

The SENATE

For the Welfare of Society and the Just government of the People

Issue No. 005

Weekly

Loaded in-tray awaits Senators as sittings resume next week

Legislators to take on workload that includes processing of 28 Bills at various stages in legislative pipeline, when session resumes after recess



A plenary of the Senate. Members will resume sittings next week after a two-week recess. Right: Senate Leader of Majority Hon Aaron Cheruiyot tabled the House scorecard and pending workload for Members when the House sessions resume.

Processing of nearly 28 Bills at various stages in the Senate's legislative pipeline is part of the workload that awaits Senators when they return next week from their well-deserved, two-week recess that capped a hectic third part of the Second Session of the 4th Senate.

The recess started on Thursday, June 29, 2023 in accordance with the Senate calendar, which was approved by Members, and will resume on July 18,

2023. In a communication made to the House by Leader of Majority Aaron Cheruiyot, the resumption of the session will be preceded by a meeting of the Senate Business Committee (SBC) which will consider and approve the business for the week.

This will contain business not concluded in the Order of Paper of June 29th, 2023 when the Senate went on recess, and any other business scheduled

by the SBC. Debate on the County Governments Cash Disbursement Schedule will top the heavy agenda before the House, whose in tray includes debate on the 28 Bills.

The Schedule is an important resolution of the Senate that operationalises the release and transfer of approved allocation to counties.

In the wake of Presidential Assent to the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2023, the Schedule is a paramount

requirement if the County governments have to start receiving their shares of the equitable share of revenue due to them in the 2023/24 financial year.

The Schedule is submitted to the Senate by the National Treasury in accordance with section 17 of the Public Finance management Act. The purpose is to ensure timely monthly transfers of funds from the Consolidated Fund to respective County Revenue Fund.

The Schedule serves as a guide and

facilitates predictable flow of funds to the county governments, enabling counties to implement critical functions in delivery of services.

More importantly, the Schedule implements Article 219 of the Constitution which provides that county share of revenue raised by the National Government shall be transferred to the county without undue delay and without deduction.

“Following the decision by the President to assent to the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2023, it is expected that the County Governments Cash Disbursement Schedule will be introduced in the coming days for consideration by this House,” said Majority leader Aaron Cheruiyot in his statement to the House, detailing the Senate scorecard since September last year.

The Majority Leader lauded the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget, which is chaired by Manderu Senator Ali Roba, for the timely consideration of critical financial instruments and tabling of reports, and urged other committees to emulate similar dedication.

The scorecard, for the period starting February this year, indicates that 28 Bills, 22 motions, 12 petitions and 141 statements are at various stages of considerations by the House.

Out of the 28 Bills before the House, 21 are at various stages of law-making process, 17 Bills are at the second reading (debate) stage while 4 are at Committee of the Whole (amendment) stage.

In the period after February this year, the House has considered and passed 6 Bills, three of which have been assented to while three are pending before the National Assembly.



Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget Chair and Manderu Senator Ali Roba.

The three Senate Bills so far assented to are: The County Governments Additional Allocation Bill, 2023, The Equalization Fund Appropriation Bill, 2023; and The County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2023.

Senate has also considered and passed three other Bills and referred them to the National Assembly for concurrence as required by the law. The Bills are pending in the Assembly.

They are: The County Vocational Education and Training Bill, 2023, which is sponsored by Homa Bay Senator Moses Kajwang; The Parliamentary Powers and Privileges (Amendment) Bill, 2022 and The Preservation of Human Dignity and Enforcement of

Economic and Social Rights Bill, 2022 both sponsored by Tana River Senator Danson Mungatana.

Among the key Bills pending in the House is The Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2023, sponsored by Senator Beth Syengo, which seeks to mainstream the two-third gender rule, a key requirement of the 2010 constitution.

One Bill has since been withdrawn by its sponsor.

On June 13, Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna withdrew the Office of the County Printer Bill, 2022 which sought to decentralise the functions of the Government Printer by establishing a printer in each of the 47 counties.

The Bill had proposed to establish the Office of the County Printer

with power to publish all authorised documents, advise and form partnerships on all matters relating to printing and publishing.

However, the Senator had to withdraw the Bill after the 47 county governors opposed it on grounds that the Government Printer, as currently established, is sufficient to meet the needs of the counties.

Eight Senate Bills are undergoing concurrence. They are The Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Bill, 2023 by Nominated Senator Beatrice Ogolla; The County Hall of Fame Bill, 2023 (Nominated Senator Miraj Abdulrahman); The Rice Bill, 2023 (Kirinyaga Senator James Kamau Murango); The Law of Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2023, (Nominated Senator Veronica Maina); The Security Services Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023, (Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights); The Community Health Services Bill, 2023 (Homa Bay Senator Moses Kajwang)’.

However, two Senate Bills were denied concurrence. They are the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Senator Samson Cherarkey) (2) The National Anthem Copyright Laws (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 21 of 2023, (Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations).

Four Senate Bills, The Natural Resources (Benefit Sharing) Bill, 2022, (Senator Mungatana); The Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Senator Samson Cherarkey: The Learners with Disabilities Bill, 2023 (jointly sponsored by Senators Margaret Kamar and Crystal Asige); and The Cotton Industry Development Bill, 2023 (Senator Beth Syengo), will be going to the Committee of the Whole House (Amendment) stage.

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Speaker Kingi, UNITAR leadership back partnership on training of committees, county assemblies

Speaker of the Senate Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi last week held deliberations with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) leadership, at which they explored opportunities for partnership in skills upgrading programme targeting Kenyan parliamentarians and members of the county assemblies.

In a meeting with Mr Nikhil Seth, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and UNITAR Executive Director at the UN offices in Geneva, Switzerland, the leaders appreciated the need for the legislature of Kenya to and UNITAR to collaborate in pursuit of this objective.

As a dedicated training arm of the United Nations, UNITAR has capacity to work with Parliament of Kenya and County Assemblies, in equipping them with skills to spearhead attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

and prime Kenya for effective response to emerging global challenges, including Climate Change.

During the meeting, Speaker Kingi and Mr Seth, concurred on the need for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliament of Kenya and UNITAR for capacity building of the Kenyan legislature, especially its committees, and the Speakers of County Assemblies for effective discharge of their work of legislation, oversight and representation.

