



The SENATE

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

Issue No. 0012

Weekly

Senate in Turkana County

Dubbed Senate Mashinani, the sittings have become a ritual on the annual calendar of the House putting into effect Article 126 of the Constitution



Speaker Amason Kingi bows to the chair before the start of a sitting of the House in the Senate Chamber, Nairobi. For the first time in the history of Kenya, a national Parliament will conduct plenary sessions in Lodwar town, Turkana County.

The Senate has pitched camp in Turkana County starting Monday for its weeklong sittings and all other official activities, in a move that underpins a momentous shift in the governance of post independent Kenya under the 2010 constitution.

Besides the plenary, all the committees of the House will conduct their meetings in the County while the House leadership has lined up engagements and

several outreach activities as part of the big agenda of enhancing interaction between the Senate and the people.

The Senate caravan has already arrived in Lodwar, the County's capital, for the intense period in which the lawmakers will debate Bills and motions that directly impact on a population that has historically remained on the margins of governance since independence.

The commencement of Senate Mash-

inani is a culmination of intense, joint preparations by the Senate, County Government of Turkana and the National Government, through the County Commissioner of Turkana.

Once classified as part of Northern Frontier Districts (NFD), Turkana County has been one of the marginalised areas in Kenya since colonial times. Locals were not supposed to leave unless they were given permission by the District Commissioners. The regions were supposed to be preserved and treated strictly as not part of Kenya.

The sittings of the Senate in the County, therefore, is the boldest move by an arm of government to eradicate the marginalization by debunking some of these myths and ending the retrogressive stereotyping.

Perhaps, the best justification of the decision of the Senate to sit in Turkana was offered by the Majority Whip in his submission when moving the motion that paved the way for the sitting in Lodwar on Tuesday, May 30, 2023.

"As leaders of this country we should not wait until Turkana County has been made rich because of the oil before we go there. Let us go there to carry the imagination of the country with us," said Majority Whip when he moved the motion.

He went on to liken Turkana County to the State of California in the US

"Once upon a time there was a place in the USA called the Wild West. It was the semi-arid and arid part of the USA that had what was thought to be of no

value. The majority of the settlers when they went to the USA, they settled in the lower parts of America on the eastern coastline for good reasons. The climate was right, the vegetation was good, it was beautiful and littered with a number of lakes," explained Dr Khawale.

Then gold was discovered in California. It triggered a gold rush to California which is now the fifth largest economy in the world because of the discovery.

"I would love that Senate goes to Turkana County. God was not a fool to make the people of Turkana County live for so many years under so much suffering, but still be there and then subsequently, open our eyes that 'wait a minute, there is some gold here called oil.'

I believe despite the challenges the Tullow Oil Company is going through, one day, that oil will become economically viable. I can assure all the doctors who I see scrambling in Nairobi County that they will all be practising medicine in Turkana."

Dubbed Senate Mashinani, the sittings have become an annual ritual on the calendar of the House putting into effect Article 126 of the Constitution. The first sitting outside Nairobi was done in 2018 when the Senate held its plenary in Uasin Gishu County.

A year later it moved to Kitui County but the subsequent sittings were halted owing to the Covid-19 pandemic that ravaged the world for two years, starting 2020 to 2022.

Article 126 provides that: "A sitting of either House may be held at any place

within Kenya and may commence at any time that the House appoints.”

To make the outing more memorable for the people of Turkana County, the Senate Business Committee has put in place an agenda that touches at the heart of the residents. The House will consider matters touching on the vagaries of climate change, insecurity, blue economy, drought and challenges of food insecurity and access to safe drinking water.

As part of its oversight role, the County Public Accounts Committee, will hold meetings with Turkana and trans Nzoia

governors to interrogate the Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the two counties for 2020/21 financial year.

The committee National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations has invited the leadership of the Rural Border Patrol Unit to discuss the challenges in the implementation of security along Kenya’s international borders.

The committee will also have meetings with the Turkana County Security team to discuss the status of security in

the County and the incessant cattle rustling and banditry in the area. It will also deliberate on the role of the National Police Reservists in complimenting the mainstream security apparatus.

While the Committee on Agriculture is lined up to tour of the Katilu Irrigation Scheme, the Committee on Energy will have a site visit to the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project where it will engage the management and local leaders.

The Committee on Lands will have meetings with stakeholders to discuss the formulation of legislation to secure

community land rights as exploration of oil continues in Turkana County. The stakeholders include the Loperot and Kalapata Community land owners; the National Land Commission and the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development and counterpart Committee of the County Assembly of Turkana.

As part of its outreach programme, the Kenya Women Senators’ Association (Kewosa) will have a medical camp for residents within Lodwar town on Sunday, September 24, 2023.

African Parliaments commit to enact laws to accelerate transition to clean, sustainable energy in the continent



Lawmakers from Africa in one of the sessions during the Africa Climate Summit in the Chamber of the National Assembly.

Legislators drawn from African Parliaments have agreed to work towards laws and policies that encourage and accelerate the transition to clean and sustainable energy sources within the continent.

The lawmakers committed themselves to pushing states to triple renewable energy capacity even as they acknowledged that African states are vulnerable to climate change which has led to the continent missing out on opportunities for greater energy independence as well as access to green investment and export opportunities.

In a final communication after a meeting in Nairobi, the lawmakers, under the aegis of the Parliamentary Dialogue, agreed that policies to be adopted must align with Africa’s unique circumstances and respect the continent’s development agenda.

“The continent needs to strengthen

its mechanisms and frameworks for responding to and influencing the climate change agenda nationally, regionally and internationally by leveraging all stakeholders including Parliaments,” said the lawmakers in the statement they issued at the end of their meeting in Nairobi.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of Africa Climate Summit 2023 (ACS) which took place in Nairobi from September 3 to 8, 2023.

For two days, Parliamentarians from across the continent discussed ways to give effects to the Pan-African Parliament’s Resolutions and Recommendations on Climate Policy and Equity in Africa and develop the framework for the Model Law on Climate Change.

The Parliamentarians Dialogue served as a platform to interrogate the implementation pathways from the perspective of legislatures for the delivery of the commitments made during the



Speaker Amason Kingi gives his remarks during the opening ceremony of the Parliamentary Dialogue Conference in Nairobi on September 5, 2023.

