assembly supporting recognition would further strengthen the petition.
- (iii) **Cultural heritage documentation:** The *Chuka* should submit a detailed report highlighting their distinct cultural identity, including the *Gichuka* language, clan-based governance structures, internal organization, and traditional practices such as agricultural systems. This submission should underscore differences from the Meru to challenge their historical classification as a sub-tribe and include contributions from cultural institutions, such as *Chuka* University, to validate their unique identity.
- (iv) **Fact-finding visits:** The Committee should conduct fact-finding visits to Tharaka-Nithi County to verify the *Chuka's* cultural and historical claims. These visits will also assess socio-economic issues, such as claims to land known as *Magundu ma Chuka*, and confirm challenges faced by *Chuka* individuals compelled to register as Meru for administrative purposes.

- (v) **Community sensitization:** The *Chuka* leadership should initiate a robust sensitization campaign to revive ethnic identity and communal pride, particularly among *Chuka* individuals who identify as *Meru* for administrative reasons. Workshops, media campaigns, and community events should promote the *Gichuka* language and cultural heritage, fostering unity and raising awareness of their distinct identity.

Possible way forward

41. **Petition review and guidance:** The Public Petitions Committee should evaluate the *Chuka* Community's petition and advise the petitioners, to address any gaps identified in accordance with the Ministry's framework for ethnic recognition.
42. **Engagement with State Department:** To ensure comprehensive documentation, the petitioners should initiate structured dialogue with the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services. The State Department should submit a detailed report to the Public Petitions Committee, recommending recognition of the *Chuka* as a distinct ethnic group.
43. **Parliamentary resolution:** Upon verification of the submitted documentation and fact-finding outcomes, the Committee should recommend that Parliament pass a resolution directing the Ministry of Interior to formally recognize the *Chuka* as a distinct ethnic group and assign them a unique ethnic code, ensuring their inclusion in national census and administrative records.
44. **Legislative framework development:** Parliament should consider enacting legislation to establish a clear framework for recognising smaller communities who may be subduced under larger ethnic groups.

PART FOUR

4. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Upon hearing from the Petitioner, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, and the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, the Committee observed that—

- 1) The *Chuka* people were yet to be recognised as a distinct community or tribe as they were classified as one of the nine sub-groups of the larger *Meru* ethnic community for administrative reasons, together with *Igoji*, *Imenti*, *Tigania*, *Mitine*, *Igembe*, *Mwimbi*, *Muthambi* and *Tharaka*. Despite this classification, the *Tharaka* ethnic community was currently being enumerated separately from the rest of the Meru ethnic community's subgroups.
- 2) Distinct data on *Chuka* were hardly available, as Chuka had been enumerated under the larger Meru ethnic community. The lack of distinct ethnic or tribal data on the *Chuka* undermines their desire for recognisable statistical information to enable them to claim rights and advance community interests, including economic and social integration.
- 3) The Tharaka ethnic community is currently being enumerated separately from the rest of the Meru ethnic community's subgroups. The Table below shows the population of Meru and Tharaka communities enumerated in Tharaka-Nithi County during the 2009 and 2019 KPHC. The population of the Meru ethnic community includes members of the Chuka sub-ethnic community.

	2009	2019
Meru	199,731	205,279
Tharaka	145,424	163,273

- 4) Regarding the criteria used to recognize tribes and sub-tribes, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) relied on the precedence established during the ethnic enumeration in the 1969 Kenya Population and Housing Census. In subsequent years, recognition of tribes and sub-tribes was granted based on petitions submitted to relevant government agencies.

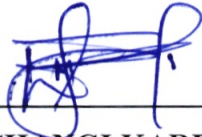
PART FIVE

5. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, the Committee responds to the Petition as follows—

On the prayer that the Committee inquire into the matter with a view to securing urgent recognition of the Chuka Community of Kenya as a tribe of the Republic of Kenya, **the Committee notes the desire of the Chuka Community of Kenya to be distinctively recognized as a tribe in Kenya and recommends that, within six (6) months upon tabling of this report, the Ministry of Interior and National Administration through its internally developed framework, initiates and finalizes evaluation seeking recognition of the Chuka Community of Kenya as a tribe.**

Signed: _____



Date: _____

01/04/2026

HON. MUCHANGI KAREMBA, CBS, M.P.

CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

ANNEXURES

Annex 1: The Adoption List

Annex 2: Public Petition No. 9 of 2025 regarding recognition of the Chuka Community as tribe in Kenya

Annex 3: Minutes of proceedings

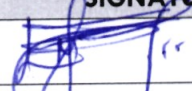
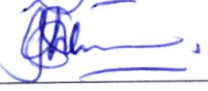

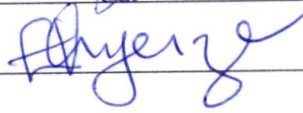
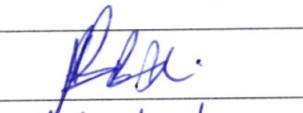
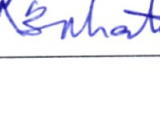
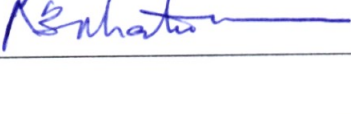


PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

ADOPTION LIST

- (i) **Consideration and adoption of the Report on Public Petition No. 09 of 2025 by Hon. Patrick Munene, CBS,MP., regarding the recognition of the Chuka Community as a tribe in the Republic of Kenya.**

We, the undersigned, hereby affix our signatures to this Report to affirm our approval:

DATE: _____

	HON. MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Muchangi Karemba,CBS, M.P.(Chairperson)	
2.	Hon. Janet Jepkemboi Sitienei, CBS, M.P.(Vice Chairperson)	
3.	Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, M.P.	
4.	Hon. Beatrice Kadeveresia Elachi, CBS, M.P.	
5.	Hon. Joshua Chepyegon Kandie, M.P.	
6.	Hon. Maisori Marwa Kitayama, M.P.	
7.	Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze, M.P.	
8.	Hon. Patrick Ntwiga Munene, M.P.	
9.	Hon. Paul Biego Kibichy, M.P.	
10.	Hon. (Eng.) Bernard Muriuki Nebart, M.P.	
11.	Hon. Peter Mbogho Shake, M.P.	
12.	Hon. Suzanne Ndunge Kiamba, M.P.	
13.	Hon. John Bwire Okano, M.P.	
14.	Hon. Sloya Clement Logova, M.P.	
15.	Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi, M.P.	

ANNEX (1)



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

Approved
SNA
10/4/25

hon. Speaker,
for my approval.
C. M. Mutahi
10/4/25

PUBLIC PETITION

(No. 009 of 2025)

**REGARDING RECOGNITION OF THE CHUKA COMMUNITY AS A TRIBE
IN THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

I, the **UNDERSIGNED**, on behalf of the Chuka Community of Kenya in Tharaka Nithi County;

DRAW the attention of the House to the following: -

1. **THAT**, the Constitution of Kenya in its preamble affirms the national pride in the ethnic, cultural and religious diversity as the bedrock of unity of a sovereign nation;
2. **THAT**, Article 44 of the Constitution recognizes that *"every person has the right to use the language, and to participate in the cultural life, of the person's choice"* and, "a person belonging to a cultural or linguistic community has the right, with other members of that community to enjoy the person's culture and use the person's language;
3. **THAT**, the Chuka community has a population of more than one hundred and seventeen thousand (117,000) people who are primarily located in Tharaka Nithi County and owing to the historical, cultural, social and economic aspects of the Chuka community, there is need to formally recognize them as a distinct tribe in the Republic of Kenya;
4. **THAT**, the Chuka community traces their origins to the coastal region of Kenya, from where they migrated inland and eventually settled in the southeastern slopes of Mount Kenya and have a cultural and historical claim to the land known as *Magundu Ma Chuka*, which is now part of Mount Kenya National Park and Forest Reserve;
5. **THAT**, although the Chuka community has maintained governance structures, economic activities and cultural practices that distinguish them from their neighbors, the Chuka community has not been recognized as a tribe;

10 APR 2025

**REGARDING RECOGNITION OF THE *CHUKA COMMUNITY* AS A TRIBE
IN THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

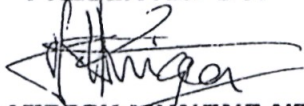
- 6. THAT,** the members of the Chuka community have their own unique language that has unique phonetic characteristics, that are substantially distinct from those of its neighbouring tribes; including the naming system and circumcision rites that makes it distinct from the neighbouring tribes; unique and historical governance and leadership system comprising of councils of elders such as *Kiama gia Nkome* and *Kiama kia Mugongo* which have been and still are crucial in providing community leadership and direction and in resolving conflicts involving the Chuka community;
- 7. THAT,** the Chuka community plays a fundamental role in Kenya's socio-economic growth and the enhancement of Kenya's economy primarily through agriculture and trade;
- 8. THAT,** efforts to have this matter addressed by relevant authorities have been futile; and,
-
- 9. THAT,** the matter presented in this petition is not pending before any Court of law, or any constitutional or legal body.