Representatives of the two parties would be mandated to crystallise different aspects of the MoU, including courses required for legislators at both levels.

Members of Parliament need to be more knowledgeable on the SDGs and how they can be achieved. This knowledge will be the starting point for citizens to understand how this benefits them, given the great influence elected leaders hold.



Senate Speaker Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi in a meeting with Mr Nikhil Seth, the UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNITAR Executive Director at the UN offices in Geneva, Switzerland.

The capacity building should target Gender E-learning and Climate Change to enhance effective legislation in addressing the increasingly mounting challenges in these two spheres, the leaders agreed.

Gender Equality and Climate

Action captured in SDG 5 and SDG 13, respectively form part of the 17 SDGs championed by the United Nation and which, collectively, seek to drive progress of the global citizen across all areas of life.

Climate Change, parliamentary diplomacy and inclusivity dominate Speaker's engagements at IPU meeting in Geneva



Left: Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi at the IPU Headquarters with IPU Secretary-General H.E. Martin Chungong. Top Speaker Kingi makes courtesy call on Kenya's Permanent Representative to the United Nation (UN) Office in Geneva, H.E. Dr Cleopa Kilonzo Mailu.

Speaker of the Senate Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi last week led Kenya's delegation to high-profile engagements at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

IPU is a premier global caucus for national parliaments boasting of a membership of 179 national parliaments globally. It stands out for its key role in empowering parliaments and parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development, across the world.

The Senate and the National Assembly, the two Chambers of the Parliament of Kenya, are individual members of the IPU.

IPU's activities are built around five strategic objectives namely building effective and empowered parliaments; promoting inclusive and representative parliaments; supporting resilient and innovative parliaments; catalysing collective parliamentary action; and strengthening its own institutional accountability.

During the visit, Speaker Kingi took part in roundtable sessions, at which he articulated Kenya's position and progress touching on achievement of these objectives.

While applauding the IPU for the commendable milestones it has so far attained, Speaker Kingi urged to prioritise collective action by parliaments in response to climate change, deployment of parliamentary diplomacy in conflict resolution and promoting sustainable development and inclusivity.

The Speaker also held a meeting with IPU Secretary-General H.E. Martin Chungong for more detailed deliberations and briefings.

Senators Hon. Veronica Maina, Hon. Agnes Kavindu, Hon. Tabitha Mutinda and Hon. Karen Nyamu, also gave progress reports on efforts by Parliament of Kenya to be representative and inclusive on matters touching on women, youth and marginalized communities through their caucus the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA).

The Kenyan parliamentarians lauded the partnership with IPU which has helped build capacity in them through their caucuses such as Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) and Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA), enabling them to execute their mandates effectively.

Speaker Kingi also paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dr Cleopa Kilonzo Mailu, Kenya's Permanent Representative to the United Nation (UN) Office in Geneva.

Transparency troubles: CPAC takes Tana River Governor to task on queries in audit report

The Senate Committee on County Public Accounts (CPAC) questioned Governor Dhadho Godhana concerning the Auditor General's report on the Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2019/2020.

During the meeting, the Committee was informed that an expenditure of Kshs. 49,288,691 under Emergency Relief and Refugee Assistance lacked proper support. The Tana River Public Accounts Committee of the County Assembly was reportedly addressing this issue.

There were concerns about the high amount of pending bills, totaling Kshs. 1.16 billion as of June 30, 2020. As of December 21, 2022, the total pending bills had grown to Kshs. 2.118 billion, composed of Kshs. 455.8 million in eligible pending bills and Kshs. 1.663 billion in ineligible bills. The Committee advised involvement of the County Assembly in the verification process and



Senate Committee on County Public Accounts (CPAC) Chair Moses Kajwang' and Members Senator Gataya Mo Fire (left) and Senator Okiya Omtattah. Tana River Governor Dhadho Godhana (right) takes the oath.

sharing Special Audits' reports with the assembly.

The Committee also expressed worry about the lack of an approved staff establishment, making it challenging to determine the optimal number of employees required.

Consequently, the Committee urged the management to expedite

the development of an approved staff establishment and report back by the end of the first quarter of the Financial Year 2023-2024.

Committee chairman Moses Kajwang was joined by other committee members, including Senators Fatuma Dullo, Okiya Omtatah, Gataya Mo Fire, and John Methu.

In its conclusions, the Committee raised concerns about the delayed submission of documents by the Office of the Auditor-General during the audit period. It was found that 67% of the total expenditure queried by the Auditor General lacked adequate documentation.

Non-remittance of workers' pension irks CPIC



Senate Public Investment and Special Funds Committee (CPIC), chaired by Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi, and Members Senator Miraj Abdillahi and Senator William Kisang during the committee session. Top right: National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Prof Njuguna Ndung'u and, the Controller of Budget, Ms Margaret Nyakang'o (right, bottom)

In an effort to address the pressing issue of non-remittance of pension deductions by various entities across counties, the Senate Public Investment and Special Funds Committee (CPIC), chaired by Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi, met the Controller of Budget, Ms. Margaret Nyakang'o, and the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning, (Prof.) Njuguna Ndung'u, on the best way to resolve the vexing matter. Following these

presentations, the Committee made a strategic decision to further engage with the Controller of Budget. Their goal is to work collaboratively in finding an amicable resolution to the debt outstanding by county entities, primarily caused by the persistent non-remittance of pension deductions.

After thorough deliberations, the Committee proposed a multi-stakeholder engagement strategy to deal with the issue comprehensively. This approach

would involve key institutions such as the National Treasury, the Senate, the Controller of Budget, the Council of Governors, Local Authorities Pension Fund (LAPFund), Local Authorities Provident Trust (LAPTrust), and all CECMs and Chief Officers in-charge of finance in the 47 counties.

The Committee has specifically requested the National Treasury to take a lead role in this collective effort. The path forward aims to not only resolve the

current non-remittance issues, but to also lay down systems that prevent similar occurrences in the future. This ambitious initiative underscores the Committee's unwavering dedication to safeguarding the welfare of the nation's workforce.

Committeemembers present were Senators Hamida Kibwana, Ladema Olekina, Eddy Oketch and Miraj Abdillahi



Senators' intervention sought in bid to resolve long-drawn stand-off over promotion, transfer of police officers

National Police Service Commission Chairperson Mr. Eliud Kinuthia appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations chaired by Baringo County Senator William Cheptumo to shed light on the rising tension with the National Police Service.