Summit.

The main objective of the Parliamentary Dialogue was to identify key areas for strengthening parliamentarians’ capacity to ensure effective oversight of the implementation of climate action, and to build consensus on parliamentary action at continental level to champion the outcomes of the ACS in the run-up to COP28 and beyond.

“I would like to challenge you to pursue the route of bringing up-to-date your respective Climate Change Acts in your countries so as to assist in dealing with the current challenges we are facing in dealing with Climate Change and its mitigation,” said Senator John Methu of Nyandarua County.

Pleading with lawmakers to help deal with negative impacts of Climate Change through legislation of relevant laws, the senator said there is need to embrace amendments made to the ex-

isting Climate Change Act to ensure the continent regulates carbon markets and aligns with international commitments.

“Legislators enjoy more space in shaping public opinion which then infers that the forestation targets in our countries will be a mirage if we don’t take the front seats in the greening of African space,” said the Senator.

Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga revealed that despite Kenya enjoying 86 percent of renewable energy, the country is yet to attain the targets envisioned in Vision 2030 and called for the remodeling finance frameworks to address challenges facing the continent.

“As Parliamentarians, we should start looking at this as the new dawn where Africa must stand up for herself and say indeed the solution to the problems we have, caused by Climate Change, we must pioneer,” he challenged.

Speaker Kingi says new law a game-changer in guiding carbon credit trade, urges parliamentarians to take lead role in climate action



Speaker Amason Kingi presides over the opening ceremony of the Climate Change Parliamentary Dialogue in Nairobi on September 4, 2023.

Speaker Amason Jeffah Kingi has hailed Kenya's new law on Climate Change, terming it a game-changer in the regulation of the critical carbon credit trade.

Describing the carbon market as a key element in addressing sustainability of climate actions and rewarding green initiatives, Speaker Kingi commended Kenyan legislators for giving priority to the law – Climate Change (Amendment) Act, 2023.

The Speaker made the remarks on Tuesday last week when he officially opened the Parliamentarians' Dialogue, an engagement for legislators, which ran alongside the Africa Climate Summit at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Act was assented to by President Ruto on September 1, 2023 after being passed by the National Assembly with the concurrence of the Senate.

The passage of the law in the run-

up to the Africa Climate Summit being hosted in Nairobi by President William Samoei Ruto, placed Kenyan in the lead in crafting elaborate climate response mechanisms, the Speaker emphasised.

"While the parent Climate Change Act of 2016 was an overarching framework for climate-responsive governance, it fell short in addressing the intricate mechanics of carbon trading—a pivotal tool for achieving emission reduction targets and promoting sustainable development.

"The new law fills this legal gap, providing a structured framework to engage in carbon trading, thereby incentivizing emission reduction efforts and catalyzing investment in sustainable technologies and practices," Speaker Kingi pointed out.

The Speaker challenged parliamentarians to be ready to go the extra mile in addressing the climate change-induced problems affecting the populations they represent, beyond their traditional roles of legislation, representation and oversight.

"We can no longer sit back and wait to react in knee-jerk fashion. We are duty-bound to roll-up our sleeves, as the people's representatives, use our rapport with the masses to proactively de-escalate fragile situations that continue to nourish instability across Mother Afri-

ca," he said.

Senator Crystal Asige made a resounding pitch for all-inclusive climate actions that bring all marginalized groups on board for them to share the benefits that accrue.

"There are about 100 million people living with disability in Africa. Let's have an inclusive climate action that address the interests of people with disability, young people and women," she said.

Njoro MP Charity Kathambi, who also chairs the Parliamentary Caucus on Conservation, said parliamentarians, by virtue of their legislative work, were custodians of the future of the continent and their respective countries.

"As a country, Climate Summit has given us a great platform. We are the first country in Africa to have enacted a climate law – the Climate Change Act of 2016 - which we have now amended," she said.

Other leaders who addressed the session were Senator Moses Kajwang', who chairs the Parliamentary Caucus on Climate Change, Kenya and Hon Dr Emmanuel Marfo, a Ghanaian legislator and Chair of the Global Parliamentary Croup of Climate Vulnerable Forum



Lawmakers drawn from African Parliaments in one of the sessions during the Parliamentarians Dialogue on Climate Change in Nairobi.

Constitution has transformed Kenya into open society, Senator Khalwale tells Governance Summit



8th Open Government Partnership (OGP) Summit in September, 2023 in Tallin Estonia

A collage of pictures of Kenyan representatives to the OGP Conference in Tallin, Estonia.

Majority Whip Boni Khalwale has hailed the 2010 constitution saying it has promoted open governments and improved accountability in the running of the state.

Promulgated in August 2010, Senator Khalwale said document has given the people the power to fully participate in governance at the two levels of government which in turn has promoted accountability and improve service delivery.

Article 118 obligates Parliament to involve the public in its business through facilitating public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of Parliament and its committees.

Addressing the 8th Open Governance Partnership (OGP) Global Summit in Tallin, Estonia, on Tuesday, September 5, Senator Khalwale cited the live coverage of Parliamentary proceedings, the Senate Mashinani and the Parliamentary Week as some of the initiatives that have opened parliament to scrutiny, offering the public an opportunity to participate in governance.

“Through the initiatives such as Sen-

ate Mashinani, Parliament offers the citizens an opportunity to interact with their representatives,” he said, even as assured the gathering that the Senate will support the implementation of the National Action Plan on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) as a way of promoting accountability in Governance.

“We will increase budgetary allocation to facilitate the implementation of the open government agenda so as to finance implementation of the national action plan.”

OGP is a global platform that brings together both government and non-governmental actors, including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The platform is aimed to facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement toward open, accountable, transparent and responsive governance.

It is a global initiative for its emphasis on states meaningful collaboration with civil society to embrace the values of transparency, accountability, civic participation and innovation towards good governance.

The main thematic areas of the 2023 Summit are Anti-Corruption, civic space and participation, climate and environ-

ment, digital governance, open justice, and democratic resilience.

These themes are impacted by challenges the world has faced in the last years to protect democratic and rules-based world order that respects human dignity and the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual.