THEREFORE, your humble Petitioners pray that the National Assembly through the Public Petitions Committee to -

1. Inquire into the matter with a view to securing urgent recognition of the Chuka community of Kenya as a tribe of the Republic of Kenya;
2. Make any other recommendations or actions it deems fit in addressing the plight of the Petitioners.

And your **PETITIONERS** will ever pray.

PRESENTED BY:



**THE HON. PATRICK MUNENE NTWIGA, MP
MEMBER FOR CHUKA IGAMBANGOMBE CONSTITUENCY**

DATE: 10-4-2025

ADJEX(2)

MINUTES OF THE 21ST SITTING OF THE PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2026 IN FRANGAPINI CONFERENCE ROOM, SERENA HOTEL, MOMBASA COUNTY AT 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT

- 1. Hon. Eric Muchangi Karemba, CBS M.P. - **Chairperson**
- 2. Hon. Janet Jepkemboi Sitienei, CBS, M.P. - **Vice-Chairperson**
- 3. Hon. Joshua Chepyegon Kandie, M.P.
- 4. Hon. Maisori Marwa Kitayama, M.P.
- 5. Hon. (Eng.) Bernard Nebart Muriuki, M.P.
- 6. Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze, M.P.
- 7. Hon. Suzanne Ndunge Kiamba, M.P.
- 8. Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi, M.P.
- 9. Hon. Peter Mbogho Shake, M.P.
- 10. Hon. Paul Biego Kibichiy, M.P.
- 11. Hon. Sloya Clement Logova, M.P.

APOLOGIES

- 1. Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, M.P.
- 2. Hon. Beatrice Kadeveresia Elachi, CBS, M.P.
- 3. Hon. Patrick Ntwiga Munene, CBS, M.P.
- 4. Hon. John Bwire Okano, M.P.

IN-ATTENDANCE

SECRETARIAT

- 1. Mr. Victor Weke - Principal Clerk Assistant II
- 2. Ms. Miriam Modo - Clerk Assistant I
- 3. Mr. Bernard Toroitich - Clerk Assistant III
- 4. Ms. Kafuyai Wamae - Clerk Assistant III
- 5. Mr. Clinton Sindiga - Legal Counsel II
- 6. Ms. Nancy Akinyi - Research Officer III
- 7. Mr. Arkan Mumin - Research Officer III
- 8. Mr. Collins Mahamba - Audio Officer
- 9. Mr. Calvin Karungo - Media Relations Officer III
- 10. Ms. Felistas Muiya - Public Communications Officer
- 11. Mr. Paul Shana - Serjeant at Arm

MIN./PPC/2026/110:

PRELIMINARIES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:30 am and said a word of prayer.

MIN./PPC/2026/111:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The proposed agenda was adopted having been proposed by Hon. Eng Nerbart Muriuki, M.P and seconded by, Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi, M.P

AGENDA

- 1. Prayer and Preliminaries
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Confirmation of previous Minutes
4. Matters Arising
5. **Consideration and adoption of the following public petition reports:**
 - i. **Public Petition No. 14 of 2025 by Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP on behalf of the licensed Ministers of Faith from Taita Taveta County regarding delivery of Original Marriage Certificates to the Registrar of Marriages in Nairobi;**
 - ii. **P/No. 09/2025 regarding recognition of the Chuka Community as a tribe in the Republic of Kenya –P/No. 09/2025 by Hon. Patrick Munene, CBS, MP;**
 - iii. **P/No. 1 of 2024 regarding enactment of Legislation on the development of irrigation infrastructure by Hon. Boniface Gatobu (SHOFCO)**
6. Any Other Business
7. Adjournment.

MIN./PPC/2026/112: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

This agenda item was deferred to the next sitting.

MIN./PPC/2026/113: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

1. **Public Petition No. 14 of 2025 by Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP on behalf of the licensed Ministers of Faith from Taita Taveta County regarding delivery of Original Marriage Certificates to the Registrar of Marriages in Nairobi.**

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, the Committee responds to the Petition as follows—

- a) **On the prayer that the Committee recommends that the policy requiring licensed ministers of faith from all counties to physically deliver original marriage certificates to the Registrar of Marriages in Nairobi be revoked,** the Committee recommends that -

- (i) The Attorney General issues a notice, with three months of the adoption of this report, to clarify that officiating ministers in the 23 Counties with decentralized Offices can submit original marriage certificates to the respective county offices; and
- (ii) Develop and implement a secure online platform or digital system in the 2026/27 financial year to facilitate the electronic submission of original marriage certificates to enable officiating ministries to upload certified copies of marriage certificates directly to the Registrar of marriages for processing.

- b) **On the prayer that the Committee Recommends that the licensed ministers of faith be allowed to submit original marriage certificates to the Registrar of Marriages within their respective counties, with county offices bearing the responsibility of forwarding the documents to Nairobi;** the Committee recommends that:

- (i) Licensed ministers of faith in the 23 Counties with Attorney General Offices submit Marriage certificates to the respective County Marriage Offices, which will thereafter transmit the documents to the Nairobi Office for processing; and
- (ii) The Attorney General fast tracks the decentralization of offices in the remaining 24 Counties within 24 months of tabling of this report as identified by the Ministry of Interior.

2. **P/No. 09/2025 regarding recognition of the Chuka Community as a tribe in the Republic of Kenya – P/No. 09/2025 by Hon. Patrick Munene, CBS, MP;**
Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, the Committee responds to the Petition as follows—

a) **On the prayer that the Committee inquire into the matter with a view to securing urgent recognition of the Chuka Community of Kenya as a tribe of the Republic of Kenya**, the Committee notes the desire of the Chuka people to be distinctively recognized as a tribe in Kenya and recommends that the Ministry of Interior and National Administrations through its internally developed framework to evaluate petitions for ethnic community recognition initiates, finalizes and gazettes the recognition of the Chuka as a tribe in Kenya. This will enable KNBS to issue statistical code for the Chuka for purposes of the 2029 Kenya Population and Housing Census.

3. **P/No. 1 of 2024 regarding enactment of Legislation on the development of irrigation infrastructure by Hon. Boniface Gatobu (SHOFKO)**


Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, the Committee responds to the Petition as follows—

On the prayer that the National Assembly intervenes to amend the Irrigation Act, the Kenya Roads Board Act and the Road Maintenance Levy Act with a view to changing the “Road Maintenance Levy Fund” to “Infrastructure Development and Maintenance Levy Fund” and provide that part of the fund shall be employed to develop irrigation infrastructure in all parts of Kenya; and providing that the National Irrigation Authority shall be allocated funds from the “Infrastructure Development and Maintenance Levy Fund” which shall be allocated equally to all the 290 constituencies to fund and develop various irrigation projects in the country; the Committee recommends that;

- a) The proposal to amend to the Road Maintenance Levy Fund Act as a legislative mechanism for financing irrigation projects be rejected; and
- b) The Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, within ninety (90) days of adoption of this report, reviews the National Irrigation policy to establish a dedicated and transparent irrigation infrastructure financing mechanism.

