



The **SENATE** Weekly

For the Welfare of Society and the Just government of the People
Issue No.001

Senate Heads to Turkana County

House gives nod for first 'Senate Mashinani' under 4th Senate to be held in Turkana County in September

The 4th Senate has settled on Turkana County as the host of its first round of sittings and proceedings to be held outside Parliament Buildings in Nairobi, as it moves to entrench Senate Mashinani.

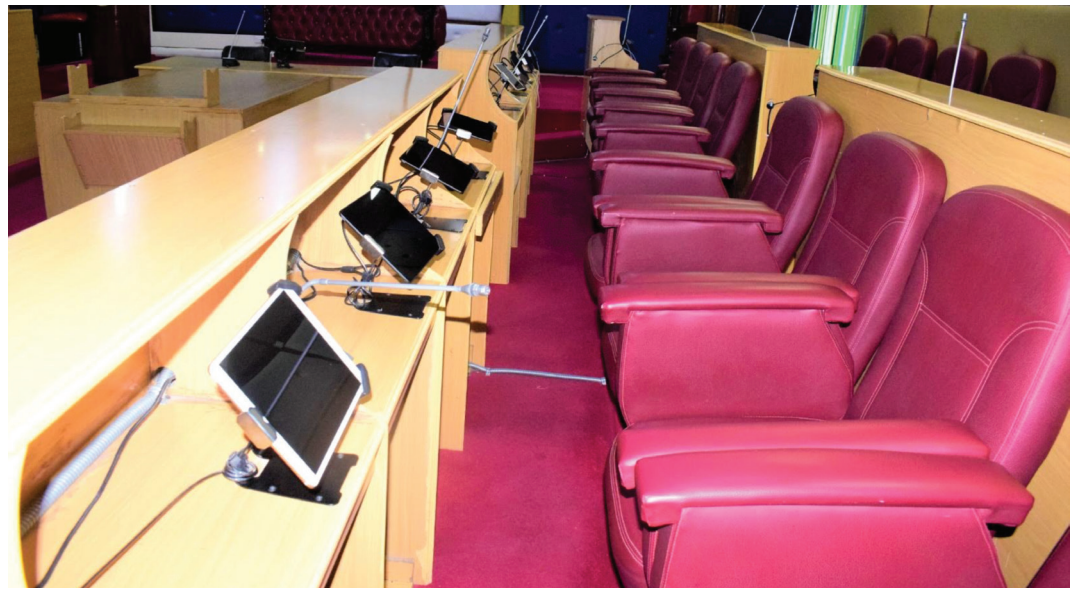
Senate Mashinani is a deliberate and bold move by the Senate to enhance public awareness about its role and that of Parliament at large, by taking its activities to a chosen county at a set time.

It enables the Senate to highlight existing and

PAGE 2 →



The official procession of the Speaker of the Senate, Rt. Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi, makes its way to the Chamber on Wednesday, May 31, 2023



County Assembly of Turkana that will host the Senate in September

new opportunities for engagement in its legislative undertakings besides developing and strengthening partnerships with county governments, with the key objective of nourishing Devolution. On Tuesday, May 30, 2023, Senators passed a motion containing a resolution by the Senate Business Committee that settled on Turkana as the host County for Senate Mashinani from September 25th - 29th, 2023.

Previous sessions of Senate Mashinani have been held in Uasin Gishu and Kitui Counties in September, 2018 and in September, 2019, respectively. The sittings were suspended in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022, following the outbreak of Covid-19.

According to the Senate Business Committee of the 4th Senate, the sittings are meant to provide interlinkage between the National and County levels of government. They are intended to enhance interaction between the Senate and county governments as a means of bringing the Senate closer to the public.

The Committee observed that there have been many positive outcomes as a result of holding the sittings in counties.

The motion was submitted to the House by the Senate Majority Leader Senator Aaron Cheruiyot, read by the Majority Chief Whip Senator Dr. Boni Khalwale and seconded by Senator Tabitha Mutinda.

Senator Mutinda said it was important for the Senate to go to the grassroots as this enhances its interaction with ordinary Kenyans in the counties whose interests it is constitutionally mandated to serve and protect.

Senate Minority Leader Senator Stewart Madzayo said the sittings in Turkana County will create an opportunity for locals to understand and appreciate how the Senate works and seek clarifications from Members and staff on any matter. Senator Samson Cherarkey weighed in with the view that sessions in counties would also accord the Senate an opportunity to acquaint itself with the challenges that Kenyans are faced with especially regarding Devolution.

Nyamira Senator Okong'o Omogeni commended the Senate Business Committee for settling on Turkana County as the host of this year's Senate Mashinani revealing that Turkana County

is very strategic to the country's interests given its abundant natural wealth. These include oil, underground water and land, which he argued can be tapped to transform the economy of Kenya.

In addition, Sen. Omogeni said the sittings in Turkana will provide a noble opportunity for Senators to carry out an audit on the impact of Devolution in the region.

"This is a golden opportunity for us to go and see whether what is on paper is really the picture on the ground," said Sen. Omogeni.

Senators Jackson Mandago, Dr. Oburu Odinga, Fatuma Dullo, Wakoli Wafula, Catherine Mumma, Betty Montet, Shakila Abdala, Edwin Sifuna, Mohamed Faki, Esther Okenyuri, Okoiti Omtatah, Hamida Kibwana, Hezena Lemaletian, Joyce Korir and Joe Nyutu all gave their contributions supporting the motion.

Others of the same opinion were Sen. William Kisang, Sen. Mohamed Abbas, Sen. Gataya Mo'fire, Sen. Karen Nyamu, Sen. Geoffrey Osotsi and Sen. Wakili Hillary Sigei.

The lawmakers said there was need to erase lingering confusion among Kenyans on the functions of the Senate, as some readily blame

Senators for failing to issue bursaries, construct roads and address water supply challenges, which is not their work. The grassroots sittings, therefore, provide an ideal forum for making these clarifications to Kenyans.

A number of the Senators even urged the Senate Business Committee to consider increasing the number of Senate Mashinani sittings from once per year to either 4 or 5 times per year. This will enable the Senate to interact with Kenyans in more counties to address their concerns.

On March 8, 2023, the House set the ground for this fresh round of Senate Mashinani, with a resolution to hold weeklong plenary and committee sittings in the counties in the month of September in every Session of the 4th Senate, except during an election year.