Dr Khalwale was part of the Open Plenary Panel of discussion that focused on accountability in Parliaments.

The debate centered on good parliamentary practices that parliaments and MPs can put in place to foster internal accountability, including but not limited to code of ethics, information disclosure, and declarations of interests.

The aim of the Panel Discussion was to frame the changes in how states can govern openly, caused by the crisis and conflicts of recent years.

He told the Panel that the Legislature has embraced the open parliamentary reforms through which it has cemented open government across the political landscape.

“Kenya is the most stable democracy in Africa,” he said, admitting that although the country has had its fair share

of political challenges, the situation has never resulted in either military takeover or paved the way for a life presidency.

“We have always transitioned from one government to another.”

The National Action Plan on OGP is reviewed after every two years. The current one was drafted in 2021 and expired in December 2022 and its anchored on accountable and transparent governance.

The new action plan, covering the period between 2023 and 2024, will be in place by December 2023 and will be anchored on the same pillars and include a new pillar on environment and climate change.

OGP was officially launched in September 2011 by 8 founding governments and 9 civil society organizations.

The founding governments are Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, and United States. It has since grown to a current membership of 78 countries and 76 local jurisdictions.

Foreign Ministry creates special desk to push compensation for the 1998 terror victims, CS Mutua tells Adhoc Committee

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs has pledged to establish a special desk that will singularly deal with the push for the compensation to the Kenyan victims of the 1998 bomb blast in which 213 people lost their lives and 5,000 seriously injured.

Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua informed the committee the desk is his personal initiative after hearing the cries of the victims and their families.

“I will personally kick off the diplomatic effort by lobbying the American legislators when I attend the United Nations SDG Summit in New York,” he told the Committee.

The pledge to form a special desk came after the survivors complained that they had visited the Ministry for two decades as they sought help but officials did nothing.

“The American legislators need to amend their laws so that our people can be compensated. We must do a lot of lobbying. As the Cabinet Secretary the ball is in my court and I’m ready to do just that,” said Dr Mutua.

Imploring the Ministry to support



Foreign and Diaspora Affairs CS Alfred Mutua joins Members of the Adhoc Committee that is pushing for the compensation of the victims of the 1998 bomb blast for a picture after the meeting between the two sides.

them in their quest for justice for the survivors, the committee underscored the key role that the Ministry plays as the primary interface between Kenya and the rest of the world.

The committee directed the CS to use his diplomatic connections and lay the groundwork for their meeting with their American counterparts.

The Ministry’s role includes diplomacy, negotiation, conflict resolution

and humanitarian assistance.

“All these roles are aimed at advancing Kenya’s interests. We can only succeed in pushing for the the compensation if we work together,” said Senator Agnes Kavindu, who is the Chairperson of the Committee.

In another meeting, the committee challenged the National Council of Persons with Disabilities to be proactive in registering all the people with disabili-

ties so that Kenya can have an up to members.

The committee made the call after Mr Harun revealed that only a handful of the 1998 victims are registered with the Council which makes them lose out on the benefits that registered members are entitled to.

“Some persons with disabilities have difficulty moving from one place to another. There’s no way you can tell a person in a wheelchair in Baringo to come all the way to Nairobi to register. You, the Council, need to find a way of registering these people in the comfort of their homes,” said Baringo Senator William Cheptumo.

Uasin Gishu senator Jackson Mandago said the Senate should support the agency by pushing for increased allocation in the upcoming Supplementary Budget.

Mr Harun pleaded with the Senate to pass The Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2023, to provide a clear framework to fund the Council, which will, in turn, help them to partner with county governments to register persons with disabilities across the country.

FKF to hold elections by February 2024, CS Namwamba tells Social Welfare Committee



Sports CS Ababu Namwamba confers with Senators Mohamed Faki (left) and George Mbugua (right) who are members of the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare after the meeting. Principal Secretary Peter Tum (second right) had accompanied the CS.

Sports CS Ababu Namwamba has told the Committee on Sports and Social Welfare that the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) will conduct its long overdue elections by the end of Feb-

ruary 2024.

The CS told the Committee that he has established a technical committee to start laying the ground for the election which will be the first step in fixing the

mess in Kenya football.

“I have instructed the Registrar of Sports to start stakeholder engagements so that the finer details of the elections are worked out,” said CS Namwamba, when he appeared before the committee On Thursday, September 7, 2023.

He however challenged the Committee, which is chaired by West Pokot senator Julius Murgor, to hold the sports federations to account for their performances.

Among the issues the stakeholders will discuss is the amendments is the harmonization of the federation’s constitution and agree on the representatives who will take part on the election.

“I have invited Fifa and we have armed them with all the challenges that face Kenyan football,” he said.

The CS was forced to declare the date of the poll at the insistence of the members of the committee.

The committee has decried the sorry state of the sport and demanded explanation from the government what it is doing to address the situation.

Senators Enoch Wambua, Stewart Madzayo, Mohamed Faki and Samson Cherarkey insisted that the CS Namwamba to ensure the federation holds

election in line with the Sports Act, 2013.

Senator Madzayo wanted to know the date of the next FKF election and the measures the CS is taking to ensure that there will be fair play to all the parties concerned.

The federation is standing on quick sand as it has never held election since 2018. It currently survives on a conditional certificate of registration issued by the Office of Registrar of Sports but whose mandate ended in August 2018.

Part of conditions the Registrar issued were for the federation to comply with the 2010 Constitution, the Sports Act, 2013 and the international statutes, develop mid and long term strategic plan and hold elections within 90 days of the issuance of the certificate.

The certificate was issued in May 2018 but the Federation is yet to hold the election.

“With or without Fifa, FKF must abide its own law and even the international statutes,” CS Namwamba said, adding “Abiding by the law means being representatives, concerns of members must be resolved and its constitution must enjoy the popular will.

EACC probes 231 procurement cases in 4 ASAL counties

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has received and processed 231 corruption cases related to irregular procurement in the four counties in the Arid and Semi-Arid areas.

Marsabit County leads the log with 90 of the reported cases, followed by Samburu 87, Wajir 32 and Mandera 22.

The information was provided by the top leadership of the commission when it appeared before the Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee through the online platform, Zoom, on Thursday, September 7, 2023.