MIN./PPC/2026/114: ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Sign:


HON. MUCHANGI KAREMBA, CBS, M.P.
CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Date **01/04/2026**



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AHHEX(3)

**MINUTES OF THE 23RD SITTING OF THE PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH JUNE, 2025, IN COMMITTEE ROOM 22, FIFTH
FLOOR, BUNGE TOWER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS AT 12.00 NOON**

PRESENT

1. Hon. Janet Jepkemboi Sitienei, CBS, M.P. Vice-Chairperson
2. Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze, M.P.
3. Hon. (Eng.) Bernard Nebart Muriuki, M.P.
4. Hon. Bidu Mohamed Tubi, M.P.
5. Hon. Suzanne Ndunge Kiamba, M.P.
6. Hon. John Bwire Okano, M.P.
7. Hon. Maisori Marwa Kitayama, M.P.

APOLOGIES

1. Hon. Ernest Ogesi Kivai, M.P. Chairperson
2. Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, M.P.
3. Hon. Nimrod Mbithuka Mbai, M.P.
4. Hon. Joshua Chepyegon Kandie, M.P.
5. Hon. Beatrice Kadeveresia Elachi, CBS, M.P.
6. Hon. Peter Mbogho Shake, M.P.
7. Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungu, M.P.
8. Hon. Sloya Clement Logova, M.P.

SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Ahmed Kadhi | Principal Clerk Assistant II |
| 2. Ms. Roselyn Ndengi | Senior Serjeant at Arms I |
| 3. Ms. Miriam Modo | Clerk Assistant I |
| 4. Ms. Anne Shibuko | Clerk Assistant I |
| 5. Ms. Patricia Gichane | Legal Counsel II |
| 6. Mr. Calvin Karungo | Media Relations Officer |
| 7. Ms. Nancy Akinyi | Research Officer III |
| 8. Mr. Peter Mutethia | Audio Officer |

PARE COMMUNITY

1. Hon. John Bwire Member for Taveta Constituency
2. Ms. Mchikirwa Ndelidai Member of the Pare Community

KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

1. Dr. Macdonald Obudho Director General
2. Mr. Francis Kundu Senior Manager, Demography
3. Mr. Paul Waweru Manager, Population Statistics

MIN./PPETC/2025/126:

PRELIMINARIES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. and proceedings began with prayers by Hon. (Eng.) Bernard Nebart Muriuki, M.P.

MIN./PPETC/2025/127:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Confirmation of minutes of previous sittings
4. Matters Arising
5. Meeting with the Director General, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)
 - Consideration of—
 - a) P/No. 1/2025 on Recognition of the Pare people as a tribe in Kenya
 - b) P No. 9/2025 on Recognition of the Chuka Community as a tribe in the Republic of Kenya
6. Consideration of P/No. 32 of 2023 on Tarmacking of Kiganjo-Mugutha- Gwakairu Link Road
 - Meeting with the Petitioner
7. Adoption of report on P/No. 52 of 2023 regarding the Ban of the Use Asbestos as a Roofing Material
8. Adoption of report on P/No. 59 of 2023 regarding Settlement of Ontulili Mount Kenya Forest Squatters
9. Any Other Business
10. Adjournment

MIN./PPETC/2025/128:
SITTINGS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS

The Agenda was deferred.

MIN./PPETC/2025/129:
OF THE

CONSIDERATION OF P/NO. 1/2025 ON RECOGNITION
PARE PEOPLE AS A TRIBE IN KENYA AND P/NO. 9/2025
ON RECOGNITION OF THE CHUKA COMMUNITY AS A
TRIBE IN THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Meeting with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)

The Director General, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) appeared before the Committee and submitted as follows—

1. Ethnicity and tribal data collected through censuses and surveys serve several important purposes, especially in diverse nations like Kenya. These purposes include Resource allocation; Representation and inclusion; Cultural and historical documentation; Policy development; and Conflict resolution and social integration.
2. Over the years, various ethnic communities living in the country have sought to be recognized as distinct tribes or sub-tribes of Kenya. This has mainly been driven by the desire to get statistical information, claim rights and advance community interests. Recent

examples include the Makonde, Kenyans of Asian Heritage, Shona and Pemba communities who were given formal recognition during the last decade.

3. These communities were granted recognition after formally submitting petitions requesting the Government to recognize them as ethnic communities of Kenya.
4. Since independence, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has collected data on ethnicity and tribes with the aim of enhancing understanding of the diverse nature of the people of Kenya and advancing equitable development in all spheres of life.
5. In order to ease the production of statistics on ethnicity and tribes, KNBS assigns codes to the various ethnic/tribal communities at the beginning of any statistical project that seeks to collect data on ethnicity.
6. These codes are purely for statistical purposes and do not imply legal authority on the part of KNBS to confer official recognition of ethnic and tribal communities living in Kenya.
7. During the 1969, 1979, 1989, 2009 and 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC) the number of ethnic/tribal communities enumerated varied between 37 and 42. This was mainly due to inclusion of more ethnic/tribal communities and relegation of some to sub-communities.
8. In 1999, data on ethnicity was not collected during the census.

	1969	1979	1989	1999	2009	2019
No. of main ethnic communities	42	38	40	N/A	37	42
No. of Sub-Ethnic Communities	0	0	0	N/A	71	75

Table 1: Trend in the Number of Ethnic/Tribal Communities Enumerated during past KPHCs (Source Kenya Population and Housing Census, 1969-2019)

9. The process used by KNBS to assign statistical codes to ethnic communities is guided by the following:
 - i. Gazette notices issued by the Government recognizing ethnic communities as an integral part of the tribes of Kenya; and
 - ii. Recommendations made to KNBS by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) recommending the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on ethnic communities whose interests need to be protected and promoted. These ethnic communities include those that are regarded as minorities and marginalized.
10. Distinct data on Pare and Chuka communities is hardly available due to the fact that these two communities have been enumerated as part of larger communities. The Pare are currently enumerated as part of the communities that are stateless while the Chuka are enumerated under the larger Meru ethnic community.

a) Pare Community

11. The Pare community living in Kenya are mainly found in Taveta constituency of Taita Taveta County. During the 2019 KPHC, members of this community were enumerated among the 6,272 Stateless persons living in the country at the time. Other communities enumerated as Stateless during this census exercise included the Shona, Wanyarwanda and Wapemba communities. These two communities have since been granted recognition as tribes of Kenya.

b) Chuka Community

12. The Chuka community are mainly found in Tharaka-Nithi County. Chukas are one of the nine sub-groups of the larger Meru ethnic community. The other sub-groups of the Meru ethnic community are Igoji, Imenti, Tigania, Mitine, Igembe, Mwimbi, Muthambi and Tharaka.

13. Tharaka ethnic community is currently being enumerated distinctly from the rest of the sub-groups of the Meru ethnic community. Table 2 shows the population of Meru and Tharaka communities enumerated in Tharaka-Nithi county during the 2009 and 2019 KPHC. The population of Meru ethnic community includes members of the Chuka sub-ethnic community.

	2009	2019
Meru	199,731	205,279
Tharaka	145,424	163,273

Table 2: Population of Meru and Tharaka ethnic Communities enumerated in Tharaka-Nithi County in 2009 and 2019

Source: Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2009 and 2019

14. Once the two petitions are endorsed by the National Assembly and gazetted as so, KNBS will go ahead to distinctly enumerate the two communities in the 2029 KPHC.

15. The Bureau requested the leaders to encourage their community members to always identify themselves with the correct name of their preferred ethnic community whenever they participate in censuses and surveys undertaken by KNBS. This will enable the Bureau to collect, analyze and disseminate more accurate and comprehensive statistical information on these communities.

Committee concerns

- i. **On the criteria used to recognise tribes and sub tribes**, the Director General explained that KNBS depended on the precedence of the tribes established in the ethnic enumeration during the 1969 Kenya Population and Housing Census. In subsequent years, tribes and sub tribes were granted based on petitions made to government agencies.
- ii. **On what categorises stateless persons-** a person not recognised as a citizen of the country and the country of origin too. Still counted in census as they fall within the count defined boundary (Kenya) within the specific time in point, because of need for resource distribution.
- iii. **On what benefits are lost by stateless persons**, the Director General explained that they have no identification documents hence have difficulty accessing services that require identification.