National Police Service Commission Chief Executive Officer Mr. Peter Leley, also attended on behalf of the Commission. He told the Committee that promotions that have so far generated friction targeted gazetted officers above the rank of superintendent.

"The Inspector General of Police promoted 514 police officers of the ranks of the Assistant Superintendents of Police to Senior Assistant Inspector General across the Service at NPS which is contrary to the Law. This led

the Commission through its Executive Committee to revoke the promotions in a letter addressed to the Inspector General in accordance with Regulation 4(4) (d) of NPSC Promotions Regulations, 2015," submitted Mr Leley.

On June 8, 2023, the Inspector General responded to the revocation by stating that no person may give direction to the Inspector General, he added.

The National Police Service Commission further told the Committee that the Court had already determined the issues in Article 245 (4)(c) and upheld the overarching mandate of the Commission in Article 246 on promotion and transfers through the case of Republic v Deputy Inspector General and Inspector General of National Police and 32 others in 2013.

Mr. Leley affirmed to the Committee that the Commission has issued



Top: Senate Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations chairman Hon William Cheptumo.. Right: National Police Service Commission led by the chairman Mr Eliud Kinuthia and CEO Mr Peter Leley when the NPC team appeared before the Senate Committee.

guidelines to the IG's office on how to comply with the law and regulations on promotions and other Human Resource functions in the service, advertised the 514 vacancies for all qualified police officers to apply for fairness and equity.

The Commission requested the Senators to help create harmony in the security sector by inviting the IG to explain why he is unable to comply with the law, the request that was embraced by the lawmakers.

KRA attributes late remittance of statutory deductions for staff in county assemblies to delay in disbursement by the Exchequer



The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget led by Hon Ali Roba (centre) with Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki (second right) and Lamu Governor Issa Timamy (third right) after the session with KRA.

The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget chaired by Mandera Senator Ali Roba held a meeting with the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Commissioner General Rispah Simiyu to deliberate on various queries raised by Senators.

Issues raised by Senator Crystal

Asige touched on allegations of unsettled and unremitted statutory PAYE deductions for staff in county assemblies.

In her statement, Senator Asige wanted KRA to clarify the issue of suspension of tax reliefs arguing that since the directive to suspend tax reliefs, waivers and exemptions was issued,

employers have been experiencing challenges in accessing the link for uploading tax exemption certificates.

"This was a technical challenge that was resolved by 5th June 2023. This challenge was on the Persons with Disabilities checker where employers were not able to validate on the KRA

system the tax exemption certificates for the PWDs," read part of the submission by KRA.

"For the period under review, County Assemblies recorded a late payment rate of 51% whereas County Executive recorded a late payment rate of 47% for the same period, the sole reason attributed to the late remittance of PAYE is the delay in disbursement by the exchequer," submitted KRA.

The committee also met with the Council of Governors to deliberate on implementation of the conditional grant on supplement for construction of County headquarters.

CoG noted that there are various challenges that Counties are faced with among them increased cost of projects due to continued delay in completion, delayed payment, termination of initial contracts due to non-performance by main contractors.

The Council appealed to the Senate cause restructuring of implementation framework of the grant to give Counties overall responsibilities of project management, supervision and payment of contractors.

Governor Ole Lenku to table documents on rent and rates arrears accrued by Jamii Bora at Kisaju

Kajiado County Governor Joseph ole Lenku has assured the Senate Committee on Roads, Housing and Transportation that his government will, in two weeks, provide it with detailed legal documents demonstrating how the Jamii Bora Estate Limited accrued a debt of one billion shillings in rent and rates.

Governor Ole Lenku was making submissions in respect of the petition concerning access to title deeds for properties bought at Jamii Bora estate, Kisaju, Kajiado County.

The Governor said that Kisaju Estate developed by Ms. Sofia Ingrid Munro was initially meant to be housing units for the poor from slums of Nairobi; Korogocho, Kibera and Mathare.

However, Ms. Sofia Ingrid turned the housing development from charity to commercial therefore attracting rent and rates from the County Government of Kajiado.

“We granted change of user; from agricultural use to commercial and residential development therefore the Jamii Bora Estate directors should



Senate Deputy Minority Leader Enoch Wambua and other Members of the Senate Committee on Roads, Housing and Transportation during an engagement with Kajiado Governor Joseph ole Lenku (below) over the Kisaju plots row.

surrender the mother title for subdivision to take place and the owners of the properties in Kisaju Estate to get their title deeds.” Said Governor Ole Lenku.

The Governor further told the committee that since the change of user was effected, the Jamii Bora

Charitable Trust seized to be a Trust therefore liable to rents and rates amounting to Ksh. 1,069,634,990/-

Chairperson of the Committee, Kiambu Senator Karungo Thang’wa asked the Governor why the County Government of Kajiado charged Jamii Bora Estate Limited, rates and rent for 5,871 plots instead of the two parcels of land

The committee was further told that the County Government of Kajiado enforces revenue collection through Finance Act which requires

individuals and entities to pay annually, and failure to pay taxes attracts penalties.

Jamii Bora Trust made payment of Ksh. 17, 150,000/- for the developed 700 plots which are occupied in 51 acres of land.

The Committee Vice Chairperson, Sen. Peris Tobiko asked the Governor to fast-track the process of subdivision of the Kisaju Estate land so that the residents can get title deeds.

Senate Committees inspect roads in Nyandarua, Nyeri Counties



Senate Joint Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources Chaired by Nyandarua Senator John Methu and the Roads, Transportation and Housing Committee chaired by Kiambu Senator Karungo Thang’wa, visited Nyandarua and Nyeri Counties last week.

Senate Joint Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources Chaired by Nyandarua Senator John Methu in conjunction with Committee on Roads, Transport and Housing chaired by Kiambu Senator Karungo Thang’wa, visited Nyandarua and Nyeri Counties last

week.

The lawmakers inspected Nyandarua County to inspect Inhithe-Aberdare Forest – Kahuruko-Ndunyu Njeru Road that Connects Nyandarua and Nyeri Counties through Aberdare Forest. This followed a petition by the County Assembly of Nyandarua

asking the Senate to initiate approvals for the construction and tarmacking of Kahuruko-Ndunyu Njeru Road.