Marsabit Senator Mohamed Chute

had sought a statement on the floor of the House in which wanted to know the status of corruption inquiries in Arid and Semi-Arid lands (ASALs) Counties, specifically Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, and Samburu.

Mr Mbarak told the committee that out of the total cases 67 are at an advanced stage of investigation.

“Based on the Case Prioritization Strategy, which takes into account factors like significance, monetary value, and public interest, we have prioritized 67 high-impact cases. They have either been completed or are in various advanced stages of investigation,” said Mr

Mbarak.

However, Isiolo Senator Fatuma Dullo expressed concern about the level of transparency at the Commission and wondered the communication strategy it has put in place to appraise the public on the status of these investigations.

“Do you have a mechanism for updating the members of the public on the status of inquiries and cases?” asked Senator Dullo.

While the commission acknowledged the challenge, chairman David Oginde pointed out that high number of cases they receive it is near impossible keeping the public regularly informed poses logistical difficulties as the commission

does not have adequate staff.

“Even if we wanted to provide regular updates it would be practically impossible since we receive about 9,000 reports annually. To issue regular updates given such a large number of reports, we would need a dedicated department for this,” said Bishop Oginde.

While the Commission acknowledged the challenge, Bishop David Oginde, the Chairman, explained that they receive a high number of complaints annually, making it near impossible to keep the public regularly informed. He said the huge number of cases poses logistical difficulties as the Commission does not have adequate staff.

Trade Committee wants an explanation on Diageo's increased shares in EABL



Lenku ole Kanar Seki stresses a point during the meeting between the Committee and EABL management. He is flanked by Senator Esther Okenyuri.

The Management of East African Breweries Limited has clarified that Diageo Kenya acquired an additional 15 per cent shareholding in the company in 2023, by way of a Public Tender Offer to all EABL shareholders, a transaction which was approved by the Capital Markets Authority and the relevant regulators.

Through the deal, Diageo Kenya increased its shareholding in EABL from 50.03 per cent to 65 per cent, and dismissed claim that transaction was fraudulent.

In the submission to the Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism, EABL Managing Director Jane Karuku said as part of the disclosure in the 2023



EABL Managing Director Jane Karuku.

Public Tender offer, Diageo Kenya disclosed that it had made no agreement to sell EABL shares to any other person.

“This transaction was the single largest direct foreign investment in the Kenya Stock Market in 2023 where Diageo Shareholders paid Sh22.7 billion to EABL shareholders in the market,” said Ms Karuku.

The Managing director was responding to a petition filed in the Senate by Mr Nicholas Rono who claims that the acquisition of the shares was fraudulent and passed on the company to foreigners.

Ms Karuku told the committee that the contents of the petition are false and malicious assertions arguing that EABL has never ceased to be a Kenyan company.

“In fact, over the years it has transformed into a strong local Kenyan multinational, employing thousands of Kenyans and east Africans,” said Ms Karuku, even as she accused the petitioner of hiding the cloak of the Senate to publish false, misleading and defamatory materials concerning EABL.

“EABL is a local homegrown company in partnership with the finest global partners based in Kenya with a strong value chain Making a key driver for growth and prosperity in Kenya.”

In its report, the Capital Markets Authority told the committee, which is chaired by Kajiado Senator Lenku Ole Kanar Seki that as at June 2023, foreigners held 9.34 per cent of total shareholding adding that an analysis of the situation indicates that foreign shareholding has been decreasing in the last four years.



Senators Jackson Mandago (left), Okoiti Omtatah and Karung'o Thangwa (right) during the session.

All set for the Universal Health Coverage roll out



Senator Mariam Omar, the vice chair of Committee on Health, shares a light moment with the PS Kimutai during the retreat which discussed UHC. Below, Senator Jackson Mandago, the chairman of the committee.

The Committee on Health has promised the public that it will fast-track the enactment of four key Bills that seek to transform the health sector and ensure Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all.

The chairman of the committee, Senator Jackson Mandago, says the idea behind fast-tracking is to give the Executive an opportunity to roll out UHC in the 47 counties to facilitate quality and efficient healthcare.

“We have already engaged with the Ministry of Health on the Bills. We want to move with speed on the legislative process so as to ensure that the Executive rolls out Universal Health Coverage in all 47 counties,” said Senator Mandago.

He made the comments on September 13, 2023, after collaborative discussions between the committee and representatives of the Ministry and the Council of Governors.

The team from the Ministry was led by the Principal Secretary in the Department of Medical Services Harry Kimutai.

The aim of the meeting was to scrutinise the four Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Bills, developed by the Ministry in collaboration with the CoG.

The Bills are: Facility Improvement Financing Bill, 2023, the Digital Health

Bill, 2023, the Primary Healthcare Bill, 2023 and the Social Health Insurance Bill, 2023 which designed for the successful delivery of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) across the country.

If enacted, The Social Health Insurance Bill, 2023 will put in place a legal regime that will regulate the provision of social health insurance, facilitate the implementation of the UHC and ensure all Kenyans have access to affordable and comprehensive quality health services.

The Digital Health Care, 2023 Bill seeks to provide for a framework for provision of digital health services whilst establishing a comprehensive integrated digital health information system.

The Primary Health Care Bill, 2023 seeks to establish a framework for the delivery of and access to and management of primary health care.

The proposed law creates an elaborate primary healthcare network at each county and sub-county level to ensure equitable distribution of resources and health services.

The Bill also establishes the County Primary Health Care Advisory Committees at the county level that is tasked to ensure the effective implementation of primary healthcare through resource mobilisation, advocacy and the planning and development of primary healthcare service delivery.



The Facilities Improvement Financing Bill, 2023 aims to ring-fence money generated in health facilities, ensuring a predictable, regular, and steady source of funding for health facility operations in the counties.

This is intended to guarantee that funds are utilised for the improvement of patient care at individual health facilities, preventing them from being absorbed into county coffers.

Two of the Bills, the Facility Improvement Financing Bill, and the Primary Health Care Bill were introduced in the House on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, and they were committed to the Committee to conduct public participation.

The process of participation will start in Turkana County where the Senate is scheduled to sit for the week starting September 25, 2023.