- iv. Regarding why the Petitioners were regarded as stateless in the 2019 Census despite issuance of Code 2J in the year 2001 by the National Registration Bureau, and issuance of Identification cards to most members of the community, the Director General reiterated that during the 2019 KPHC, members of this community were enumerated among the 6,272 Stateless persons living in the country at the time and that the code 2J given to Pare number was not captured under KNBS records.

Committee Resolution

Upon listening to the stakeholder, the Committee resolved to engage—

- i. the Ministry of Interior and National Administration to give further explanation on the definition of a tribe, as they recommend issuance of Gazette Notices for formal recognition as a tribe; and
- ii. The State Department of Immigration to explain the interpretation of statelessness.

MIN./PPETC/2025/130:

CONSIDERATION OF P/NO. 32 OF 2023 ON TARMACKING OF KIGANJO-MUGUTHA-GWAKAIRU LINK ROAD

The Agenda was deferred.

MIN./PPETC/2025/131:

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON P/NO. 52 OF 2023 REGARDING THE BAN OF THE USE ASBESTOS AS A ROOFING MATERIAL

The Agenda was deferred.

MIN./PPETC/2025/132:

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON P/NO. 59 OF 2023 REGARDING SETTLEMENT OF ONTULILI MOUNT KENYA FOREST SQUATTERS

The Agenda was deferred.

MIN./PPETC/2025/133:

ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 02:10 p.m. The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 19th June, 2025 at 12.00 noon.


HON. MUCHANGI KAREMBA, CBS, M.P.
CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Date: 20/7/25



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR IMMIGRATION & CITIZEN SERVICES

**REPORT ON PUBLIC PETITION NO. 09 OF 2025 REGARDING THE
RECOGNITION OF THE CHUKA COMMUNITY AS A TRIBE IN THE
REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

The Chuka

The Chuka are an Ethnic Community primarily residing in Tharaka-Nithi County on the southeastern slopes of Mount Kenya. They are considered one of the sub-groups of the Meru, speaking Gichuka, a dialect of the Kimeru language. Other Meru sub-groups include the Tharaka, Muthambi, and Mwimbi in Tharaka-Nithi County, and the Igembe, Tigania, and Imenti in Meru County. The Gichuka dialect shares close lexical similarity with the language of their Embu neighbours.

The Chuka are primarily agriculturalists. They cultivate cash crops such as coffee and tea, alongside subsistence crops like maize, beans, and bananas. Dairy production is also increasingly significant in the region.

The Chuka and the more numerous Tharaka consider each other closely related, often referring to each other as *Ciongoi* or *Ciombandi* to denote their kinship. However, some cultural practices differ; for instance, the Chuka's circumcision practices align more closely with those of the Embu than the Tharaka.

Identity and Recognition

The State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services, under the Ministry of Interior, through the Directorate of National Registration Bureau (NRB), oversees the recognition of ethnic communities in Kenya and assigns them unique ethnic identification codes. This enables individuals to declare their

specific ethnicity when registering for national identity documents. Recognition enhances a community's access to political representation, facilitating advocacy for their needs at both national and county levels. It also supports equitable resource allocation, including land, education, and development projects. In Tharaka-Nithi County, the Tharaka are recognized as a distinct ethnic group with a unique code, separate from the Meru. The Chuka are however not currently recognised as a community. During ID registration, the Chuka typically identify as Meru rather than Tharaka.

Determination of Ethnic Uniqueness

The Ministry of Interior and National Administration, employs an internally developed framework to evaluate petitions for ethnic community recognition. Key aspects of this framework are highlighted below for consideration by the committee in assessing the petition

1. Documentation of Historical Origins

The Chuka leadership, should compile a comprehensive historical report tracing the Chuka's origins, showing their divergence from the broader Meru community. This report should detail the geographical point of dispersal for Meru sub-groups and map all Chuka settlement areas. This documentation will support fact-finding visits by Parliament, the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services, and other stakeholders.

2. Stakeholder Documentation

To foster an inclusive approach, the Chuka Community should engage and document the perspectives of key stakeholders, including the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services. The petition must include a comprehensive list of petitioners from the Chuka community, signed to confirm their support. Additional documentation could include views from the Meru, Tharaka, and Chuka councils of elders (e.g., Nchuri Ncheke, Kiama gia Nkome and Kiama kia Mugongo), as well as endorsements from notable academic, religious, political, and cultural leaders within the Chuka community. A

resolution from the Tharaka-Nithi County Assembly supporting recognition would further strengthen the petition.

3. Cultural Heritage Documentation

The Chuka should submit a detailed report highlighting their distinct cultural identity, including the Gĩchuka language, clan-based governance structures, internal organization, and traditional practices such as agricultural systems. This submission should underscore differences from the Meru to challenge their historical classification as a sub-tribe and include contributions from cultural institutions, such as Chuka University, to validate their unique identity.

4. Fact-Finding Visits

The National Assembly's Public Petitions Committee should conduct fact-finding visits to Tharaka-Nithi County to verify the Chuka's cultural and historical claims. These visits will also assess socio-economic issues, such as claims to land known as Magundu ma Chuka, and confirm challenges faced by Chuka individuals compelled to register as Meru for administrative purposes.

5. Community Sensitization

The Chuka leadership should initiate a robust sensitization campaign to revive ethnic identity and communal pride, particularly among Chuka individuals who identify as Meru for administrative reasons. Workshops, media campaigns, and community events should promote the Gĩchuka language and cultural heritage, fostering unity and raising awareness of their distinct identity.

Possible way forward:

1. Petition Review and Guidance

The Public Petitions Committee should evaluate the Chuka community's petition and advise the petitioners, to address any gaps identified in accordance with the Ministry's framework for ethnic recognition.

2. Engagement with State Department

To ensure comprehensive documentation, the petitioners should initiate structured dialogue with the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services. The State Department should submit a detailed report to the Public Petitions Committee, recommending recognition of the Chuka as a distinct ethnic group.

3. Parliamentary Resolution

Upon verification of the submitted documentation and fact-finding outcomes, the Committee should recommend that Parliament pass a resolution directing the Ministry of Interior to formally recognize the Chuka as a distinct ethnic group and assign them a unique ethnic code, ensuring their inclusion in national census and administrative records.

4. Legislative Framework Development

Parliament should consider enacting legislation to establish a clear framework for recognizing smaller communities, who are currently subsumed under larger ethnic groups.

I submit, **Honourable Chair.**



Dr. Belio R. Kipsang, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

March 3, 2026

ANNEX (4)

KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS



P.O. BOX 30266-00100,
Nairobi GPO, Kenya
Telephone: +254-20-3317583,
+254-20-2911000/1
+254-20-3317612/22/23/51

Email: directorgeneral@knbs.or.ke
info@knbs.or.ke
Website: www.knbs.or.ke

Reference No. KNBS/STAT/73

18th June, 2025

Clerk of the National Assembly
P. O. Box 41842 – 00100
Main Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

Attention: Kipkemoi Arap Kirui

MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE ON VARIOUS PETITIONS

Reference is made to your letter Ref. No. KNA/DLPS/PPETC/COOR/2025/045 dated 27th May 2025 on the above subject.

Please find attached the write-up from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) pertaining to Public Petition No. 1 of 2025 and Public Petition No. 9 of 2025 on the recognition of Pare and Chuka communities, respectively. This write-up forms the basis of the presentation made by KNBS on 18th June 2025 to the Public Petitions Committee on Various Petitions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Macdonald G. Obudho', with a small mark below it.

Macdonald G. Obudho, PhD, EBS, MBS
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Encl.

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics is ISO 9001:2015 Certified





SUBMISSION TO THE PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE BY KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS ON THE PETITIONS MADE TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEEKING RECOGNITION OF PARE AND CHUKA ETHNIC COMMUNITIES AS TRIBES OF KENYA

1. Introduction

Ethnicity and tribal data collected through censuses and surveys serve several important purposes, especially in diverse nations like Kenya. These purposes include the following: Resource allocation; Representation and inclusion; Cultural and historical documentation; Policy development; and Conflict resolution and social integration.