Nyandarua County Assembly in their petition prayed that, the Senate spearhead efforts through a resolution to have National Environment Management Authority (NEMA),

Kenya National Highways Authority (KNHA), Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in consultation to ensure the concerns raised are addressed with an aim of considering the retendering and construction of the tarmacking of Ihithe-Aberdare forest – Kahuruko-Ndunyu Njeru Road for the resident’s benefit.

The fact-finding meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Ministry of Roads and Transportation, Principal Secretary Ministry of Environment, Kenya Forest Service, National Environment Management Authority and residents of Nyandarua and Nyeri Counties.

The Legislators appreciated that the proposed Road which was to traverse 25 Kilometers of Aberdare National Park and Forest would reduce travel time and potentially lower cost of farm produce, and improve tourism in the region among the Counties of Nyandarua, Nyeri, Nakuru, Muranga’a, Lakiapia, Samburu, Isiolo and Marsabit.

Stalled stadium, ECDE projects top list of audit querries Mombasa County faces before senators

THE Senate Committee on County Public Accounts (CPAC) met Mombasa Governor Abdullswamad Nassir, regarding a recent audit report that shed light on significant financial mismanagement in the County Government of Mombasa for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

These included inaccurate financial statements, inconsistencies in locally generated receipts, unsupported expenditure, and accounting standard violations.

A notable discrepancy of Kshs.1,397,716,069 was observed between the County Executive's total expenditure balance and the IFMIS payment details report, attributed to the cash-based accounting system. Further inconsistencies were detected in property income rates and vehicle parking fees, with a total of Kshs.505,275,833 and Kshs.10,161,666 unaccounted for, respectively. The audit also pointed out unsupported expenditure of Kshs.136,374,797, including unverified transfers to other government entities amounting to Kshs.660,885,783 due to unreconciled records.

A budget shortfall of Kshs.2,664,776,533 (19%) and under-expenditure of Kshs.2,386,340,690 (17%) in the County Assembly were highlighted as potential disruptors to public service delivery, with the report attributing these issues to the Covid-19 pandemic, economic slowdown, and



Senate Committee on County Public Accounts (CPAC) in its meeting with Mombasa Governor Abdullswamad Nassir last week.

IFMIS system glitches.

The Governor pledged to address the highlighted issues, which include boosting local revenue collection, trimming the budget deficit, and tackling challenges arising from the pandemic and economic downturn.

The committee chaired Homabay Senator Moses Kajwan visited: the Mombasa Stadium and the Chaani Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre. Both projects have significantly stalled, causing concern among the committee members and local residents who have been value for their money.

The Stadium project, initially set to be completed within a three-year timeframe beginning in July 2019, now stands incomplete with a two-year delay. The stadium construction, initially forecasted for completion in November 2021, was to be fully funded through the county budget, with an allocated sum of KES 1.7 billion. Unfortunately, to date, 71.5% of the work remains undone, and only KES 486 million has been invested in the venture.

The Governor attributed the project's stagnation to a KES 1.2 billion cut in county allocation, as mandated by

the County Allocation of Revenue Act (CARA).

The committee, chaired Homabay Senator Moses Kajwan, expressed deep concern about the substantial delays and cost overruns in both projects, criticising the county government for poor project conceptualisation.

Senator Kajwan was accompanied by other members of the committee including Senators Fatuma Dullo, Okiya Omtatah Gataya Mo Fire, and John Methu. Mombasa Senator Mohamed Faki, also attended as a friend of the committee.

Senators engage Treasury CS over appropriation of Equalisation Fund by counties



Finance Cabinet Secretary Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u addresses the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget last week.

The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget in a session chaired by Mander

County Senator Ali Roba, met with the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning Prof.

Njuguna Ndung'u to deliberate on the appropriation of the Equalization Fund.

The Cabinet Secretary Prof. Njuguna

Ndung'u gave his submissions to the committee on the equalization fund entitlement and allocation since inception and the proposed plan on appropriation of equalization fund arrears.

"It is important to note that in the FY 2023/24 budget the Equalization Fund has been allocated Ksh. 10.9 billion, this includes Equalization Fund allocation for FY 2023/24 and arrears from FY 2021/22," submitted the CS.

"This will be used to fund the now assented Equalization Fund Appropriation Act, 2023," he added.

Other members present during the meeting were Sen. Eddy Oketch, Sen. Shakila Abdalla and Sen. Mohamed Faki.

Kajiado on the spot over Sh63m WB grant



The Senate Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations in a session with Kajiado Governor to get explanations over a Sh63m grant from World Bank for expansion of Kajiado Municipality market.

The Senate Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations, chaired by Wajir Senator Mohamed Abbas, took Kajiado Governor Joseph Ole Lenku to task over the alleged misuse of a Kshs63 million World Bank grant to expand the Kajiado Municipality Market.

This comes after Kajiado Municipality Clothes Market Traders drew the attention of the Senate,

through a petition to the August House, that the County Government of Kajiado had misappropriated funds meant to refurbish and expand the market by scaling down the amenities that were intended and budgeted for.

The Members of the Committee expressed their concerns about the alleged loss of public funds in the project before advising counties to use conditional grants appropriately to avoid being blacklisted.

“As you may be aware, there’s a social risk that comes with conditional grants. If these allegations are substantiated, it may stall Kajiado County from getting the next batch of the funds,” said Senator Catherine Mumma.

In his defence, Governor Lenku absolved his county from any wrongdoing claiming that the petitioners were erroneous in their submissions since Kajiado County

Government received Kshs60 million and not Kshs63 million as claimed.

He further informed Senators that the funds were not only meant to expand and refurbish the market but also to undertake other works in Kajiado Town.

The Members of the Committee resolved to visit Kajiado Municipality Market and Kajiado Town to dig deeper into the allegations before taking the next course of action.

Senator Kavindu to head Ad hoc Committee charged with pursuing compensation for victims of 1998 blomb blast

It’s all system go for the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the Compensation to the Kenyan victims of the 1998 Bombing of the United States of America Embassy in Nairobi after the Senate of Kenya approved its establishment.

In a session held in the Senate Chamber, the August House tasked the nine-member committee to pursue and accomplish the compensation of victims and families of the victims of Kenyan nationals by the United States Government.