Senator Mandago assured the Ministry and the CoG, the Committee will remain available to consult and engage further to expedite what needs to be done whilst respecting the law, to ensure that the public has access to quality health care and services.

“Let us ensure that Universal Health Coverage is indeed successful and achieved” stressed Senator Mandago in his final address at the consultative discussions.

PS Kimutai hailed the meeting saying it was the first step in ensuring the realisation of the UHC dream.

“The Spirit here is very good and we have clearly set the rules of engagement moving forward with all the stakeholders: the Ministry, the CoG and the Senate to ensure the delivery of these important Bills that will positively affect the citizens of this country” the PS told the meeting.

Employment agencies to execute security bonds as condition for registration in proposed Bill

Private employment agencies engaged in the recruitment of workers for foreign employment will have to execute a security bond as a condition for registration.

The security bond will be used in the repatriation, payment of wages and other entitlements in the private employment agencies or the employer defaults on their part of the bargain.

The requirement for the execution of the bond is part of the tough rules contained in the Labour Migration Management Bill, 2023, as the Senate moves to regulate the sector.

The bond will be valid for one year and will run concurrently with the validity of the certificate of registration.

Sponsored by Senator Tabitha Mutinda, the Bill is proposing tough measures that will bring the sector under control and forestall the concerns that have been raised in the management of the sector.

The lawmaker seeks to regulate the agencies and the recruitment of workers within and outside Kenya so as to safeguard the rights and welfare of job seekers and migrant workers.



Senator Tabitha Mutinda, who is pushing for the amendments.

Senator Mutinda's Bill consolidates the laws relating to labour migration and proposes to repeal sections of the Labour Institutions Act, 2007 and the Employment Act, 2007.

Besides developing an elaborate code of conduct, a private employment agency will only be issued with a registration certificate if it is registered in Kenya under the Companies Act, Partnership Act or under the Non-Governmental Organisation Act.

It establishes an 8-member Multi-Agency Committee on Vetting of Private Employment Agencies which will be responsible for vetting and approving applications for registration made by private employment agencies.

The Bill provides for the registration of private employment agencies and the cancellation of such registration besides providing for the execution of security bonds by private employment agencies

engaged in the employment of workers for foreign employment.

The PSs in charge of labour matters and Foreign Affairs, the Commissioner for Labour, a representative of private employment agencies, Director of Criminal Investigations, the Director General (National Intelligence Service), Director of Immigration Services and the Director General of National Industrial Training Authority.

To forestall cases of fake jobs being offered to the public, the Bill requires the agencies to submit every job order they get to the National Industrial Training Authority for approval. On the other hand, the Authority will be required to attest foreign job orders to the relevant Kenya mission abroad and file a report back to the Authority.

The Bill proposes that the Director General of NITA to maintain an up to date register of the agencies that will be available for inspection by any person.

The Bill further proposes the establishment of the Migrant Workers Welfare Fund under the Public Finance Management Act.

The number of people with PWDs employed in public sector below the legal threshold, CS Bore tells House.

Labour and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary Florence Bore says only 1.4 percent of persons with disabilities are employed in the public sector.

The quantum covers Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices, Ministries and State Departments, Public Universities, Statutory Commissions and Authorities, State Corporations and SAGAs and TVETs excluding persons with disabilities working in County Governments.

Despite efforts put in place to embrace the PDWs, CS Bore told the House that the provision is weak on enforcement of the 5 percent requirement.

The CS was responding to a question by Senator George Mbugua who wanted to be furnished with details of all persons with disabilities employed in the public sector.

The senator wanted details indicating the level of compliance with Section 13 of the Persons with Disabilities Act

that requires reservation of 5 percent of all casual, emergency and contractual positions reserved for PWDs.

CS Bore revealed that the Ministry has developed the Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2023 which is currently before the National Assembly to address the shortcomings.

The Bill proposes appointment of an Inspector who will ensure enforcement of the provisions of the Act in totality.

The Bill further provides for establishment of Disability Mainstreaming Units which will carry out regular inspections to ensure implementation and compliance with provisions of the Act.

CS Bore told the legislators that the Ministry of labour has put in place measures to ensure compliance with the legal provision among them incorporation of the Disability Mainstreaming Performance Indicator in the Public Performance Management Framework which will help track and report employ-



Labour CS Florence Bore speaks in the House when she appeared to respond to questions raised by members. She was accompanied by Harun Hassan, the CEO National Council for Persons with Disabilities

ment of persons with disabilities.

Through the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, the government has developed a Career Portal to support persons with disabilities to access information on employment opportunities and connect with potential employers.

“The government is finalising on the development of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities to set out obligations by all employers in the public and private sectors in regard to employment of persons with disabilities,” submitted CS Bore.

ICT Committee wants Data Commissioner to probe Supermarket over personal data breach

The Office of the Data Commissioner has confirmed that Naivas Supermarket failed to report an alleged breach of personal data that occurred at the supermarket chain within 72 hours as required by law.

Nandi Senator Samson Cherarkey had taken to the floor and accused cases of breach of sensitive personal data at the supermarket Chain that occurred in March 2023.

Appearing before the Committee, the Data Commissioner, Ms Immaculate Kassait, informed the Senators that the Supermarket had not put in place adequate measures to safeguard customer data whilst in storage pointing out that her office has initiated a post-breach audit to confirm the current safety of customer, supplier and employee data and is awaiting the final forensic report.

“My Office has initiated a post-breach audit to fully understand the circumstances of the breach. If the entity is found culpable, we’ll take the necessary action in accordance with Section 43 of the Data Protection Act, 2019, and the relevant regulations,” said Ms Kassait on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

The Committee put the Data Commissioner to task on the measures her office has put in place to safeguard Kenyans’



The Committee on ICT led by chairman Allan Chesang during the meeting with Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait.

data from hacking and urged her to expedite the audit process so that they can assist in the recovery and securing of the compromised data.

“In this day and age, data has become a currency. It is scary that someone can hack into a system and get all your details. As an Office, you need to put in

place effective safeguards to protect this data from cybercriminals,” said Nominated Senator Shakila Abdalla said.

The Committee, which is chaired by Trans Nzoia senator Allan Chesang resolved to invite the Chief Executive Officer of the Naivas Supermarket Chain to listen to their side of the story before

preparing its report to the House on the matter.