Consequently, the Office of the Clerk of the Senate proceeded to carry out a reconnaissance in Marsabit, Mandera, Isiolo, Turkana, Kisii, Busia, Laikipia, Nyamira and Taita Taveta Counties in April 2023 to determine their level of preparedness to host the Senate for a week. The report was then submitted to the Senate Business Committee for consideration and decision.

A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE,

© Copyright 2023

Email: Senate.weekly@parliament.go.ke

Editor: Mark Agutu

Team Leader: Lucianne Limo

Writers

- Otiato Andayi
- Njeri Manga
- Ibrahim Oruko
- Josphat Ngeno

- Felistus Mutune
- Stanley Gekore
- Nandemu Barasa
- Juliet Masinde
- Violet Nalianya
- Lorenju Lemetek
- Eugene Otieno

Hansard: Erick Kipkoach

Photographers:

James Kimiti Nyambura
Foreman Scalon Okumba

Designed by:

KENYA LITERATURE BUREAU

Publishers and Printers

Belle-Vue Area, KLB Road, Off Popo Road

P. O. Box 30022-00100, GPO Nairobi,

Telephone: +254 (20) 3541196/7, Mobile:

+254 711 318 188/ +254 732 344 599

Email: info@klb.co.ke

Website: www.klb.co.ke

Firm commitment to reconciliation and peace in Kenya mark first Prayer event under 13th Parliament

Calls for peace, unity and forgiveness and a firm commitment to reconciliation were the highlights of the 20th National Prayer Breakfast convened by the Parliament of Kenya on Wednesday, June 7th, 2023 at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi.

The event, whose theme was "Reconciliation to God and Man", provided the ideal platform for sober reflection, deliberations and consensus on the need for reconciliation, coming against a backdrop of searing debate on a number of issues at the national level.

In his remarks, Speaker of the Senate Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi, who was the co-host, said Kenya remained on tract in its national unity and prosperity quest and commended President Ruto for remaining steadfast in promoting unity in the country since he assumed leadership of the country in September last year. He praised the Organising committee and the entire group and sponsors for making it a great success.

President William Samoei Ruto, his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua and National Assembly Speaker, Rt Hon



Speaker of the Senate Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi addresses the National Prayer Breakfast.

(Dr) Moses Wetangula, in their remarks, appealed to leaders and Kenyans to embrace reconciliation as the anchor for prosperity and happiness in the country.

In his keynote remarks and preaching, Lord Dr. Michael Hastings from the House of Lords, UK, commended leaders for organizing the event which he described as a crucial platform for rallying the entire country to peace, unity and reconciliation.



President William Samoei Ruto, First Lady Rachel Ruto, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Madam Dorcus Gachagua, Senate Speaker Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi and National Assembly Speaker Rt Hon Moses Wetang'ula during the National Prayer Breakfast.

Pomp and colour marked the entire event, while Bunge Fellowship Choir, all cheery and colourfully attired, stole the show with uplifting songs of worship. Individual Members of Parliament and Senate led in reading scripture and prayers, as did representatives of all the other religions.

Recommendations from the

National Conversation held the previous day, were shared with the delegates. They included commitments to reconciliation among Kenyans and promotion of dialogue and human rights by government agencies and enforcement of the rule of law and implementation of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission's report.

Senate leadership, media in solidarity retreat

The Senate and journalists on the parliamentary beat have committed to work closely and complementarily in the discharge their constitutional mandates for the interest of the public.

As the societal watchdog, the media has the role of the holding all arms and institutions of government, the Senate included - to account while serving as a platform for their robust engagement with the public

This consensus was arrived at during a two-day retreat for the Senate Leadership and members of the Kenya Parliamentary Journalists Association (KPJA) held from Friday June 9 - 11, 2023 in Mombasa.

Speaker of the Senate Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi and Clerk of the Senate and Secretary of the Parliamentary Service Commission Jeremiah Nyegenye led the Senate team in the engagements with the journalists, culminating in the

bold steps that promise to take the working relations to new heights.

In his remarks at the opening of the retreat, Speaker Kingi, who is the co-patron of the KPJA, commended the journalists for being key allies in the execution of Senate's mandate especially implementation of Devolution and assured them of his unwavering support.

"I give you my assurance that under my watch as Speaker of the 4th Senate, we will nurture this partnership and fully exploit it in the interest of our people, we must make interaction between us the norm and not the exception, to ensure journalists assigned to cover the Senate and Parliament get the requisite support and space to work effectively," emphasized Speaker Kingi.

He further challenged the media practitioners to use the great influence on their platforms to spearhead public awareness campaigns on climate mitigation and the need to build resilience

among Kenyans for survival.

The Minority Leader Sen. (Rtd) Justice Stewart Madzayo, reminded journalists that they have a huge responsibility in Kenya of ensuring that the country does not go astray by boldly highlighting any ills in the running of the nation.

KPJA Chairperson and NTV reporter Duncan Khaemba appealed to

the Senate to facilitate easy entry of journalists to Parliament for them to work effectively.

He said the journalists were determined to carry out their duties objectively. Even as they seek good working relations with the Senate, the media will keep its autonomy and execute their mandate boldly and independently, he added.



Senate Speaker Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi ((fourth right, seated) with the Senate Leadership and Kenya Parliamentary Journalists Association members in this group photo during the retreat in Mombasa on Friday June 9th, 2023.

CPAC Roots for Evaluation of Laws on County Financing to Determine their Impact on the Implementation of Devolution



Left to Right: Senators, Samson Cherkei (Nandi County), John Methu (Nyandarua) Moses Kajwang (Chairperson, Homabay), Mwenda Gataya (Tharaka Nithi) and Richard Onyonka (Kisii) during a CPAC engagement.

The County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) wants Parliament to carry out a legislative impact assessment on laws that deal with financial management to hasten the implementation of devolution.

It is been 10 years since devolution was first implemented and the committee believes time has come to examine the efficacy of the laws.

The laws in focus are the Public Finance Management Act, Public Audit Act and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act.

In a statement to the House, Homa Bay Senator Moses Kajwang, who chairs the committee, said counties are going through financial challenges mainly because of the



Isiolo Senator Fatuma Dullo during the CPAC proceedings

weakness inherent in the laws.