The bomb disaster, which occurred on 07th August 1998, claimed the lives of 213 Kenyans and 12 Americans. In addition, over 5,000 citizens of both countries were seriously injured due to the reverberations and collapse of adjacent buildings located within a

two to three-block radius of the US Embassy.

While replying to the Motion on the Floor of the Senate, Machakos Senator Agnes Kavindu Muthama thanked the Honorable Senators for showing solidarity with the victims of the bomb blast, adding that the victims can now rest easy knowing that the Senate has their interests at heart.

“The United States Government has only compensated some victims and families of US citizens leaving the families of Kenyan citizens uncompensated. So, I promise the House that this Ad Hoc Committee will not leave any stone unturned so that our people can get justice,” Senator Muthama said.

The Senators who were approved



Machakos Senator Agnes Kavindu Muthama.

by the House to serve on the Committee include Sen. Agnes Kavindu Muthama, Sen. Daniel Maanzo, Sen. Alexander Mundigi, Sen. Beatrice Ogolla, Sen. Johnes Mwaruma, Sen. Mohamed Said Chute, Sen. Jackson Mandago, Sen.

William Cheptumo and Sen. Peris Tobiko.

The Ad Hoc Committee has 90 days to undertake its work, after which it will table its report to the Senate.



1. Visiting Kalisasi Secondary School from Mwingi Central, Kitui County
2. Thangira Umoja Secondary School, Murang'a County.
3. Ongata Royal Academy, Kajiado County
4. Hon. Oburu Oginga, Siaya Senator and Member of the Senate Standing Committee on Devolution and Inter-Governmental Relations during a session of the committee last week.
5. Senate Standing Committee on Devolution and International Relations Chair and Wajir Senator Hon. Mohamed Abbas and Member Cathrine Mumma during a committee session.
6. Senate Majority Whip Dr Boni Khalwale speaks at a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget. On his right is Migori Senator Eddy Oketch.
7. Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika addresses the Senate Committee on County Public Investments and Special Funds last week.



8. *County Public Accounts Committee holds its sittings in the chamber of the Mombasa County Assembly last week.*
9. *Senator Hamida Kibwana, Member of the Senate Committee on County Public Investments and Special Funds during a session of the committee last week.*
10. *Members of the Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation Sen Daniel Maanzo, Sen Danston Mungatana and Senator Mo Fire in a session of the committee.*
11. *The Planning Committee for Sittings of the Senate in Turkana County meets Turkana County Commissioner Mr Jacob M.O. Ouma during a courtesy call in his office on Wednesday last week. Turkana County*

- will host this year's Senate Mashinani between September 25th - 29th, 2023.*
12. *Senator Okiya Omtattah makes a contribution during a meeting of the Senate Committee on County Public Accounts (CPAC). Next to him is Senator Gataya Mo Fire (left)*
13. *Senate Public Investments and Special Funds Committee (CPIC) Chair Godfrey Osotsi (left) and Members Senator William Chesang and Senator Karungo Thangwa during a session of the committee last week with Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika on the performance of water companies run by Nakuru County Government.*

Senators meet airline pilots as it kicks off inquiry into Kenya Airways operations and financial status

The Senate Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism held a meeting with Kenya Airlines Pilots Association, to know the current operational and financial status of Kenya Airways and the measures in place to address significant losses by the airline which stand at Kshs. 38.26 billion by December, 2022.

This follows a resolution of the Committee's meeting held on 13th June 2023 to engage various relevant stakeholders regarding a Statement sought by Sen. Samson Cherarkey on Operations and Financial Status of Kenya Airways.

The Committee Chaired by Sen. Lenku Ole Kanar Seki seeks to know the strategies the management of Kenya Airways has implemented to ensure timely repayment of loans without incurring additional interest and penalties; as well as provide reasons contributing to the increasing operational costs of the airline.

The Senators want to know the number of employees, their skills and jobs assigned, addressing concerns that the management has favored the recruitment of foreign workers for positions that could be filled by Kenyan professionals.

Lastly, they want explanations on



Top: Senate Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism Chair, Hon Lenku Ole Kanar Seki and (top left) Sen. Esther Okenyuri-Vice Chair and Sen. Jackson Mandago The Kenya Airlines Pilots Association Executive officers

the extent to which, Kenya Airways' revenues were affected by the stalling of a Singapore Airlines cargo plane on the JKIA runway on 17th April 2023, spelling out measures that have been taken to prevent such occurrences from affecting the operations of KQ.

The pilots were the first stakeholders to appear before the Committee led

by Mwenda Mabura an Executive Member of the Association. The Pilots have called for new leadership with a different management style and that the KQ Board should comprise of Aviation professionals and key relevant stakeholders other than investors only.

A new organisational structure was needed with a focus on KQ's

core functions and revenue generation streams for the airline and the country as a whole. They recommend that a new set of departmental heads as well the CEO should be hired in a competitive, transparent and fair process with qualified Kenyans given priority consideration.

In addition, the pilots want the mission, vision statement and core values of KQ reviewed to align with Kenya's aspiration and key economic drivers such as leisure and business tourism as well as agricultural exports and regional integrations.

Senators hold sessions with Governors on operations of water firms

The Senate Committee on County Public Investments and Special Funds held a meeting with the Governors of Makeni, Homa Bay, and Marsabit counties, regarding operations of water and sanitation companies under their jurisdiction.

The sessions also entailed a review of the Auditor General's Reports on the Financial Statements for the years 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.

The session with Governor of Makeni County, Mutula Kilonzo Junior, related to Mbooni Water and Sanitation Company Limited, Wote Water and Sewerage Company Limited, and Kibwezi-Makindu Water and Sanitation Company Limited. The Committee identified crosscutting issues including unclear ownership, non-revenue water, and negative working capital.

The Committee chaired by Vihiga County Senator Godfrey Osotsi, asked the Governor to address these matters



Makeni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jnr

promptly. He was directed to take full ownership of the water companies within 90 days, in accordance with the Water Act, 2016. Further, a comprehensive plan to manage the high Non-Revenue water issue was requested to be submitted within 14 days.

On her part, Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga addressed issues touching on Homa Bay County Water and Sanitation Company Limited and Alcoholic Drink Fund. The Committee directed Hon Wanga to take keen interest



Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga

in the management and operations of the Water Company and fast track the ownership transfer to the County Government within sixty days. Governor Wanga is also expected to address other matters such as Asset management, Risk management, and Internal controls.