Over the years, various ethnic communities living in the country have sought to be recognized as distinct tribes or sub-tribes of Kenya. This has mainly been driven by the desire to get statistical information, claim rights and advance community interests. Recent examples include the Makonde, Kenyans of Asian Heritage, Shona and Pemba communities who were given formal recognition during the last decade. These communities were granted recognition after formally submitting petitions requesting the Government to recognize them as ethnic communities of Kenya.

In April 2025, two petitions were submitted to the National Assembly seeking the recognition of Pare and Chuka communities as distinct tribes of Kenya. These petitions are Petition No. 1 of 2025 pertaining to the Pare Community and Petition No. 9 of 2025 pertaining to the Chuka Community.

2. Ethnic/Tribal Identities in Kenya's Statistical Operations

Since independence, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has collected data on ethnicity and tribes with the aim of enhancing understanding of the diverse nature of the people of Kenya and advancing equitable development in all spheres of life. Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on ethnicity and tribes is supported by various legal provisions including;

- **Preamble to the Constitution of Kenya** which affirms our National Pride in our Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Diversity being the bedrock of our Unity as a Sovereign Nation;
- **Articles 11 and 44 of the Constitution of Kenya** which enshrine the duty of Government to promote and protect the diverse cultural heritage of Kenya;

In order to ease the production of statistics on ethnicity and tribes, KNBS assigns codes to the various ethnic/tribal communities at the beginning of any statistical project that seeks to collect data on ethnicity. These codes are purely for statistical purposes and do not imply legal authority on the part of KNBS to confer official recognition of ethnic and tribal communities living in Kenya. During the 1969, 1979, 1989, 2009 and 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC) the number of ethnic/tribal communities enumerated varied between 37 and 42 as shown in Table 1. This was mainly due to inclusion of more ethnic/tribal communities and relegation of some to sub-communities. In 1999, data on ethnicity was not collected during the census. (**See Annex 1 for the list of ethnic and tribal communities and sub-communities captured in the various censuses**).

Table 1: Trend in the Number of Ethnic/Tribal Communities Enumerated During Past KPHCs

	1969	1979	1989	1999	2009	2019
No. of Main Ethnic Communities	42	38	40	N/A	37	42
No. of Sub-Ethnic Communities	0	0	0	N/A	71	75

Source: Kenya Population and Housing Census, 1969 - 2019

The process used by KNBS to assign statistical codes to ethnic communities is guided by the following;

- Gazette notices issued by the Government recognizing ethnic communities as an integral part of the tribes of Kenya
- Recommendations made to KNBS by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) recommending the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on ethnic communities whose interests need to be

protected and promoted. These ethnic communities include those that are regarded as minorities and marginalized.

3. Data on Pare and Chuka Communities

Distinct data on Pare and Chuka communities is hardly available due to the fact that these two communities have been enumerated as part of larger communities. The Pare are currently enumerated as part of the communities that are Stateless while the Chuka are enumerated under the larger Meru ethnic community.

a. Pare Community

The Pare community living in Kenya are mainly found in Taveta constituency of Taita Taveta County. During the 2019 KPHC, members of this community were enumerated among the 6,272 Stateless persons living in the country at the time. Other communities enumerated as Stateless during this census exercise included the Shona, Wanyarwanda and Wapemba communities. These two communities have since been granted recognition as tribes of Kenya.

b. Chuka Community

The Chuka community are mainly found in Tharaka-Nithi County. Chukas are one of the nine sub-groups of the larger Meru ethnic community. The other sub-groups of the Meru ethnic community are Igoji, Imenti, Tigania, Mitine, Igembe, Mwimbi, Muthambi and Tharaka¹. Tharaka ethnic community is currently being enumerated distinctly from the rest of the sub-groups of the Meru ethnic community. Table 2 shows the population of Meru and Tharaka communities enumerated in Tharaka-Nithi county during the 2009 and 2019 KPHC. The population of Meru ethnic community includes members of the Chuka sub-ethnic community.

Table 2: Population of Meru and Tharaka Ethnic Communities Enumerated in Tharaka-Nithi County in 2009 and 2019

	2009	2019
Meru	199,731	205,279
Tharaka	145,424	163,273

Source: Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2009 and 2019

¹ Fadiman, J. A. (1973). *Early History of the Meru of Mt. Kenya*. The Journal of African History, 14(1), 9-27.

4. Position of KNBS on Petitions by Pare and Chuka Communities

Once the two petitions are endorsed by the National Assembly and gazetted as so, KNBS will go ahead to distinctly enumerate the two communities in the 2029 KPHC.

Further to the above, the Bureau would like to request the leaders to encourage their community members to always identify themselves with the correct name of their preferred ethnic community whenever they participate in censuses and surveys undertaken by KNBS. This will enable the Bureau to collect, analyze and disseminate more accurate and comprehensive statistical information on these communities.

ANNEX 1: ETHNIC AND SUB-ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ENUMERATED DURING PAST CENSUSES IN KENYA

1969 KPHC	1979 KPHC	1989 KPHC	1999 KPHC
1 KIKUYU	1 KIKUYU	1 EMBU	Data on ethnicity not collected
2 EMBU	2 EMBU	2 KAMBA	
3 MERU	3 MERU	3 KIKUYU	
4 MBERE	4 MBERE	4 MBERE	
5 KAMBA	5 KAMBA	5 MERU	
6 THARAKA	6 THARAKA	6 THARAKA	
7 LUHYA	7 LUHYA	7 KISII	
8 KISII	8 KISII	8 KURIA	
9 KURIA	9 KURIA	9 LUHYA	
10 MIJIKENDA	10 MIJIKENDA	10 BAJUN	
11 POKOMO/RIVERINE	11 POKOMO	11 BONI-SANYE	
12 BONI/SANYE	12 BONI/SANYE	12 MIJIKENDA	
13 TAVETA	13 TAITA	13 POKOMO	
14 TAITA	14 TAVETA	14 TAITA	
15 SWAHILI/SHIRAZI	15 SWAHILI/SHIRAZ	15 TAVETA	
16 BAJUN	16 BAJUN	16 SWAHILI-SHIRAZI	
17 LUO	17 LUO	17 BASUBA	
18 NANDI	18 KALENJIN	18 LUO	
19 KIPSIGIS	19 NDEROBO	19 DOROBO	
20 ELGEYO	20 EL MOLO	20 ELMOLO	
21 MARAKWET	21 MASAI	21 KALENJIN	
22 POKOT	22 SAMBURU	22 MASAI	
23 SABAOT	23 TURKANA	23 NJEMPS	
24 TUGEN/CHERANGANI	24 TESO	24 SAMBURU	
25 NDEROBO	25 NJEMPS	25 TESO	
26 MASAI	26 RENDILLE	26 TURKANA	
27 SAMBURU	27 BORAN	27 BORAN	
28 TURKANA	28 GABBRA	28 GABBRA	
29 ITESO	29 SAKUYE	29 BULJI	
30 NJEMPS	30 ORMA	30 DASNACHI-SHAGIL	
31 RENDILLE	31 BASUBA	31 ORMA	
32 BORAN	32 GOSHA	32 RENDILE	
33 GABBRA	33 HAWIYAH	33 SAKUYE	
34 SAKUYE	34 OGADEN	34 AJURAN	
35 ORMA	35 AJURAN	35 DEGODIA	
36 GOSHA	36 GURREH	36 GOSHA	
37 HAWIYAH	37 DEGODIA	37 GURREH	
38 OGADEN	38 SOMALI SO STATED	38 HAWIYAH	
39 AJURAN		39 OGADEN	
40 GURREH		40 SOMALI SO STATED	
41 DEGODIA			
42 OTHER SOMALI			

