

SUNDAY  
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## Deadline for taskforce on Media Act changes



Hon Lugano Lilechi –MP for Shinyalu (left), and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Communications Hon Eng. James Rege MP for Karachuonyo (centre) were present at the Mombasa workshop 9-12 October. Photo/FILE

By MATHIAS RINGA

A taskforce set up to make amendments to the Media Act 2007 is expected to produce a final draft in a month. Engineer James Rege, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Communications, said the taskforce will submit the draft to his committee for approval, which will forward it to Information minister Samuel Poghisio for tabling in Parliament.

“We have also agreed that the FOI document is small enough to be passed quickly in Parliament, but big enough to serve the country,” he said.

He said the Media Act needed to be amended to enable the Media Council of Kenya to get funding from the Exchequer.

The draft is also expected to make recommendations enhancing the regulatory role of the Media Council and self-regulation in the media.

### **Locking out**

The MP said there was need to clarify the role of the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) as, currently, the Act says it as a public broadcaster, locking out other broadcasters.

The taskforce was launched by Media Council of Kenya chairman Wachira Waruru last Friday.