"It is time to ask ourselves whether these laws are fit for purpose or whether this House needs to amend them to reflect the realities that county governments find themselves in," Senator Kajwang told the House.

The comments were part of the statement of the committee as it detailed its activities for the six-month period, starting from October 2022 and March.

CPAC is created under Standing Order 193. Among other things, the Committee exercises oversight over national revenue allocated to the county governments, examines the reports of the Auditor-General on the annual accounts of the county governments and special reports of the Auditor-General on county government funds.

Standing Order 56(1)(b) mandates chairpersons of committee shall to make statement relating to activities of their committees, at least once in every three months.

The committee held a total of 30 meetings during the six months period, starting on October 25, 2022 to March 30, 2023 as part of its oversight and representation roles.

It interrogated and prepared reports of 13 county entities, mainly county executives and assemblies, which are to be submitted to the House for debate.

Senators Call For Ceasefire in Border Dispute Between Tharaka Nithi And Meru Counties

The Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and National Integration has pleaded with residents of Tharaka Nithi and Meru Counties to try and co-exist peacefully as they seek to find a permanent solution to the long-standing border dispute.

The Committee urged the two warring communities, who have for years, been embroiled in a conflict over land and boundary ownership to embrace unity and live as brothers and sisters.

"We have come here to ask you to live in harmony with your neighbors. You are all Kenyans and you all enjoy the rights enjoyed by citizens of this country. We want to see a long-lasting solution to this border dispute," Senator Beth Syengo said.

Tharaka Nithi and Meru counties have had a long-standing land dispute over the ownership of Kithino, Kianjai, and Kathwana

,Njoguni and Gatithini where clashes are witnessed frequently over land disputes.

Other areas along the border that experience land disputes include Turima, Karoco, Mionponi and Tunyai among others.

The matter has also caused tension and conflict between the members of the two counties, with some claiming that the areas belong to Tharaka Nithi while others argue that they belong to Meru.

The boundary dispute has existed along the border of the two counties with residents engaging in violent fights with scores of people being killed and others injured.

Several schools and churches have also been torched during the clashes between the two counties. The Committee which was on a fact-finding visit to Tharaka Nithi



Senators Joseph Githuku(R) James Lomenen (2ndR) Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire(Centre) and Betty Montet(2nd L) who are members of the Senate Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and National Integration during a recent meeting with the public in Tharaka Nithi.

expressed regret that the conflict has been ongoing for several years.

The Senators got the opportunity to listen to aggrieved residents in Machabini Sub Location in Tharaka Nithi. The Committee will also meet with residents of Meru County to listen to their grievances with an aim of finding a permanent solution.

The residents pleaded with the Committee to ensure that they are

issued with the title deeds of the land they are occupying.

The area Senator, Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire asked the Interior CS Prof. Kithure Kindiki to set up a police post in Tharaka Nithi to tighten security situation in the area.

Senators Joseph Githuku (Lamu) James Lomenen (Turkana) and Betty Montet, all pledged to work together with security agents in the region to bring harmony in the two counties.

Trade Committee in fact-finding mission at trouble-ridden Drumvale Farmers Cooperative Society



Senator Andrew Okiya Omtatah, Senator Lenku Ole Kanar Seki (chair) and Senator Agnes Kavindu Muthama during the committee session.

The Senate Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism Chaired by Kajiado Senator Lenku Ole Kanar Seki embarked on a fact-finding visit to Machakos County on the

matter of liquidation of Drumvale Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited presented to the Senate by Machakos County Senator Agnes Kavindu Muthama.

The Committee kicked off its visit with a Courtesy call to the Office of the Governor Machakos County, H.E. Wavinya Ndeti, and Machakos County Assembly before proceeding to Drumvale to meet members of the aforementioned Farmers' Cooperative Society.

In her Statement, Senator Agnes Muthama had requested the Ministry to apprise the Senate on the status of the revocation Notice of Drumvale Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited as per Gazette Notice No. 8427 of 6th July 2022; state the status of convening members of the said Society as directed to the Director of Cooperatives, Nairobi City County by the Commissioner for Cooperative Development in his letter dated 9th September 2022

and lastly apprise the Senate on any malpractices noted in the liquidation process proposing disciplinary actions on the culpable officer.

The Committee had a productive engagement with the second and third generation members of the Cooperative Society since most of the first generation members of the Sacco have since passed on. Members of the Society asked the Committee to intervene to have their properties that were taken over by the liquidator reverted back to the Society for proper subdivision and sharing as they have suffered for far too long.

The Committee assured Drumvale Farmers' Cooperative Society members that it will relentlessly follow up on this matter with the relevant authorities with a view to having it resolved as soon as possible.

Help us get title deeds for Kisaju plots, petitioners tell Senators

Senate Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing chaired by Kiambu Senator Karungo Thangwa held a meeting with Petitioners in respect of petition concerning access to title deeds for properties bought at Jamii Bora Estate, Kisaju, Kajiado County.

The committee heard that the petitioners own 900 homes, 500 commercial units, churches, a Mosque, public primary and secondary school, public borehole and playgrounds.

Since moving into Jamii Bora Estate in 2008, the petitioners have not been issued with title deeds for their properties. The petitioners were residing in slums of Kibera, Mathare and Korogocho before moving to Kisaju.

The residents of Jamii Bora Estate in Kisaju paid a deposit of 10% for three and four bedrooms units which were being sold for Ksh. 350,000/- and Ksh. 450,000/- respectively.

Most of the units in the Jamii Bora Estate are owned by women from slums who saved through women help groups better known as chamas.

Mr. Lord Torome who is a Kenya Defence Forces soldier said that he bought a house in Kisaju Estate for Ksh. 2.4 millions while fighting for Kenya in Somalia but he has never been allocated a house nor received a refund from the developer.

"I am 87 years old and I have never received a title deed for my house in Kisaju, I may die before seeing my title deed, what inheritance will I leave to my grandchildren?" said Mary Wambui.

The petitioners told the Senate Committee that Ms. Sofia Ingrid Munro through her various developer companies has failed to give title deeds to houses built in Jamii Bora Estate since she started selling the houses from the year 2008.

Senator Thangwa invited the developer of Jamii Bora Estate, Ms. Sofia Ingrid Munro who was present to appear before the Senate Committee during its subsequent sitting in Nairobi to shed more light on the matter.