2009 KPHC		2019 KPHC	
1 BASUBA	WAFAZA	1 AWEER/WAATA	MARAGOLI
2 EMBU	WAKATWA	2 BAJUNI	MARAMA
3 KAMBA	WAKILIFI	3 BORANA	SAMIA
4 KIKUYU	WAKILINDINI	4 BURJI	TACHONI
5 KISII	WAMTWAPA	5 DAHALO	TIRIKI
6 KURIA	WASHAKA	6 DASENACH	WANGA
7 LUO	WATANGANA	DASENACH (SO STATED)	21 LUO
8 WALWANA	WATIKUU	MERILE	22 MAASAI
9 MASAI	23 KALENJIIN	7 DOROBO	23 MAKONDE
10 MBEERE	KALENJIIN (SO STATED)	8 EL MOLO	24 MBEERE
11 MERU	ARROR	9 EMBU	25 MERU
12 NUBI	BUNG'OMEK	10 GABRA	26 MIJIKENDA
13 SAMBURU	CHERANGANY	11 GOSHA	MIJIKENDA (SO STATED)
14 TAITA	DOROBO	12 ILCHAMUS/NJEMPS	CHONYI
15 TAVETA	EL MOLO	13 KALENJIIN	DIGO/WAFUNDI/WASAKWA
16 TESO	ENDO	KALENJIIN (SO STATED)	DURUMA
17 THARAKA	KEIYO	ARROR	GIRIAMA
18 TURKANA	KIPSIGIS	CHERANGANY	JIBANA
19 LUHYA	MARAKWET	ENDO	KAMBE
LUHYA (SO STATED)	NANDI	ENDOROIS	KAUMA
SAMIA	SABOAT	KEIYO	RABAI
BAKHAYO	SAMOR	KIPSIGIS	RIBE
BANYALA	SENGER	LEMBUS	27 NUBI
BANYORE	SENGWER	MARAKWET	28 POKOMO
BATSOTSO	TERIK	NANDI	29 ORMA
BUKUSU	TUGEN	OGIEK	ORMA (SO STATED)
IDAKHO	POKOT	POKOT	GALLA
ISUKHA	ENDOROIS	SABAOT/KONY/BONG'OMEK	WARDEI
KABRAS	24 KENYAN SOMALI	SAMOR	30 RENDILE
KISA	SOMALI (SO STATED)	SENGER	31 SAKUYE
MARACHI	AJURAN	SENGWER	32 SAMBURU
MARAGOLI	DEGODIA	TERIK	33 SUBA
MARAMA	GURREH	TUGEN	34 SWAHILI
TACHONI	HAWIYAH	14 KAMBA	SWAHILI (SO STATED)
TIRIKI	MURILE	15 KENYAN SOMALI	AMU
TURA	OGADEN	KENYAN SOMALI (SO STATED)	BARAWA
WANGA	25 ILCHAMUS	AJURAN	CHITUNDI
20 MIJIKENDA	26 NJEMPS	DEGODIA	JOMVU
MIJIKENDA (SO STATED)	27 BORANA	GURREH	MUNYOYAYA/MUYEYAYA
BONI	28 BURJI	HAWIYAH	MVITA
CHONYI	29 DASENACH	ISAAK	NGARE
21 DIGO	30 GABRA	LEYSAN	PATE
DURUMA	31 GALLA	MURULE	SIU
GIRIAMA	32 GOSHA	OGADEN	VUMBA
JIBANA	33 KONSO	CORNER TRIBES	WACHANGAMWE
KAMBE	34 ORMA	16 KIKUYU	WAFAZA
KAUMA	35 RENDILE	17 KISII	WAKATWA
POKOMO	36 SAKUYE WAAT	18 KONSO	WAKILIFI
RABAI	37 GALJEEL	19 KURIA	WAKILINDINI
RIBE		20 LUHYA	WAMTWAPA
WAATA		LUHYA (SO STATED)	WASHAKA
22 SWAHILI		ABAKHENYE	WATANGANA
SWAHILI (SO STATED)		BAKHAYO	WATIKUU
AMU		BANYALA	35 TAITA
BAJUNI		BANYORE	36 TAVETA
CHITUNDI		BATSOTSO	37 TESO
JOMVU		BATURA	38 THARAKA
MUNYOYAYA		BUKUSU	39 TURKANA
MVITA		IDAKHO	40 WALWANA/MALAKOTE
NGARE		ISUKHA	41 WAYYU
PATE		KABRAS	42 KENYAN ASIANS
SIU		KISA	
VUMBA		MARACHI	

Notes on Annex 1:

1969 KPHC: The census captured the following seven as distinct ethnic communities; Nandi, Kipsigis, Elgeyo, Marakwet, Pokot, Sabaot, and Tugen.

1979 KPHC: The Nandi, Kipsigis, Elgeyo, Marakwet, Pokot, Sabaot, and Tugen communities were captured collectively as Kalenjin thus reducing the number of distinct ethnic communities by six. At the same time, two new ethnic communities were added, namely; Elmolo and Basuba. The resultant effect was that the number of ethnic communities reduced to 38.

1989 KPHC: The Bulji and Dasnachi-Shagil communities were added to the list of ethnic communities thus bring the total number to 40.

2009 KPHC: The following ten ethnic communities from the 1989 census were made sub-ethnic communities; Boni, Pokomo, Bajuni, Dorobo, El Molo, Ajuran, Degodia, Gurreh, Hawiyah and Ogaden. At the same time the following seven ethnic communities were added; Walwana, Nubi, Digo Ilchamus, Galla, Konso and Galjeel. The total number of ethnic and sub-ethnic communities enumerated in 2009 were 37 and 71 respectively.

2019 KPHC: Digo and Galla ethnic communities were made sub-ethnic communities. Njemps ethnic community was merged with Ilchamus community while Galjeel ethnic community was merged with other stateless communities. The following nine ethnic communities were added; Aweer/Waata, Bajuni, Dahalo, Dorobo, El Molo, Makonde, Pokomo, Wayyu and Kenyan Asians.

KENYA

ANNEX 2: 1969
KPHC
POPULATION
BY ETHNICITY

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TABLE II. POPULATION BY TRIBE OR NATIONALITY AND SEX FOR DISTRICTS, PROVINCES AND KENYA

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
TOTAL	10 942 705	5 482 381	5 460 324	MARAKWET	79 713	41 187	38 526	NON KENYAN AFRICAN	59 432	35 090	24 342
KENYAN AFRICAN	10 673 770	5 338 815	5 334 955	POKOT	93 437	45 606	47 831	TANZANIAN	26 360	16 552	9 808
KIKUYU	2 201 632	1 091 413	1 110 219	SABAOT	42 468	21 196	21 272	UGANDAN	17 232	9 509	7 723
EMBU	117 969	58 223	59 746	TUGEN / CHERANGANI	130 249	66 461	63 788	RWANDESE	4 855	2 806	2 049
MERU	554 256	276 325	277 931	MASAI	154 906	77 745	77 161	BURUNDI	227	164	63
MBERE	49 247	23 166	26 081	SAMBURU	54 796	27 989	26 807	SOMALI	3 519	1 927	1 592
KAMBA	1 197 712	592 889	604 823	TURKANA	203 177	107 249	95 928	ETHIOPIAN	851	498	353
THARAKA	51 883	25 159	26 724	ITESO	85 800	42 703	43 097	SUDANESE	1 944	1 075	869
LUHYA	1 453 302	723 071	730 231	NDEROBO	21 034	10 741	10 293	CONGOLESE	412	272	140
KISII	701 679	356 730	344 949	NJEMPS	6 526	3 155	3 371	OTHERS	4 032	2 287	1 745
KURIA	59 875	30 570	29 305	RENDILLE	18 729	9 884	8 845	NON AFRICAN	209 503	108 476	101 027
MIJIKENDA	520 520	255 508	265 012	BORAN	34 086	17 472	16 614	EUROPEAN	40 593	21 129	19 464
POKOMO / RIVERINE	35 181	17 110	18 071	GABBRA	16 108	8 772	7 336	KENYAN	3 889	2 168	1 721
TAVETA	6 324	2 942	3 382	SAKUYE	4 369	2 115	2 254	NON KENYAN	36 704	18 961	17 743
TAITA	108 494	52 501	55 993	ORMA	16 306	8 350	7 956	ASIAN	139 037	71 599	67 438
SWAHILI / SHIRAZI	9 971	5 048	4 923	GOSHA	2 926	1 558	1 368	KENYAN	60 994	32 052	28 942
BAJUN	24 387	11 808	12 579	HAWIYAH	4 103	2 118	1 985	NON KENYAN	78 043	39 547	38 496
BONI / SANYE	3 972	2 062	1 910	OGADEN	90 118	48 729	41 389	ARAB	27 886	14 773	13 113
LUO	1 521 595	763 080	758 515	AJURAN	15 544	8 174	7 370	KENYAN	24 199	12 432	11 767
HANDI	261 969	131 001	130 968	GURREH	49 241	26 443	22 798	NON KENYAN	3 687	2 341	1 346
KIPSIGIS	471 459	237 578	233 881	DEGODIA	62 425	33 901	28 524	OTHERS	1 987	975	1 012
ELGEYO	110 908	57 002	53 906	OTHER SOMALI	25 374	14 081	11 293	KENYAN	339	159	180
								NON KENYAN	1 648	816	832

