

Issue 03 · 9th October 2026. Legal and policy developments shaping Kwale County, and what they mean for the sectors that drive it. This newsletter tracks new, upcoming and ongoing legal and policy decisions affecting Kwale County, and what they mean economically across key sectors.

Plant Protection Mandate

The Plant Protection Bill, passed by the National Assembly and currently under review in the Senate establishes some core framework objectives.

This Bill makes the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) the national plant protection authority, tightens import and export controls, creates emergency response machinery, gives counties defined surveillance and enforcement duties, and raises penalties. The stated regulatory drivers are food security, keeping export markets open, and meeting international phytosanitary standards.

Key County mandates:

Enforcing pest containment directives by mapping, monitoring and reporting local pest outbreaks

Establish grassroots plant clinics to support local farmers with extension services

Establishment of the *County Plant Health Emergency Response Committee* which will manage the elimination of emerging highly destructive pests

County health inspectors who will police and local plant nurseries and tissue cultures.

County Impact

Small-holder farmers must apply for an official seedling trading license and additionally prove their source materials are disease-free.

The Lunga Lungu border is a busy transit-point for agricultural goods from Tanzania and other southern African countries. The Bill's proposal of strict

enforcement will mean longer waiting times and delayed deliveries for non-compliant traders.

Land owners and occupiers will be required to report to county authorities the presence of noxious weeds and migratory pests on their land.

Failure to clear designated pests will attract non-compliance penalties that include fines and/or imprisonment.

The overall administrative and operational costs is likely to impact the cost of food which makes this Bill's progress significant on our watch list.