"I have spoken to the County Commissioner of Kajiado and requested him not to let the police officers to harass the residents of Jamii Bora Estate until the Senate Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing determines the dispute." said Kajiado Senator Seki Lenku.

Retired Justice Sen. Stewart Madzayo said that the Senate Committee must conclusively deal with the title deeds issue of the Jamii Bora Estate, justice must be done for residents of Kisaju to live peaceful.



Top: Senate Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing chaired by Kiambu Senator Karungo Thangwa(2nd L) in a public meeting in Kajiado County. Members present were; Vice Chairperson Sen. Peris Tobiko(L), Senate Minority Leader Hon. Stewart Madzayo (2nd R) and the host Senator Seki Lenku. In the second photo, members of the public keenly follow proceedings of the committee.

Committee grills Interior Minister, urges the public to volunteer information on activities of Shakahola pastor

The ad hoc committee investigating the deaths of followers of Goodnews International Ministries sect in Shakahola Village, Kilifi County, has called on members of the public to volunteer information on the activities of Pastor Paul Mackenzie.

The Committee, which officially is known as the Ad Hoc Committee Investigating the Proliferation of Religious Organisations, is determined to unravel the truth on the macabre killings that have shocked the country.

Tana River Senator Danson Mungatana, who chairs the committee, assured the public that the committee will get to the bottom of the matter, promising to make recommendations that will lead to legislative intervention that will ensure that no deaths are reported as a result of religious beliefs.

"If you have any information on this matter you can write to the Senate," said Senator Mungatana in his plea to the public.

"You don't have to wait for this committee to move to your area. We will respond to the information we receive; meet anybody with information; visit all the places of interest in this matter; go to very corner of this republic because we want to hear what people are saying and get all the relevant information. As a committee, want to make solid recommendations on this issue."

Senator Mungatana was speaking on Friday, May 26, 2023, soon after the committee grilled Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki over the killings.

The committee was established by the resolution of the House through the motion sponsored by Majority Whip Boni Khalwale.

Apart from Prof Kindiki, the committee has held meetings with Attorney General Justin Muturi under whose docket religious groups are registered and regulated.

It has also visited Kilifi County where it held sessions with the county security team, religious leaders, civil society groups, Red Cross, which is playing a big role in the rescue efforts, and members of the public.

The committee also visited Shakahola Forest, the scene of the macabre killings that have shocked the country not so much to their chilliness but also to sheer numbers.



1. Ad-hoc Committee Chairman, Hon. Danson Mungatana and members; Sen. Veronica Maina (L), Sen. Veronica Maina. Sen. Eddie Oketch (2nd R) and Sen. William Kiptumo get a briefing from a security officer at Shakahola.
2. Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki when he appeared before the Ad-hoc Committee on May 26, 2023.
3. Ad-hoc Committee Chairman, Danson Mungatana flanked by members during the session with the Interior CS.
4. Committee Members see off the CS at Parliament Buildings.

Legislation: 4th Senate gets down to business with 28 Bills in six months, as county fund law is prioritised

A Bill to amend the Constitution, to actualise the ever-elusive two third gender rule, is among the 28 proposed legislation being considered by the 4th Senate since its inauguration in September 2022.

The Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2023, sponsored by Nominated Senator Beth Syengo, seeks to implement Article 27 (8) of the Constitution which provides that neither gender should have more than two-thirds in both appointive and elective positions.

Senator Syengo's Bill is the latest in the many failed attempts to implement a key constitutional requirement that has proved a hot political potato since the promulgation of the 2010 constitution.

The Bill, which was published on April 13, 2023, is proposing the creation of special seats in both the Senate and National Assembly, that will ensure that the gender principle is realised in Parliament.

The Bill is currently before the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights which is undertaking public participation that is also a mandatory



President William Samoei Ruto assents to the County Governments Additional Allocation Bill, 2023 at State House, Nairobi. The occasion was witnessed by Senate Speaker Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi. Others present were Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, National Assembly Speaker, Rt Hon Moses Wetangula, Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot and Mr Jeremiah Nyegenye, Clerk of the Senate.

requirement of the constitution.

The rules provide that a Bill to amend the Constitution comes for second reading 90 days after its introduction. This means that the Bill will come for the second reading (debate) on August 1, 2023.

Of the remaining 27 Bills, the County Governments Additional Allocation Bill, 2023, was passed and, after concurrence of the National Assembly, was assented to by President William Ruto.

During this period – September 2022 to April 2023 – the House had also

considered and passed two National Assembly Bills, the Division of Revenue Bill, 2023, and the Independent Electoral Boundaries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which are part of the Kenyan laws after they the President gave his assent.

TRANSITION

Tributes pour in as Parliament mourns Marya Adjibodou

Intelligent, articulate, diligent and committed parliamentary officer.

These were just but a few of the accolades that poured in from both sides of the Chamber on Wednesday June 7th, 2023 as Senators paid glowing tribute to Mrs Marya Elizabeth Adjibodou, a senior parliamentary officer. Mrs Adjibodou, the beloved daughter of former Vice President Moody Awori, passed on in the evening of Tuesday, June 6th, 2023.

The Members had the opportunity to pass their condolences moments after Speaker Amason Jeffah Kingi, in the Communication from the Chair, broke the tragic news as the Wednesday afternoon session commenced.

"Honourable Senators, it is with deep sorrow that I notify

you of the untimely demise of Mrs. Marya Elizabeth Adjibodou, Principal Clerk Assistant I, P/ No. 99003735, serving in the Directorate of Legislative and Procedural Services in the Senate. Mrs. Adjibodou passed away in the evening of Tuesday, 6th June, 2023," said Speaker Kingi.

He described Mrs. Adjibodou as an exceptional parliamentary officer who personified commitment and diligence in Service.

"Her death is indeed a big loss to the Parliamentary Service, the Senate in particular and the wider parliamentary fraternity. Our thoughts and prayers are now with her family, friends and colleagues at this most tragic time," added Speaker Kingi.

Similar messages of condolences came from National Assembly Speaker Rt Hon Moses Wetangula and Clerk of the Senate and

Secretary to the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) Jeremiah Nyegenye, who both praised Mrs Adjibodou, for her illustrious career in the PSC.