ANNEX 3: 1979 KPHC -
POPULATION BY
ETHNICITY

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TABLE 2

KENYA POPULATION BY SEX, TRIBE OR NATIONAL GROUP AND DISTRICT

TRIBE OR NATIONAL GROUP	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
KIKUYU	1582145	1620676	3202821
EMBU	89471	90929	180400
MERU	416800	423704	840504
MBERE	29242	32483	61725
KAMBA	852360	873209	1725569
THARAKA	4763	4919	9682
LUHYA	1048914	1070734	2119708
KISII	469629	474458	944087
KURIA	46388	42781	89169
MIJIKENDA	357116	375714	732830
POKOMO	19835	19906	39741
TAITA	74068	79051	153119
TAVETA	3850	3826	7676
SWAHILI/SHIRAZ	2903	2743	5646
BAJUN	18304	18667	36971
BONI/SANYE	2108	2062	4170
LUO	966548	989297	1955845
KALENJIN	820749	831494	1652243
MASAI	120838	120557	241395
SAMBURU	36168	37457	73625
TURKANA	106009	101240	207249
TESO	66192	66295	132487
NDEROBO	3698	3502	7200
NJEMPS	3668	3878	7546
RENDILLE	10940	10854	21794
BORAN	35306	33588	68894
GABBRA	15467	15086	30553
SAKUYE	926	898	1824
ORMA	16134	15993	32127
GOSHA	917	935	1852
HAWIYAH	811	793	1604
OGADEN	13584	12058	25642
AJURAN	11309	10697	22006
GURREH	41901	41182	83083
DEGODIA	49227	43808	93035
SOMALI SO STATED	83119	72575	155694
BASUBA	29889	29779	59668
EL MOLO	277	261	538
KENYAN ASIAN	17402	15152	32554
KENYAN EUROPEAN	2200	2245	4445
KENYAN ARAB	9486	9375	18861
OTHER KENYANS	29711	27607	57318
AFRICANS	39744	32074	71818
ASIANS	23755	22291	46046
EUROPEANS	17409	18047	35456
ARABS	10562	9723	20285
OTHERS	5102	5111	10213
NOT STATED	169	174	343
TOTAL	7607113	7719948	15327061

KENYA		TRIBES BY SEX AND DISTRICT			KENYA
TRIBE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL	
EMBU	128,235	128,388	256,623	1.20	
KAMBA	1,212,635	1,235,667	2,448,302	11.42	
KIKUYU	2,205,640	2,250,225	4,455,865	20.78	
HBERE	48,365	52,643	101,007	0.47	
MERU	540,160	547,618	1,087,778	5.07	
THARAKA	48,558	50,970	92,528	0.46	
KISII	653,150	665,259	1,318,409	6.15	
KURIA	55,904	56,332	112,236	0.52	
LUHYA	1,518,851	1,564,422	3,083,273	14.38	
BAJUN	27,556	27,631	55,187	0.26	
RONI-SANYE	5,513	5,378	10,891	0.05	
MIJIKENDA	492,971	514,400	1,007,371	4.70	
POKOMO	29,276	29,369	58,645	0.27	
TAITA	99,546	103,843	203,389	0.95	
TAVETA	7,090	7,268	14,358	0.07	
SWAHILI-SHIRAZI	7,050	6,870	13,920	0.06	
BASUBA	55,380	52,439	107,819	0.50	
LUO	1,306,323	1,347,609	2,653,932	12.38	
DOROBO	12,396	11,967	24,363	0.11	
ELMOLO	1,800	1,800	3,600	0.02	
KALENJIN	1,223,037	1,235,086	2,458,123	11.46	
MASAI	188,950	188,139	377,089	1.76	
NJEMPS	7,826	8,046	15,872	0.07	
SAMBURU	53,182	53,715	106,897	0.50	
TESO	88,861	89,594	178,455	0.83	
TURKANA	140,071	143,679	283,750	1.32	
BORAN	41,714	38,446	80,160	0.37	
GABRA	18,194	17,532	35,726	0.17	
BULJI	3,051	2,924	5,975	0.03	
DASNACHI-SHANGIL	281	137	418	0.00	
ORMA	23,060	22,502	45,562	0.21	
RENDILE	12,804	13,732	26,536	0.12	
SAKUYE	5,307	5,371	10,678	0.05	
AJURAN	13,461	13,455	26,916	0.13	
DEGODIA	52,101	48,299	100,400	0.47	
GOSHA	1,037	1,044	2,081	0.01	
GURREH	41,501	38,503	80,004	0.37	
HAWIYAH	14,091	13,153	27,244	0.13	
OGADEN	71,797	67,800	139,597	0.65	
SOMALI-SO-STATED	24,232	20,866	45,098	0.21	
KENYAN ASIAN	28,113	24,855	52,968	0.25	
KENYAN EUROPEAN	1,720	1,464	3,184	0.01	
KENYAN ARABS	16,838	16,876	33,714	0.16	
OTHER KENYAN	14,560	14,162	28,722	0.13	
TANZANIANS	10,797	8,529	19,325	0.09	
UGANDANS	12,965	14,302	27,267	0.13	
OTHER AFRICANS	8,357	6,114	14,471	0.07	
INDIANS	14,925	14,166	29,091	0.14	
PAKISTANIS	997	865	1,862	0.01	
OTHER ASIANS	3,044	2,220	5,264	0.02	
BRITISH	7,076	8,532	15,608	0.07	
OTHER EUROPEANS	8,350	7,418	15,768	0.07	
OTHER ARABS	4,153	3,728	7,881	0.04	
REST-NEC	3,291	3,017	6,308	0.03	
TRIBE UNKNOWN	1,459	952	2,411	0.01	
NR	10,769	5,947	16,716	0.08	
Total	10,628,368	10,815,268	21,443,636	100.00	