If found culpable by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, Naivas Supermarket Chain risks being fined up to Sh5 million or a be shutdown.

Delegated Committee wants to know whether public participation was conducted in miraa regulations



The chairman of the Committee on Delegated Legislation consults Senator Mohamed Faki during the meeting. Senator Dan Maanzo (right) also attended the meeting.

A Committee of the House has given Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi until October 5, 2023 to explain whether public participation was conducted before the Crops (Miraa) Regulations, 2023 were published.

The Regulations were published on April 5, 2023, to provide the regulatory framework for the miraa subsector in Kenya.

The Committee on Delegated Legis-

lation, which is chaired by Tharaka Nithi Senator Mwanda Gataya Mofire, made the decision during a meeting with the Council of Governors and the Ministry to consider the Regulations.

Makueni senator Dan Maanzo said the Regulations were introducing new levies which had made farmers believe miraa farming may not be profitable. We want to know if there was public participation. Were governors involved?” posed the Senator.

The Committee had invited the CS to explain these issues but he did not show up as he was indisposed.

He was represented by Mr Willis Audi, who is the director of Agricultural Food Authority.

“We have given the Ministry until October 5 for the CS to appear before this committee and explain whether public participation was conducted before the regulations were published,” said Senator Mofire.

The committee issued the directive after the Council of Governors (CoG) asked Parliament to nullify the Regulations because their views on how to improve the sector were ignored by the Ministry.

Through its Committee on Agriculture, CoG explained that although they are major stakeholders in Agriculture, which is fully devolved, they were not involved in the formulation of the regulations.

“We ask the committee to annul these

regulations in totality because they do not represent the thinking of the CoG,” said Mr Kizito Wangalwa, who represented Bungoma Governor Kenneth Lusaka, who chairs the committee.

COG has proposed that the registration of miraa grower institutions and small-scale farmer associations should be by County Governments and not the Agriculture and Food Authority as provided for in the Regulations.

“Agriculture is a devolved function so it is only proper that counties do the registration,” explained Mr Wangalwa, adding that miraa aggregators and transporters should also be done in counties.

CoG says licensing of miraa vendors and appointment of inspectors should also be done by counties.

AFA acting director general Willis Audi told the committee that they never dealt with governors directly when formulating the regulations.

The Miraa subsector has improved drastically in the last year after the re-opening of the Somalia market in July 2022.

Agriculture Committee wants stakeholders to explore alternative food production to forestall scarcity



Members of the Committee on Agriculture and stakeholders from the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) during the retreat in Naivasha.

The Committee on Agriculture has called on the stakeholders to explore alternative options of ensuring that Kenyans do not suffer from lack of access to basic food commodities.

Nyeri senator Wamatinga said due to the effects of climate change, increasing awareness about agricultural Biotechnology is crucial for fostering informed public disclosure, promoting responsible usage and harnessing the potential benefit of these innovations.

“Factors like drought and climate change mean that as a country, we have to explore alternative options of ensuring food security,” said Senator Wamatinga.

The senator was speaking during a two-day retreat between the committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF). The

Meeting discussed the Agricultural Biotechnology Awareness.

Among issues discussed at the retreat

were the state of Agricultural Biotechnology Regulatory Frameworks in Kenya, Agriculture Biotechnology Research in Kenya, Changing GMO narratives in the face of climate change in Kenya, GMO seed release and management process, and perspectives from farmers.

Presentations were done by Dr Canisius Kanangire, who is the Executive Director (AATF), Dr Boniface Kaberia, represented the National Biosafety Authority, Dr. Martin Mwirigi, Direc-

tor, Biotechnology Institute, Ms. Annie Muia, Senior Biosafety Officer), Dr. Francis Nang’ayo (Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager, AATF), Prof. Richard Oduor (KUBICO).

Other Senators who participated during the meeting Senator Alexander Mundigi, Senator Daniel Maanzo, Senator David Wakoli and Senator Beth Kalunda Syengo.

Choka, Mihango demolitions were about saving lives, CS Chirchir tells Committee on Land



Senators Wamatinga and Jones Mwaruma (left) and Energy CS Chirchir

Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir has told a committee of the House that demolitions at Chokaa in Mihangó and other areas were only carried out along the transmission lines Wayleaves corridor.

“The Wayleaves trace is a safety corridor which should be left clear and free from any structure to avoid incidents that may lead to loss of life and property, said the CS when he appeared before the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources

The law allows open space within the

power line Wayleaves to provide access and sufficient space for operations, repair and maintenance of the critical electricity infrastructure of national importance.

In his submission, the CS told the committee, which is chaired by Senator John Methu that following a series of collapsed buildings in Nairobi and other parts of the country that led to massive loss of lives and property in 2016, the President Uhuru Kenyatta directed the formation of a Multi-Sectoral Agency Consultative Committee (M-SACC) on unsafe buildings/structures.

The mandate of the committee was



to identify unsafe structures including encroachments to Wayleaves corridors of critical infrastructure, evacuate and demolish to protect lives and property among other measures.

CS Chirchir informed the Committee the demolitions were implemented by M-SACC in strict adherence to the laid down procedures.

Prior to the demolitions, infringement notices were issued at the affected areas.

“The encroaching buildings were clearly marked. Sensitisation and awareness meetings were held with the affected residents. The same were also cov-

ered the media.

The larger Embakasi area hosts the National Control Centre and three major transmission substations namely: Juja Road 132kV, Dandora 220kV and Embakasi 220kV substations, and these substations receive bulk power from the generation stations, and act as an inter-connection point for power supply to Nairobi and other parts of the country.

“M-SACC acted within its mandate of protecting lives and property from unsafe dwellings by demolishing the illegal buildings and structures. This also assisted KPLC to fulfil its obligation to build, operate, maintain and protect electric power supply lines to ensure adequate, economic, reliable, efficient and safe transmission and distribution system as stipulated in the Energy Act, 2019.

He also stated that it is not possible to resettle people on power line Wayleaves corridors as doing so would expose them to danger.

“This would also compromise operations of the electricity supply lines, and defeat the very reason of creating Wayleaves corridors and easements for critical infrastructure,” he explained.