In the Chamber, some of the Senators brimmed with emotion as they reminisced their memorable interactions with Mrs Adjibodou, in the course of parliamentary duty.

Many recalled with deep gratitude, how Mrs Adjibodou encouraged and motivated them to take up their senatorial roles, particularly committee assignments, with pride and boldness.

A requiem mass will be held for Mrs Adjibodou at Consolata Shrine in Nairobi on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. She will be laid to rest in Samia, Busia County on Friday, June 16, 2023.

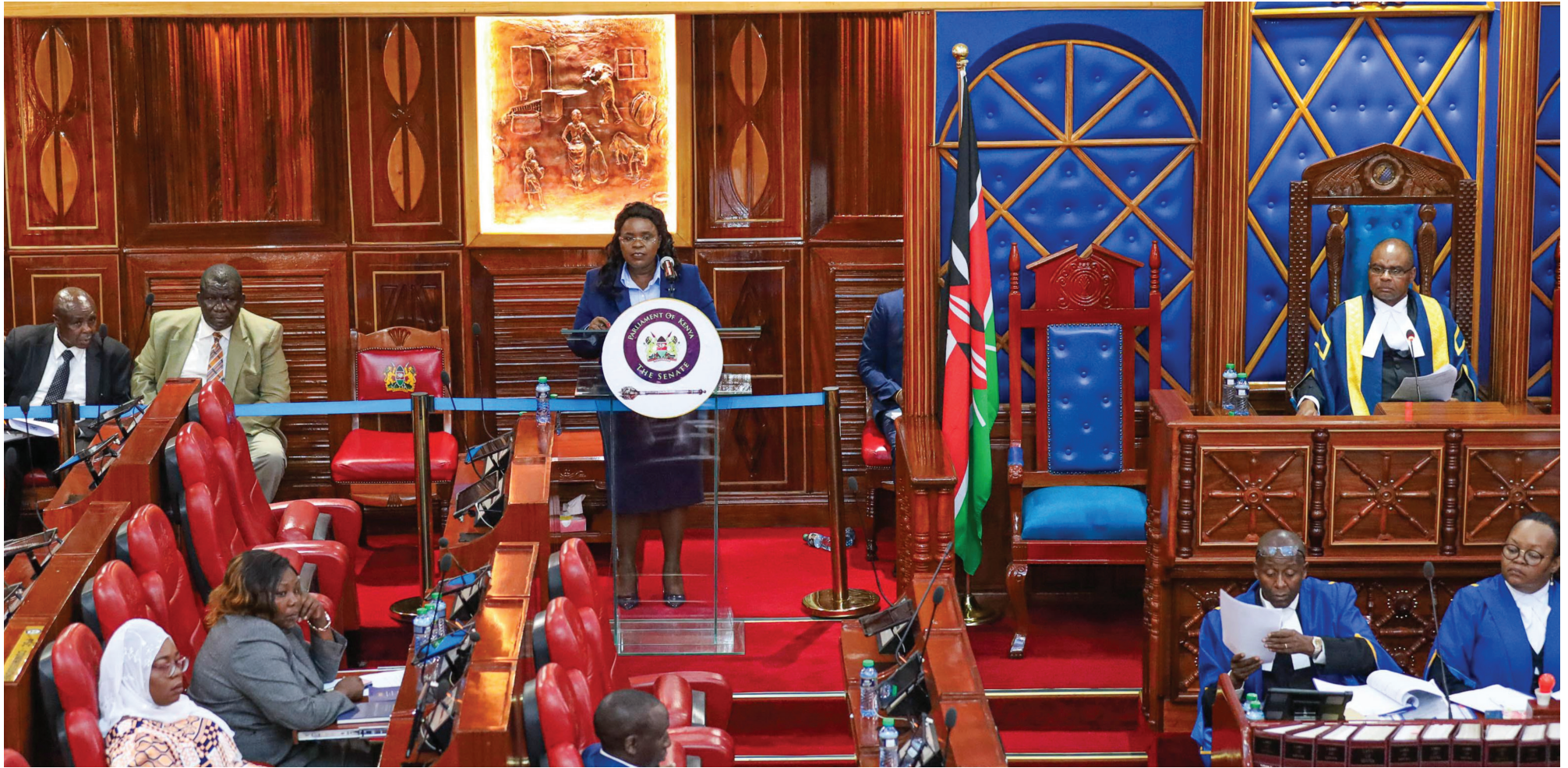




1. Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Hon. Kathuri Murungi presides over deliberations with Hon. Dorina Hernandez Palomino (Second L) President of the Chamber for Bolivar County and her delegation at the Senate. Present were, Senator Karen Nyamu (R), Senator William Cheptumo (2nd R), Senator Veronica Maina (3rd R) and Clerk of the Senate, Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye.
2. Pupils from Albright Junior School in Tassia Nairobi County, during a visit of the Senate on 31st May 2023. The pupils are members of the school's Journalism Club.
3. Members of Mbogo's Family or Mbari ya Mbogo from Kiambu County present their petition on ownership of a 933.9-acre of land located within Kasarini Estate in Kiambu County before the Senate Lands, Environment and Natural Resources Committee chaired by Nyandarua Senator John Methu on Wednesday May 31, 2023 in Nairobi. The disputed land, with vast commercial and residential investments, is estimated to be worth over Sh100 billion.
4. A group of Kenya University students and officials of the Kenya University Students Association (KUSA) pose for a photo during their visit to the Senate on Wednesday May 31, 2023. They also attended a plenary session of the Senate.
5. Senate Leader of majority Hon Haron Cheruiyot welcomes students and staff of Kericho Day Secondary school to parliament building on 19th April 2023
6. Energy Cabinet Secretary Davies Chirchir appeared before Senate Committee on Energy to make deliberations on Inquiry on reducing high cost of electricity in Kenya. He was accompanied by the Principal Secretary for Energy, Alex Wachira.
7. Rt. Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi, and the Senate leadership at a meeting with representatives of Kenya Private Sector Alliance on 28th April 2023.

1. Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Hon. Kathuri Murungi presides over deliberations with Hon. Dorina Hernandez Palomino (Second L) President of the Chamber for Bolivar County and her delegation at the Senate. Present were, Senator Karen Nyamu (R), Senator William Cheptumo (2nd R), Senator Veronica Maina (3rd R) and Clerk of the Senate, Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye.