ANNEX 4: 1989 KPHC
POPULATION BY
ETHNICITY

Table 13: Population by Ethnic Affiliation

Tribe/ Nationality	Total	Tribe/ Nationality	Total
KENYA TOTAL	38,610,097	DIGO	313,288
KENYA (SO STATED)	610,122	DURUMA	396,667
BASUBA	139,271	GIRIAMA	751,531
EMBU	324,092	JIBANA	35,216
KAMBA	3,893,157	KAMBE	25,350
KIKUYU	6,622,576	KAUMA	52,851
KISII	2,205,669	POKOMO	94,965
KURIA	260,401	RABAI	98,680
LUO	4,044,440	RIBE	14,482
WALWANA	16,803	WAATA	12,582
MASAI	841,622	SWAHILI	110,614
MBEERE	168,155	SWAHILI (SO	
MERU	1,658,108	STATED)	10,783
NUBI	15,463	AMU	6,294
SAMBURU	237,179	BAJUNI	69,110
TAITA	273,519	CHITUNDI	1,088
TAVETA	20,828	JOMVU	5,294
TESO	338,833	MUNYOYAYA	1,611
THARAKA	175,905	MVITA	1,471
TURKANA	988,592	NGARE	1,636
LUHYA	5,338,666	PATE	1,419
LUHYA (SO		SIU	3,829
STATED)	578,583	VUMBA	1,890
BAKHAYO	124,555	WACHANGAMWE	2,607
BANYALA	273,198	WAFAZA	487
BANYORE	310,894	WAKATWA	172
BATSOTSO	121,518	WAKILIFI	711
BUKUSU	1,432,810	WAKILINDINI	699
IDAKHO	170,720	WAMTWAPA	299
ISUKHA	217,327	WASHAKA	289
KABRAS	252,761	WATANGANA	644
KISA	137,268	WATIKUU	281
MARACHI	155,341	KALENJIN	4,967,328
MARAGOLI	618,340	KALENJIN (SO	
MARAMA	152,427	STATED)	95,842
SAMIA	124,952	ARROR	25,099
TACHONI	118,363	BUNG'OMEK	3,704
TIRIKI	209,814	CHERANGANY	15,956
TURA	30,388	DOROBO	35,015
WANGA	309,407	EL MOLO	2,844
MIJIKENDA	1,960,574	ENDO	6,058
MIJIKENDA (SO		KEIYO	313,925
STATED)	6,156	KIPSIGIS	1,916,317
BONI	7,602	MARAKWET	180,149
CHONYI	148,806	NANDI	949,835
DAHALO	2,398	OGIEK	78,691

Table 13: Population by Ethnic Affiliation

Tribe/ Nationality	Total	Tribe/ Nationality	Total
SABOAT	240,886	AMERICANS	6,014
SAMOR	5,484	CARIBBEANS	112
SENGER	11,000	AUSTRALIANS	719
SENGWER	33,187		
TERIK	300,741		
TUGEN	109,906		
POKOT	632,557		
ENDOROIS	10,132		
KENYAN SOMALI	2,385,572		
SOMALI (SO STATED)	141,111		
AJURAN	177,855		
DEGODIA	515,948		
GURREH	693,792		
HAWIYAH	58,160		
MURILE	176,821		
OGADEN	621,885		
ILCHAMUS	27,288		
NJEMPS	5,228		
BORANA	161,399		
BURJI	23,735		
DASENACH	12,530		
GABRA	89,515		
GALLA	8,146		
GOSHA	21,864		
KONSO	1,758		
ORMA	66,275		
RENDILE	60,437		
SAKUYE	26,784		
WAAT	6,900		
GAIJEEL	7,553		
KENYAN ARABS	40,760		
KENYAN ASIANS	46,782		
KENYAN EUROPEANS	5,166		
KENYAN AMERICANS	2,422		
ISAAK	3,160		
LEYSAN	5,941		
EAST AFRICA	75,073		
UGANDA	33,002		
TANZANIA	34,511		
RWANDA	3,805		
BURUNDI	3,755		
OTHER AFRICANS	244,866		
ASIANS	35,009		
EUROPE	27,172		

ANNEX 6: 2019 KPHC -
POPULATION BY
ETHNICITY

Table 2.31: Distribution of Population by Ethnicity/Nationality

ETHNICITY/NATIONALITY	TOTAL	ETHNICITY/NATIONALITY	TOTAL
TOTAL POPULATION	47,564,296	16 KIKUYU	8,148,668
KENYANS	47,067,376	17 KISII	2,703,235
NON KENYANS	463,562	18 KONSO	1,299
NOT STATED	33,358	19 KURIA	313,854
		20 LUHYA	6,823,842
KENYANS	47,067,376	LUHYA (SO STATED)	3,944,257
1 AWEER/WAATA	20,103	ABAKHENYE	24,468
2 BAJUNI	91,422	BAKHAYO	68,703
3 BORANA	276,236	BANYALA	227,165
4 BURJI	36,938	BANYORE	154,553
5 DAHALO	575	BATSOTSO	72,687
6 DASENACH	19,337	BATURA	12,857
DASENACH (SO STATED)	18,381	BUKUSU	1,188,963
MERILE	956	IDAKHO	54,661
7 DOROBO	23,171	ISUKHA	101,789
8 EL MOLO	1,104	KABRAS	136,962
9 EMBU	404,801	KISA	35,135
10 GABRA	141,200	MARACHI	65,633
11 GOSHA	685	MARAGOLI	334,926
12 ILCHAMUS/NJEMPS	32,949	MARAMA	43,075
13 KALENJIN	6,358,113	SAMIA	84,828
KALENJIN (SO STATED)	1,553,057	TACHONI	85,597
ARROR	92,470	TIRIKI	93,393
CHERANGANY	8,323	WANGA	94,190
ENDO	400	21 LUO	5,066,966
ENDOROIS	45,621	22 MAASAI	1,189,522
KEIYO	251,441	23 MAKONDE	3,764
KIPSIGIS	1,905,983	24 MBEERE	195,250
LEMBUS	71,600	25 MERU	1,975,869
MARAKWET	119,969	26 MIJIKENDA	2,488,691
NANDI	937,884	MIJIKENDA (SO STATED)	40,724
OGIEK	52,596	CHONYI	198,653
POKOT	778,408	DIGO/WAFUNDI/WASAKWA	409,595
SABAOT/KONY/BONG'OMEK	296,374	DURUMA	555,135
SAMOR	12,211	GIRIAMA	1,007,653
SENGER	167	JIBANA	38,466
SENGWER	10,729	KAMBE	31,007
TERIK	23,324	KAUMA	71,061
TUGEN	197,556	RABAI	125,707
14 KAMBA	4,663,910	RIBE	10,690
15 KENYAN SOMALI	2,780,502	27 NUBI	21,319
KENYAN SOMALI (SO STATED)	579,701	28 POKOMO	112,075
AJURAN	182,276	29 ORMA	158,993
DEGODIA	515,583	ORMA (SO STATED)	92,086
GURREH	602,174	GALLA	932
HAWIYAH	4,412	WARDEI	65,975
ISAAK	7,417	30 RENDILE	96,313
LEYSAN	11,636	31 SAKUYE	27,006
MURULE	139,097		
OGADEN	697,566		
CORNER TRIBES	40,640		

Table 2.31: Distribution of Population by Ethnicity/Nationality

ETHNICITY/NATIONALITY	TOTAL	ETHNICITY/NATIONALITY	TOTAL
32 SAMBURU	333,471	NATIONALITY	
33 SUBA	157,787	NON-KENYANS	463,562
34 SWAHILI	56,074	1 EAST AFRICANS	226,372
SWAHILI (SO STATED)	17,232	BURUNDI	13,983
AMU	5,143	RWANDA	8,729
BARAWA	4,633	SOUTH SUDAN	62,894
CHITUNDI	319	UGANDA	95,938
JOMVU	4,728	UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	44,828
MUNYOYAYA/MUYEYAYA	15,024	2 OTHER AFRICANS	144,646
MVITA	402	3 AMERICANS	13,781
NGARE	1,057	4 ASIANS	42,972
PATE	1,120	5 CARIBBEANS	241
SIU	1,016	6 EUROPEANS	26,753
VUMBA	1,449	7 OCEANIA AND PACIFIC	1,187
WACHANGAMWE	1,344	8 OTHER NATIONALITY	1,338
WAFAZA	69	9 STATELESS (GALJEEL, SHONA, WAPEMBA, PARE E.T.C)	6,272
WAKATWA	113		
WAKILIFI	685		
WAKILINDINI	642		
WAMTWAPA	240		
WASHAKA	165		
WATANGANA	531		
WATIKUU	162		
35 TAITA	344,415		
36 TAVETA	26,590		
37 TESO	417,670		
38 THARAKA	220,015		
39 TURKANA	1,016,174		
40 WALWANA/MALAKOTE	21,774		
41 WAYYU	3,761		
42 KENYAN ASIANS	47,555		
43 KENYAN AMERICAN	596		
44 KENYAN ARABS	59,021		
45 KENYAN EUROPEAN	1,738		
KENYAN SO STATED	183,023		

- What is a tribe for purposes of recognition is it a merit criteria or political influence

- Stateless - what is stateless

- Code }
- Code 2J }