Marsabit Governor Mohamud Mohammed Ali, too, discussed the state of Marsabit Water and Sewerage Company Limited. Here, the Committee discovered a failure in the preparation of financial statements for the respective



Marsabit Governor Muhamud Mohammed Ali

years, thereby breaching the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act. As a result, the Auditor General could not perform an audit, leaving no reports for the Committee to examine. Recognising recent changes in management, the Committee directed the newly appointed Board of Directors and Managing Director to prepare and submit the financial statements to the Office of the Auditor General within 60 days.

Senate delegation attends Kericho conference meant to turn around fortunes of tea farmers

Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Hon Kathuri Murungi and Senate Majority Leader Hon Aaron Cheruiyot were among parliamentarians who attended the Tea Reforms Conference at the Kericho Golf Club, Kericho County last week.

Others were Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, led by Kirinyaga Senator James Kamau Murango MP.

The 2-day Conference, which was chaired by Deputy President, H.E. Rigathi Gachagua provided a platform for tea farmers and stakeholders to engage in addressing the challenges plaguing the sector and brainstorm on possible solutions.

Significantly, it gave the small-scale farmers an opportunity to engage with the stakeholders including the top government officials and parliamentarians to gain a better understanding of the tea sector for effective legislation and policy making.

The tea sector is of interest to the Senate as it falls within the devolved function of agriculture, which in turn, is among key pillars of sustainable development in the counties, more so in addressing food security.

Senators who participated in the



Top: Deputy Speaker of the Senate Hon Kathuri Murungi at the Tea Summit in Kericho last week. Top right: Senate Majority Leader and Kericho Senator Aaron Cheruiyot and Nakuru Senator Tabitha Karanja at the event. Below: Deputy Speaker of the Senate Kathuri Murungi with other leaders at the event.

Summit were Deputy Majority Leader Sen. Tabitha Karanja, MP, Embu Sen. Alexander Mundigi, MP, Bungoma Sen. David Wakoli, MP, Nyeri County Sen. Wahome Wamatinga, MP, Trans Nzoia County Sen. Allan Chesang, MP, Bomet County Sen. Wakili Hillary Sigei, MP, Murang'a County Sen. Joe Nyutu, MP Tharaka Nithi County Sen. Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire, MP and other Members of the National Assembly.

The event comes in the wake of yet another conference presided over by the DP in Meru County a few weeks ago and whose focus was the coffee sector.



Nyandarua County Assembly team visits Senate

Officers attached to the Delegated Legislation Committee at the County Assembly of Nyandarua undertook a benchmarking visit to the Senate, to enhance their understanding of legislative processes, procedures, and best practices to effectively execute their mandate.

The visit took place from 26th to 30th June 2023, and gave the team a unique opportunity to meet their counterparts at the Senate and acquaint themselves with the inner workings of the Kenyan legislative system.

The staff comprising of the Secretariat were able to attend a Senate Committee sitting and a plenary session during which Speaker of the Senate Rt Hon Amason Jeffah Kingi officially welcomed them to the Senate.

During their engagements, the staffers were able to exchange ideas, share experiences, and learn from the expertise of seasoned legislators. They

gained valuable insights in the processes of drafting legislation, conducting committee meetings, and the overall functioning of the parliamentary system at the national level.

Others areas were policy formulation, budgetary considerations, and parliamentary oversight. This broadened their perspectives on the intricate dynamics of lawmaking and governance at the national level.

The benchmarking visit fostered networking and collaboration between the County Assembly of Nyandarua and the Senate and opened doors for future cooperation, sharing of best practices, and mutual support in addressing common challenges faced by both levels of government.

The visit by the Delegated Legislation Committee of the County Assembly of Nyandarua marked an important milestone in their journey toward capacity building and acquiring



the necessary experience to execute their mandate effectively. It provided a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and networking, allowing the committee members to enhance their legislative skills and contribute to improved governance in Nyandarua County.

Nyandarua County Assembly on Delegated Legislation during their session with Senators in Nairobi last week.

Msafara wa Spika: Utamaduni wa Kiashiria

Seneti ya Kenya imejikita katika mila zinazodumu tangu kuanzishwa kwa Jamhuri. Mila hizi, japo zinaweza kuwa hazijulikana sana kama zile za mabunge mengine katika sehemu nyingine za dunia, zina umuhimu wa kipekee. Miongoni mwa mila hizi ni Msafara wa Spika; hafla rasmi inayoashiria mamlaka na heshima ya Seneti.

Msafara wa Spika sio tu utamaduni wa kihafu. Ni ishara ya mamlaka ya kikatiba ambayo Spika wa Seneti anamiliki. Msafara huu ni alama ya uendelezaji wa mamlaka ya Seneti ya kutunga sheria na ufahamu wa nafasi muhimu ya Spika ndani ya Seneti.

Msafara wa Spika huanza mwanzoni mwa kila kikao cha Seneti. Mpambe akiwa amebeba Mesi, anaongoza msafara. Mesi, ni kiashiria kinachowakilisha mamlaka ya Bunge na Spika. Ni sehemu muhimu ya msafara. Baada ya Mpambe ni Spika, anayefuatwa na Karani wa Seneti na wafanyakazi wengine wa bunge. Mpangilio huu unaofuatwa kikamilifu,



unaakisi muundo wa ngazi za uongozi katika Seneti.

Kadiri msafara unavyosonga katika kanda za Seneti, heshima na taadhima huwa umekithiri. Msafara huu sio tu shamrashamra za kimaonyesho bali ni dhahirisho la umoja na utimilifu wa Seneti.

Mesi ni ishara ya mamlaka ya Spika

na haki ya Seneti ya kutunga sheria. Spika akiingia katika Chumba cha Seneti, Mesi inawekwa kwenye Meza ya Seneti, inaashiria kuwa Seneti imo rasmi katika kikao. Ikiwa Mesi haitakuwa kwenye Meza, kikao cha Seneti hakitakuwa rasmi, na hakuna shughuli rasmi zinazoweza kufanyika.

Spika wa Seneti, kama kiongozi

wa vikao vya Seneti, ana jukumu muhimu la kudumisha utaratibu wakati wa mijadala, kuamua nani anaweza kuzungumza, na kuhakikisha kuwa kanuni za Seneti zinafuatwa. Msafara wa Spika unadhihirisha mamlaka haya na huzingatiwa hata katika mijadala.