Holding Executive to account: Senators take oversight role a notch higher as plenary sessions with Cabinet Secretaries kick off



Tourism Cabinet Secretary Peninah Malonza responds to Members' questions during a Senate plenary session presided over by Speaker of the Senate Rt. Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi. Below, Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue economy and Maritime responds to members questions touching on his docket.

Cabinet Secretaries have since April been appearing before the Senate plenary every Wednesday to answer questions regarding their ministries. This came in the wake of the amendment of Standing Order 25 which sought to bolster the oversight role of the Senate by ensuring that CSs appear in person during plenary meetings to respond to queries pertaining their ministries.

The Standing Order 51, which was amended in March, 2023, now lays the ground for appearance by CSs before the Senate, procedure for asking them questions, contents of questions, response to questions by CSs and action should a Cs not heed the summons.

The amendment enhances the work of the Senate in holding the Executive accountable and accommodates President William Ruto request at the opening of the 13th parliament on Thursday, September 29, 2022 for a clearly defined plan that would see Cabinet Secretaries explain to Members how they are implementing

government policies.

The oversight role is also consolidated in Article 153 (3) of the Constitution which permits Senate or National Assembly committees to sermon CSs. It states that "A Cabinet Secretary shall attend before a committee of the National Assembly, or the Senate, when required by the committee, to answer any question concerning a matter for which the Cabinet Secretary is responsible".

Professor Kithure Kindiki who is in charge of Interior and National Administration, Hon. Zachariah Njeru who superintends Lands, Housing and Urban Development Ministry, Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen who oversees Roads and Transport docket as well as Hon. Peninah Malonza who is at the helm of the Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage ministry were the first batch to appear before the Senate.

More are expected to have their turn before the Senate as the House resumes its sittings on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 after a two-week recess.



Assembly address: Leader of the Minority Party pledges to lobby for increased funding to Counties, urges assemblies to remain vigilant



Leader of the Minority Party in the Senate Hon Stewart Madzayo, who is the Senator of Kilifi County addresses Kilifi County Assembly on April 19th, 2023.

Leader of the Minority Party in the Senate, Hon Stewart Madzayo, has hailed the Kilifi County people for electing as their Senator for a third term in a row, pledging to use this opportunity to push for more funds to the county to boost development.

In his address to the Kilifi

County Assembly, Hon Madzayo declared his readiness to serve the people of Kilifi effectively and discharge his role as a Senator as spelt out in Article 96 of the Constitution.

"I am deeply humbled by your support, and I want to assure you that I am working day and night to make sure that our concerns

are heard and addressed," he told the Assembly, whose current Speaker in Hon Teddy Mwambire.

The senator pledged to relentlessly push to ensure more revenue is allocated to counties to enable them provide services and roll out projects and programmes and ensure Devolution thrives for the benefit of Kenyans.

Referring to Commission of Revenue Allocation (CRA) records, Senator Madzayo said Kilifi County has seen its allocation rise progressively Sh6.4 billion in financial year 2014/15, to Sh11.7 billion in financial year 2021 / 2022.

This makes Kilifi County Government to hold the 5th position, out of the 47 Counties in the country in allocations from the National Government.

"This achievement did not come easy but through hard work and intensive lobbying. As your Senator and the Leader of Minority, I have the determination, motivation and the experience to continue to ensure that this increased flow is maintained and Kilifi County remains among the top five counties in receiving the highest revenue allocations."

The Senator urged the County to enhance its absorption rate for development funds from the current 20 per cent, as reflected in a report by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) which also lists Nairobi, Isiolo, Machakos, Turkana, Taita Taveta, Nakuru, and Elgeyo Marakwet counties in this category.

He lauded Kilifi Governor, H.E Gideon Maitha Mung'aro, for his vision that prioritises Health Services, Quality Education, Water and Agriculture, Tourism and Culture, Commerce and Industry which, he said will transform Kilifi.

This week in history



"I come from a County that neighbours many conservancies. However, the challenge is that the communities neighbouring those conservancies do not even know the importance of those conservancies. That requires a bit of capacity building so that members of the public can appreciate the wild animals and the conservancies".

Senator Fatuma Dullo

Contributing to a Petition seeking Financial Support to Wildlife Conservancies.

Wednesday, June 13th, 2018



"Kenya has got a very small fraction of the lake. Kenya should demonstrate that they value this jewel.; the small part of the lake which is within the borders of Kenya. Uganda has a large part of the lake; Kenya's part of the lake is not even a quarter of what is within the territory of Uganda.... However there are constant problems involving fishermen from the surrounding counties of Busia, Siaya, Kisumu, Homa Bay and Migori".

Senator James Orengo

Contribution to debate on a statement on the arrest of fishermen and AP officers in Lake Victoria.

Wednesday, June 13th, 2018



"I can imagine the level of chaos that must have been there when different people are representing the county; one lawyer comes with one idea; another lawyer comes with another idea. That can create some contradiction and disharmony in the way legal matters are addressed".

Senator Agnes Zani

Contributing to debate on Office of County Attorney Bill (Second Reading)

Thursday, June 14th, 2018

Waziri wa Fedha Afika Mbele ya Kamati ya Fedha na Bajeti Katika Bunge la Seneti kuhusu ugavi wa mapato

Waziri wa Fedha Profesa Njuguna Ndung'u alifika mbele ya Kamati ya Fedha na Bajeti katika Bunge la Seneti kuangazia Mswada uliochapishwa wa Ugavi wa Mapato kwenye Kaunti wa mwaka 2023 ambao ni Mswada nambari kumi na sita wa mwaka 2023.

Waziri Profesa Njuguna alieleza hitaji la kuwepo kwa mpangilio mahsusi utakaofanikisha kutengwa kwa shilingi milioni mia nne ishirini na tano kushughulikia huduma za maktaba ambazo zimehamishiwa kwenye serikali za kaunti.

Aliambia kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta wa Madera Ali Roba kuwa kwa sasa Kaunti 33 zina huduma za maktaba na hivyo fedha hizo zinapaswa kuelekezwa kwenye Kaunti kuwashughulikia wafanyakazi wa huduma za maktaba kwenye Kaunti husika.

Maseneta wanachama wa Kamati hiyo walimshauri waziri kuhakikisha wizara yake inaandaa mbinu muafaka ya namna fedha hizo zitapatikana na kuelekezwa kwenye kaunti.

Vile vile Kamati hiyo ilimtaka Waziri kueleza utaratibu uliowekwa wa

kusambaza fedha za usawazishaji wa maeneo ambazo kwa sasa zimesalia kuwa malimbikizi kwa miaka kadhaa.

Profesa Njuguna alihakikisha kamati hiyo kuwa wizara yake itatoa mpangilio wa usambazaji wa fedha hizo katika kipindi cha wiki moja.

Awali Kamati hiyo ya Fedha na Bajeti iliandaa vikao na Mabunge ya Kaunti ya Madera, Tana River, Wajir na Nairobi kuangazia vipimo vya bajeti kwenye Mabunge hayo ya Kaunti.

Kwenye ujumbe walo, Bunge la Kaunti ya Madera likiongozwa na Spika wa Bunge lilipendekeza nyongeza ya shilingi milioni tisini kwenye kipimo kilichopendekezwa cha shilingi milioni mia tisa na tatu, elfu mia tisa kumi na moja, mia mbili na nne hadi shilingi milioni mia tisa tisini na tatu, elfu mia tisa kumi na moja, mia mbili na nne.

Fedha hizo kulingana na Bunge la Kaunti ya Madera zinakusudiwa kugharamia malipo ya usalama, ununuzi wa samani na vifaa vingine kwenye jumba kuu jipya la waakilishi wadi, bima ya afya kwa

waakilishi wadi na wafanyakazi, malipo kwa wenyeviti, manaibu wenyeviti na wafanyakazi ambao awali idadi yao ilirekodiwa kuwa kiwango cha chini ikilinganishwa na hali halisia.

Bunge hilo liliwaambia Maseneta kuwa nyongeza hiyo aidha itatumika kuongeza ada ya mafuta kwa waakilishi wadi ikizingatiwa upana wa Kaunti ya Madera.

Bunge la Kaunti ya Tana River likiwasilisha ujumbe walo mbele ya Kamati hiyo liliwaomba Maseneta kuzingatia kulipa nyongeza ya shilingi milioni mia moja hamsini, elfu mia tatu thelathini na tisa, mia nne sabini na tisa, fedha ambazo Bunge hilo lilisema zitagharamia ushirikishwaji wa umma, ada ya mafunzo, mikutano, utunzaji na ununuzi wa magari.

Nalo Bunge la Kaunti ya Wajir kupitia kwa Karani walo Shalle Sheikh Mursal liliomba Kamati hiyo ya Fedha na Bajeti kulipa nyongeza ya shilingi milioni mia tano sitini na moja, elfu themanini na nne, mia saba thelathini.

Hela hizo kulingana na Bunge la Kaunti ya Wajir zitatumika kufadhili vikao vya kamati mbali mbali za Bunge la Kaunti, ada ya mafuta, bima ya afya, usalama, mafunzo kwa waakilishi wadi

na wafanyakazi, ushirikishwaji wa umma, mishahara ya wafanyakazi na kukamilishwa kwa makao makuu mapya ya Bunge la Kaunti.

Karani huyo aliwaambia Maseneta kuwa nyongeza hiyo italisaidia Bunge la Kaunti kulipa shilingi milioni sabini na tatu, elfu mia mbili ishirini na nane, mia tatu ishirini ambazo mahakama ililiagiza kuwalipa wafanyakazi baada ya kushinda kesi dhidi ya Bunge hilo mwezi Januari, 2020.

Aidha Bunge hilo lilisema sehemu ya nyongeza hiyo itatumika kununua magari mapya na kulipia gharama ya huduma ya mawakili.

Bunge la Kaunti ya Nairobi nalo liliwasilisha ombi la nyongeza ya shilingi milioni mia tisa linalosema zitatumika kugharamia huduma ya mawakili, ushirikishwaji wa umma, bima ya afya kwa waakilishi wadi na wafanyakazi, nyongeza ya mishahara kwa wafanyakazi, deni ambalo Bunge hilo linadaiwa na Mamlaka ya utozaji ushuru nchini Kenya, mafunzo kwa waakilishi wadi na wafanyakazi na ununuzi wa vifaa na samani.

Likizo Ya Senati

Dhana ya likizo ya bunge ni utamaduni uliojikita sana. Unaotokana na mifumo ya awali ya utawala wa bunge. Asili yake ni nchini Uingereza, ambapo utaratibu huu ulijitokeza kutokana na mahitaji halisi ya wakati huo. Wabunge walilazimika kushughulikia majukumu yao ya bunge huku pia wakikabiliana na majukumu mengine, kama vile kusimamia mali yao, kutoa huduma za kisheria katika maeneo yao, au hata kutoa huduma za kijeshi. Kabla ya kufikiwa kwa mawasiliano na usafiri wa kisasa, kuendelea kuishi katika mji mkuu kwa muda mrefu kulikuwa changamoto kubwa kwa wabunge.

Kenya, baada ya kupata uhuru kutoka Uingereza mnamo 1963, ilianza kutumia utaratibu huu wa likizo ya bunge mara moja. Katika miaka ya awali ya uhuru, likizo hii ilikuwa ya wiki chache tu, lakini imebadilika tangu wakati huo. Kuna likizo ndefu kati ya mwezi Novemba hadi Februari na pia mapumziko mafupi katika mwaka, ambapo Maseneta hawahitajiki kukutana kwa

mikutano na vikao rasmi. Lakini, hii haimaanishi kuwa kazi zote za bunge zinasimama.

Wakati wa mapumziko haya, Maseneta wanapata fursa ya kushiriki katika shughuli mbalimbali. Wanarudi kwenye maeneo yao, wakijadili na wapiga kura wao matatizo na wasiwasi wao, na kutoa taarifa za kazi zao za bunge. Mahusiano haya na wapiga kura ni muhimu sana kwani yanawasaidia Maseneta kubaini mahitaji na maoni ya watu wanaowawakilisha.