Msafara wa Spika ni utamaduni wenye utajiri unaoakisi heshima na mamlaka ya Seneti. Inatumiki kama kikumbusho cha jukumu zito ambalo Seneti inashikilia katika kutunga sheria kwa manufaa ya watu wa Kenya. Mesi inapowekwa kwenye Meza na Spika anapokalia kiti chake, kuna hisia halisi ya kazi iliyo mbele, ushahidi wa nguvu endelevu ya utamaduni huu.

Jopo kwa sasa tunashuhudia mabadiliko ya haraka na ongezeko la utata, mila hizi zinaiweka Seneti katika historia na kusudi lake, ikitoa uendelezaji na utambulisho. Zinatukumbusha kwamba ingawa wadau wamebadilika, kanuni za utawala wa kidemokrasia zinadumu. Msafara wa Spika, katika urahisi wake na ishara yake, unaeleza hili kwa uzuri.

Seneta Wamatinga ataka mifumo bora ya usimamizi wa maji ijumuishwe kwenye ramani ya ujenzi

Bunge la Seneti linaitaka Wizara ya Ardhi, Utumishi wa Umma, Nyumba na Ukuzaji wa sehemu za Miji kushirikiana na Baraza la Magavana na Mamlaka ya Udhibiti wa Mazingira, NEMA kushirikisha kwenye kanuni na viwango vya ujenzi hitaji la mifumo bora ya usimamizi wa maji kwenye ramani za ujenzi wa mijengo.

Kupitia kwa Hoja iliyowasilishwa kwenye Seneti na Seneta wa Kaunti ya Nyeri Wahome Wamatinga, Bunge hilo aidha linavitaka vitengo hivyo vya serikali kufanya ukarabati wa mifumo kwenye mijengo inayomilikiwa na serikal kote nchini Kenya kujumuisha mifumo ya usimamizi wa maji.

Seneta Wamatinga anasema ni wakati muafaka kwa hatua hiyo kutekelezwa ikizingatiwa changamoto za ukosefu wa maji na mabadiliko ya hali ya anga ambayo yanalikumba taifa mara kwa mara.

“Maji ni muhimu ila ni rasilimali adimu sana ambayo mahitaji yake yanaongezeka pakubwa kutokana na

ongezeko la idadi ya watu, kuchipuka kwa sehemu zaidi za miji na ukuaji wa kiviwanda na ambayo matumizi yake ya kiholela yamekuwa sasa kero ambalo linapaswa kuangaziwa kwa dharura kuzingatia hatari ya mabadiliko ya hali ya anga,” alisema Seneta Wamatinga.

Anasema kutokana na ongezeko la idadi ya mijengo ambayo inachipuka kwa sasa kukidhi idadi ya watu inayoongezeka pakubwa, kumekuwa na changamoto katika usimamizi wa maji.

“Kujumuishwa kwa mifumo ya usimamizi wa maji kwenye ramani za ujenzi kutahusisha mbinu na teknolojia mbali mbali zikiwemo uhifahi wa maji yatokanayo kwa mvua, kusafisha maji chafu kwa matumizi, kasi ya chini ya kusukuma maji kwenye mabomba na mifumo ya kutambua kunakovuja maji na hivyo kuondoa matumizi ya kiholela ya maji, ukosefu wa usimamizi bora wa maji na uharibifu,” alifafanua Seneta Wamatinga.

Kwingineko Bunge la Seneti lilijadili Hoja ya kutaka kuongeza kasi

utekelezaji wa Malengo Endelevu ya Maendeleo.

Kupitia Hoja hiyo, Seneta Catherine Mumma anaitaka Idara ya Serikali ya Mipango ya Uchumi kwa mashauriano na Baraza la Magavana kubuni ramani iliyotathiminiwa ya utekelezaji kwenye viwango viwili vya serikali kuzingatia ugumu ambao umekuwa unaukumba au unaweza kuukumba utekelezaji wa ajenda ya mwaka 2030 ya Maendeleo Endelevu.

Anasema, nia ya malengo hayo inapaswa kutimizwa ili kushughulikia kikamilifu changamoto zinazowakabili Wakenya.

“Ajenda ya Maendeleo Endelevu iliyoidhinishwa na kukumbatiwa na mataifa wanachama wa Umoja wa Mataifa mnamo mwaka 2015 inaweka ramani sawia kimataifa inayolenga kuutokomeza umaskini, kuyalinda mazingira ya dunia na hali ya anga na kuhakikisha kwamba watu popote walipo wanafurahia amani na ustawi,” alifafanua Seneta Mumma.

Utekelezaji wa ajenda ya 2030 kuhusu Maendeleo Endelevu nchini Kenya uling’oa nanga kupitia kwa uzinduzi rasmi wa Malengo ya Maendeleo Endelevu nchini Kenya mwaka 2016.

Uzinduzi huo ulifuatiwa na kubuniwa kwa ramani ya nchi ya Kenya kuhusu Malengo ya Maendeleo Endelevu kuelekeza mpito kutoka kwa Malengo ya Maendeleo ya Milenia hadi kwenye Malengo ya Maendeleo Endelevu na kujumuishwa kwa Malengo ya Maendeleo Endelevu kwenye viwango vya serikali ya Kitaifa na za Kaunti.

Seneta Mumma anakiri kwenye Hoja yake kuwa pamekuwepo na changamoto zilizoathiri utekelezaji wa malengo hayo japo wakati upo sasa wa kuyatekeleza kwa manufaa ya raia.

“Utekelezaji wa wa ajenda ya 2030 kuhusu Maendeleo Endelevu nchini Kenya umeathiriwa na changamoto hasi zikiwemo kiangazi cha muda mrefu tangu mwaka 2019 nchini Kenya na ulimwenguni, uvamizi wa nzige, janga la maradhi ya COVID-19, majanga mengine ya kiafya na hali ngumu ya kiuchumi inayoshuhudiwa kwa sasa nchini Kenya,” alikariri Seneta Mumma.