Likizo hii pia inatoa nafasi kwa Maseneta kuweka mkazo kwenye kazi za kamati za bunge. Sehemu kubwa ya mchakato wa kisheria inafanyika katika kamati ambapo miswada inachunguzwa, huku masuala yenye utata yakijadiliwa kwa kina. Wakati wa mapumziko, kamati zinaendelea na vikao vyao, kuhakikisha kuwa kazi za bunge zinaendelea na masuala muhimu yanashughulikiwa, hata bila vikao rasmi vya bunge.

Kipindi hiki cha likizo kinawaruhusu Maseneta kufanya utafiti na kuongeza ufahamu wao kuhusu masuala yanayohusiana na majukumu yao. Maandalizi yanayofanywa wakati wa likizo hii ni muhimu sana, kwani yanawapa Maseneta maarifa muhimu na kuwatayasha kufanya maamuzi mazuri katika vikao vijavyo.

Aidha, Maseneta huwa na majukumu mengi ya kiutawala na wajibu ambao wanaweza kuyatekeleza wakati wa mapumziko. Haya yanaweza kujumuisha kuhudhuria mikutano, au kufanya ziara za umma. Pia, Maseneta hushiriki katika shughuli za kisiasa kama vile kuweka mikakati, kufanya kampeni, au kuhudhuria mikutano na hafla za chama.

Kati ya majukumu na wajibu mbalimbali ambao Maseneta hukabiliana nao, kupumzika pia ni muhimu. Ratiba ya bunge inaweza kuwa yenye changamoto, ikiwa na muda mrefu wa kazi na maamuzi yanayohitaji kufanywa chini ya shinikizo kubwa. Mapumziko hutoa nafasi kwa Maseneta kupumzika, kuhakikisha wanarejea kazini wakiwa

wamepata nguvu mpya na tayari kufanya kazi kwa ufanisi.

Licha ya manufaa yake mengi, mapumziko ya bunge yamekumbwa na ukosoaji. Wengine wanaamini kwamba likizo ya miezi miwili ni ndefu mno, na hivyo kusababisha kazi nyingi kuhairishwa. Hata hivyo, ukosoaji huu umepatiwa uvumbuzi kwa kudumisha kazi ya kazi ya bunge kupitia mikutano ya kamati wakati wa kipindi cha mapumziko, kuhakikisha kwamba masuala muhimu yanaendelea kushughulikiwa.

Kwa ufupi, mapumziko ya Seneti yana nafasi muhimu katika kalenda ya Seneti. Yanawapa Maseneta fursa ya kuwasiliana na wapiga kura wao, kuendelea kazi za kamati, kufanya utafiti, na kutekeleza majukumu ya kiutawala, huku pia wakipata nafasi ya kupumzika kutoka kwa majukumu yao ya kisheria. Licha ya ukosoaji kuhusu urefu wake, hatua zimechukuliwa ili kuhakikisha kuwa kazi muhimu za kisheria zinaendelea wakati wa kipindi hiki, kwa hivyo kuhakikisha uendeshaji wa Seneti unafanyika kwa ufanisi.

Senate Leader of Majority on the score sheet as Bunge FC go down fighting in tough clash with TMK Wazee from Kahawa

Bunge FC captain and Leader of the Majority Party in the Senate, Senator Aaron Cheruiyot, slotted in from the spot to open the scoring in a 6 goal-thriller against TMK Wazee FC, played at Nyayo National Stadium on Thursday, May 25.

Just before the break, Martin Njuguna volleyed in from 20 yards to make it 2-0, in a half dominated by the legislators.

However, the visitors returned from the break a vastly rejuvenated side and relentlessly pressed their hosts in search of a goal.

It took the boys from Kahawa Wendani only nine minutes to pull one back and half the deficit. Five minutes later, the proverbial tables turned against the hosts when TMK were awarded a penalty

and Bernard Mang'oli levelled the scores.

In a bid to stem the tide and restore his team's waning fortunes, Bunge FC manager and ex-Kenyan International, Mr George Sunguti, made a flurry of substitutions.

This, however, only catalysed their opponents' momentum in their quest for a lead. It came when TMK midfielder, Wesonga Deshe took advantage of sloppy defending and fired in past the Bunge keeper to complete the comeback.

Twelve minutes from time, Mango'li tapped in a sitter from six yards to complete his hat-trick and put the result beyond doubt.

The outcome notwithstanding, the lawmakers took solace in having pushed the visitors to the wall in the first half, resulting in the 2-0



Majority leader Hon. Aaron Cheruiyot scores his penalty kick in an encounter between Bunge FC and TMK Wazee from Kahawa Wendani.

Jumbos a no-show as Senate hikers storm the mighty Kereita Forest



JUST FOR FUN

The day finally arrived, and my Senate colleagues and I gathered for an epic "hike" at Kereita Forest. We were all pumped up, expecting a thrilling adventure, but boy, were we in for a shock! It was flatter than a pancake.

First things first. The terrain was about as challenging as a walk in the park. We were hoping for some serious mountaineering, rugged paths and all, but instead, it felt like a leisurely stroll.

And don't even get me started on the wildlife encounters! The forest guide promised us an up-close and personal moments with elephants and hyenas. But you know what we got? A herd of sheep minding their own business, chomping on grass, and some folks doing farming stuff. Quite the wild safari, I must say!

Now, let's talk about the cold. Or should I say, the lack thereof? Despite being warned to bundle up in layers thicker than an Arctic explorer's, the weather turned out to be warmer than in Turkana. Mother Nature must have pulled a fast one on us.

But hey, let's focus on the bright side! The one redeeming factor was the food. Oh boy, it was

heavenly! The chefs truly worked their magic and served up a feast fit for royalty. Hats off to them!

Now, here's where things got interesting. While some folks called it a day after the scrumptious lunch, a few brave souls decided to salvage what was left of the so-called hike. We went on a thrilling zip-lining adventure, soaring through the air like a bunch of wild monkeys! It was the highlight of the entire day, hands down.

I want to give a special shoutout to the photographers who captured our "adventure" in stunning high resolution. You guys made us look like fearless explorers, even though we were just ambling around like lost puppies. And a big thanks to Mr. Maru, who took it upon himself to whip us into shape. I hadn't sweated that much in ages!

Lastly, my buddy Mitch, you deserve a round of applause for doing your best to organize this whole outing. But let's aim for a real hiking experience next time, shall we? One that'll get our hearts pumping and our legs wobbling like jelly afterwards. Thanks for the round of applause!

Hike master