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This Week in History



"The challenges we are facing in this country are all about protecting the integrity, and future of this nation, Kenya. I know that my good friends find amusement in this: but we should all be patriotic and defend our country. The cost of living in this country has completely skyrocketed. If someone is not able to get a job, they should be free to sell their products. However, when they do so, they have no clue about pre-shipment inspection, which is mandated by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) before any goods are brought into this country."

Senator Ledama ole Kina

Debate on a petition on the Fight against Counterfeit and contraband Goods in Kenya.

Tuesday, July 10th, 2018



"We had also proposed amendments to the Penal Code. The first amendment to the penal Code indicates: "To redefine cattle rustling as a capital offence. You cannot have a situation where cows are stolen, women are raped, houses torched, people are killed and you tell people – Ita wazee waongee" It cannot work like that. We must call it as it is, a capital offence."

Senator Johnson Sakaja

Statement on Insecurity in Turkana County affecting Crude Oil Extraction and Transportation.

Tuesday, July 10th, 2018

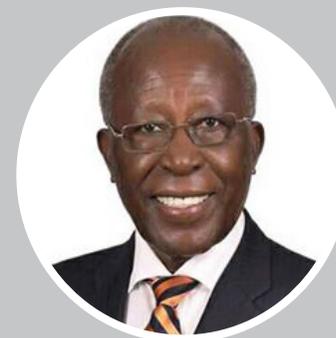


"It is not about the SGR. Yesterday the Senator for Turkana County raised an issue where Tullow Oil companies are not employing locals. Here is a company working in Turkana County – a county that has been already marginalized for many years – where we are getting an important resource and yet locals do not get any returns in terms of labour and businesses. They get nothing from that resource. It is time for our country to review these investments. We should clarify what we, as country, should get from an investor when they invest in our counties."

Senator Mary Yiane Seneta

Statement on welfare of Kenyans working at the SGR

Wednesday, July 11th, 2018



"It is incumbent upon the national government and county governments to set up these facilities because the population needs them. Kenyans are very peculiar people. When they hear about mental illness, there are perceptions. Some believe that mental illness requires a traditional healer. This is why you find traditional healers thriving through ignorance, in the pretense that they know how to handle mental illnesses. That is why you find people shying away and thinking that it is a spiritual matter; that somehow their spirits are disturbed. Therefore, they approach the religious people to attend to them in this manner. In the process, we are destroying the people who are sick. Once you resort to the spiritual groups and traditional healers, they will not get the appropriate treatment."

Senator Prof Sam Ongeri,
Motion on Establishment of mental health facilities in counties.

Thursday, July 12th, 2018

Senate and Civil Society Parliamentary Engagement Network to partner in enriching legislation for the benefit of Kenyans



Deputy Clerk of the Senate Eunice Gichangi meets officials of the Civil Society Parliamentary Engagement Network, led by their Convener, Ms Caroline Gaita (top right).

The Senate and The Civil Society Parliamentary Engagement Network have resolved to work together to ensure that the Bills that the August House passes are enriched and, in turn, are useful to Kenyans.

While receiving the Parliamentary Engagement Network's membership, led by their convener Ms Caroline Gaita, who paid the Senate a courtesy visit earlier last week at Parliament Buildings, the Deputy Clerk of the Senate Ms Eunice Gichangi underscored

the need for partnership between the two entities. The Senate was ready to tap into the diverse membership of the network so as to enrich the legislation that the House passes.

"We, as the Senate, are constitutionally mandated to seek the views of the public in legislation that we publish through public participation. We seek your support in developing legislation because you are partners who have been in the space of devolution over the years. You can assist us by giving a

useful critique of the legislation that we publish," Ms Gichangi said.

On her part, Ms Gaita, who is also the Mzalendo Trust's Executive Director, apprised the Senate's leadership of the work that the Civil Society Parliamentary Engagement Network has engaged in in counties, before urging the Senate to continue partnering with them to ensure the Senate fulfils its core mandate of serving Kenyans.

"A lot of our work focuses on research, drafting legislation and analysis

and review of Bills before legislatures. So, we are interested in working with the Senate to ensure the August House fulfils its core mandate to Kenyans," Ms Gaita said.

Other areas of interest that the Senate and the Civil Society Parliamentary Engagement Network resolved to collaborate on include public participation, capacity enhancement, media partnership and service delivery.

DEVOLUTION WATCH

Turkana County upbeat as Senate Mashinani countdown starts

A Senate team tasked with planning for this year's Senate Mashinani had a busy week in Turkana County, as it rolled out a series of engagements, site visits and discussions in preparation for the activity slated for September 25th-29th, 2023.

A key objective of the Senate Mashinani is to enhance public awareness about the role and business of the Senate and Parliament in general, as it relates to implementation of Devolution.

Senate Mashinani is anchored in Article 126 (i) of the Constitution which states: "A sitting of either House may be held at any place within Kenya and may commence at any time that the House appoints."

The Planning Committee for Sitzings of the Senate in Turkana County was appointed by the Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye and is chaired by Mr Zakayo Mogere, the Deputy Director for Legislative and Procedural Services. It comprises staff from all directorates and departments of the Senate.

The team separately met the county



The Planning Committee for Sitzings of the Senate in Turkana County meets Turkana County Deputy Governor Dr John Erus. Right: Planning Committee chairman Zakayo Mogere and Deputy Governor Dr John Erus address journalists after the meeting.

leadership that included Speaker of the Turkana County Assembly Hon. Christopher Doye Nakuleu, Governor H.E. Jeremiah Ekamais Lomorukai, Deputy Governor Dr John Erus Lopeyok and County Commissioner Jacob M.O. Ouma.

The leaders commended the Senate for settling on Turkana County for this year's Senate Mashinani saying it will accord the region a good opportunity to not only showcase its potential but also

demonstrate its achievements for the last 10 years of Devolution.

"Lodwar is a town rich in diversity and represents the face of Kenya. Among many other attributes, Turkana is the cradle of evolution globally and has the largest desert lake in the world. We don't take it for granted," said Hon Nakuleu, when he hosted the Senate team in his office.

The County Commissioner assured the team of adequate security during

the event that also coincides with the Turkana Cultural week. "Turkana is a great place to be and we have adequate police officers to provide all security services as would be required," said Mr Ouma.

Mr Mogere said the Senate fraternity looked forward to being in Turkana County. Senate Mashinani will heighten interaction between the Senate and Turkana County and its people, he added.