1. Senators Moses Kajwang and John Methu during the Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Senator Kajwang is the chair and convener of the Parliamentary Caucus on Climate Action, Kenya Parliament.
2. Senators Jackson Mandago and Veronica Maina during the Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting.
3. Senator Karung'o Thangwa at the African Climate Summit.
4. Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina, Deputy Minority Leader Enoch Wambua with Senator Veronica Maina during the Parliamentarians Dialogue.
5. Senators Veronica Maina in discussion with Senator Margret Kamar during the African Climate Summit at KICC.
6. Minority Whip Ledama Ole Kina follows proceedings at the African Climate Summit.a



7. Senator William Kisang during the Climate Change Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting.

8. Speakers Amason Kingi (Senate) and Moses Moses Wetangula (National Assembly) at the opening ceremony of the African Climate Summit.

9. Senator Beatrice Ogolla and other delegates at the Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting

10. Senator Hamida Kibwana at the Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting.

11. Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina, Senator John Methu and other delegates at the Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting.

12. Senators Margret Kamar (left) and Jackson Mandago share a moment with the Baringo Woman Rep Florence Jematia during the Parliamentarians Dialogue



13. Nandi Senator Samson Cherarkey the delegates during the Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting.
 14. Speaker Amason Kingi (left) and other Senators follow proceedings at the opening session of the Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting.
 15. Speaker Kingi explains something to Senator Otieno Kajwang and Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina at the opening sessions of Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting.
 16. Senator Otieno Kajwang, the co-convener of Kenya parliamentary Climate Action, chairs one off the sessions during the Parliamentarian Dialogue meeting.
 17. Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi and Senator John Methu during the opening ceremony of the African Climate Summit at KICC.
 18. Speaker Kingi and Senator Agnes Kavindu during the official opening of the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) at KICC



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19. Senator Crystal Asige addresses delegates at the Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting where she pitched for an all-inclusive climate action that will bring all marginalised groups on board.
20. National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula with the delegates of the Parliamentarians Dialogue on Climate Change who had paid him a courtesy call in his Office.
21. Senator Mariam Omar (second left) follows proceedings at the African Climate Summit (ACS).
23. Senator Margret Kamar with a delegate during the Climate Summit.
25. Senator John Methu explains something to Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi as Senator Hamida Kibwana looks on. President Nyusi was among the world leaders who attended the African Climate Summit in Nairobi.
26. Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Deby signs the visitors' book soon after he jetted into the country for the Africa Climate Summit. Senator John Methu and ICT CS Eliud Owalo watch on.



- 27. Senator John Methu with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport after he arrived for the African Climate Summit.
- 28. Senator Hamida Kibwana with lawmakers from across the African Continent during the Parliamentarians Dialogue meeting.
- 29. Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina with former US Secretary of State John Kerry. Mr Kerry is the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate.
- 30. Senators Tabitha Mutinda (left) and Mariam Omar with other delegates during the Parliamentarian Dialogue meeting.
- 30. A member of the public shares her views with the Adhoc Committee on the Compensation for the victims of the 1998 bomb blast during a public hearing event in Machakos town on Friday, September 8, 2023.
- 31. Senator Alexander Mundigi, a member of the Adhoc Committee on Compensation of the victims of the 1998 bomb blast arrives in Machakos for public hearing on September 8, 2023



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32. & 33. (Top and below) Officers from the Directorate of Serjeant-At-Arms and the Department of Public Communications pose at the newly refurbished Senate Reception area.

34. A visiting delegation of Members of the Committee on Equal Opportunities of Ugandan Parliament follow proceedings in the Senate Chamber on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. The Committee is on a benchmarking tour with the Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity of the Senate.

35. Members and staff of the Committee on Delegated Legislation of the County Assembly of Kisumu pose for a picture within the Precincts of Parliament on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. The Committee was on a benchmarking tour with the Committee on Delegated Legislation of the Senate.

36. Rongo University students pose outside the Senate Chamber after their tour of Parliament Buildings.

37. Students of Ndurumo Day Secondary School from Laikipia County during their visit to Parliament.

Seneta Mbugua ataka majibu kuhusu tahadhari ya serikali kuzikabili athari za mvua ya masika



Seneta George Mbugua

Seneta Mteule George Mbugua ameitaka Kamati ya Kudumu katika Seneti ya Usalama, Ulinzi na Masuala ya Kigeni kutoa taarifa ya namna serikali ilivyojiandaa kukabiliana na athari za mvua ya masika iliyotabiriwa kushuhudiwa kati ya mwezi Agosti na Disemba mwaka huu.

Seneta Mbugua kwenye ombi lake Bungeni anaitaka Kamati hiyo chini ya uenyekiti wa Seneta wa Baringo William Cheptumo kufafanua mikakati iliyowekwa na vitengo vyote vya serikali kukabiliana na athari mbaya za mvua ya masika ambazo kulingana naye huenda zikasababisha uchungu kwa wananchi na kuharibu mazingira.

Kiongozi huyo aidha anaitaka Kamati hiyo kueleza mikakati na sera ambazo zimebuniwa na Serikali ya Kitaifa na za Kaunti kuangazia mikasa hususan kuwapa uwezo wafanyakazi na maandalizi ya mapema ya kuyakabili majan-

ga na namna sera hizo zinatekelezwa kuyakabili majanga yanayohusiana na hali ya anga.

Vile vile, Seneta Mbugua ameiomba Kamati hiyo kubaini endapo kuna juhudi zozote za kuwahamasisha Wakenya kuhusiana na athari za mvua ya masika iliyotabiriwa hasa jamii zilizo katika maeneo hatari.

Kwingineko Seneta wa Kaunti ya Nandi Samson Cherarkey amewasiliha ombi Bungeni akitaka kauli kutoka kwa Kamati ya Kudumu ya Barabara, Uchukuzi na Nyumba kuhusu ukarabati na upanuzi wa viwanja vya ndege vikuu na vidogo nchini Kenya.

Seneta Cherarkey kupitia kwa ombi lake anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuwasilisha Ripoti ya hatua zilizopigwa katika ukarabati na upanuzi wa viwanja vya ndege nchini Kenya ikifafanua wakati rasmi wa kukamilika kwa shughuli hiyo kwa kila mradi.

Anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuweka wazi maelezo ya namna mgao wa shilingi bilioni moja zilizotengwa kwa ajili ya ukarabati na upanuzi wa viwanja vya ndege zitagawanywa kufadhili miradi iliyolengwa kando na kueleza uwezekano wa utekelezaji wa miradi hiyo kijumla.

Aidha, Kamati hiyo inatakiwa na Seneta Cherarkey kubainisha idadi jumla ya barabara zinazoelekea kwenye viwanja vidogo vya ndege ambazo zimepangiwa kujengwa au ukarabatiwa kote nchini Kenya ikionesha idadi ya Kaunti ambazo zinalengwa kunufaika kutoka kwa upanuzi na ukarabati unaoendelea wa viwanja vya ndege.

Kadhhalika Kiongozi huyo ameiomba Kamati hiyo chini ya uenyekiti wa Seneta wa Kaunti ya Kiambu Karungo Thangwa kueleza ilikofikia miradi ya upanuzi wa viwanja vya ndege vya Kisumu na Eldoret ili kusaidia katika shughuli za utunzi wa mizigo.

Shughuli za Seneti kuendeshwa kwenye Kaunti ya Turkana

Wenyeji wa Kaunti ya Turkana watapata fursa ya pekee kushuhudia shughuli za Bunge la Seneti zikiandaliwa katika Kaunti hiyo kati ya tarehe 25 na 29 mwezi Septemba mwaka huu wa 2023.

Bunge la Seneti litaandaa vikao vya- lo katika majengo ya Bunge la Kaunti ya Turkana, Maseneta wakiendesha shughuli zao za kawaida sawia na wanavyofanya kila mara katika majengo ya Bunge jijini Nairobi.

Kando na vikao, Bunge hilo lime- ratibu mikao mbali mbali ya kamati za Kudumu za Seneti ambapo Maseneta wataangazia masuala mbali mbali ya Kitaifa huku mengine yakiihusu Kaunti ya Turkana moja kwa moja.

Miongoni mwa Kamati za Kudumu za Seneti ambazo zitaandaa mikutano kwenye Kaunti ya Turkana ni Kamati ya Kawi, Kamati ya Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi, Kamati ya Afya, Kamati ya Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Masuala ya Kigeni na Kamati ya Mshikamano, Usawa wa nafasi na Utangamano.

Kamati zingine ni ya Uhasibu wa Umma, Elimu, Ardhi, Mazingira na Mali asili na ya Mawasiliano na Teknolojia.

Kamati ya Uhasibu wa Umma itaandaa mkao na Mamlaka kuu ya Serikali ya Kaunti ya Turkana kutathmini Ripoti ya Mkaguzi Mkuu wa serikali kuhusu matumizi ya fedha kwenye mwaka wa



kifedha wa 2020 hadi 2021 huku Kamati ya Kudumu ya Kawi ikiandaa kikao na Usimamizi wa Lake Turkana Wind Power na viongozi wa mashinani kando na kuzuru mradi huo.

Kamati ya Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi itazuru Mradi wa Unyunyuziaji mashamba maji wa Katilu huku Kamati ya Afya ikitenga muda kuandaa mkao na Kamati ya Afya kwenye Kaunti ya Turkana kuangazia changamoto zinaoikumba sekta ya afya.

Kadhhalika Kamati hiyo itafanya mikutano na Waziri wa Afya Dkt. Susan Nakhumicha, Mwenyekiti wa Baraza la Magavana nchini Kenya na Gavana wa Kaunti ya Kirinyaga Ann Waiguru, Afisa Mkuu Mtendaji wa NHIF miongoni mwa washikadau wengine.

Kwa upande wayo Kamati ya Us-

alama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Masuala ya Kigeni itaandaa kikao na Kamanda wa Kitengo kinachoshika doria mpakani kujadili changamoto zinazokikumba kikosi hicho katika utekelezaji wa sera za kuweka usalama kwenye mpaka wa Kenya.

Aidha, Maseneta watapata fursa kuzuru maeneo na miradi mbali mbali ya Kaunti ya Turkana kukagua matunda ya ugatuzi kando na kupokea hisia za wenyeji wa Kaunti ya Turkana.

Maseneta watazuru hospitali ya Rufaa ya Lodwar, Kituo cha Ukaguzi wa Elimu cha Turkana, Shule ya Upili ya Wasichana ya Lodwar na Chuo cha kifundi cha Lodwar.

Vile vile, Maseneta hususan walio wanachama wa Kamati ya Kudumu ya Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi watazu-

ru Chama cha Ushirika wa Wavuvi Turkana cha Kalokol huku wenzao wa Kawi wakizuru Kampuni ya Mafuta ya Tullow, sehemu ya Lokichar.

Kando na vikao na ziara za nyanjani, Maseneta na Wafanyakazi wa Bunge la Seneti watapata fursa pia kuandaa vikao mbali mbali na Usimamizi, Waakilishi Wadi na Wafanyakazi wa Bunge la Kaunti ya Turkana.

Kikao hiki cha Bunge la Seneti nje ya majengo ya Bunge jijini Nairobi ni cha tatu cha aina yake kuandaliwa nchini Kenya tangu kuzinduliwa kwa vikao kama hivyo.

Kikao cha kwanza kiliandaliwa katika Kaunti ya Uasin Gishu huku cha pili kikiandaliwa katika kaunti ya Kitui mnamo mwaka 2018 na 2019 mtawalia.

Mwezi Aprili mwaka huu, Bunge kwa kauli moja lilipitisha Hoja ya kuandaliwa kwa vikao vya- lo katika Kaunti ya Turkana maarufu kwa jina Seneti Mashinani na kupisha maandalizi ambayo yaliendeshwa na Usimamizi wa Seneti kwa ushirikiano na wafanyakazi.

Lengo kuu la vikao nje ya Nairobi ni kuwapa Wakenya fursa ya kuelewa wajibu wa Seneti, kuelezea ufanisi na changamoto zinazokikumba ugatuzi ili ziangaziwe kwa kina na Maseneta.

Wakenya wameshauriwa kufuatilia kwa karibu vikao na shughuli za Bunge la Seneti kwenye Kaunti ya Turkana.

Kenya to lead OGP for the next one year



Picture 1, The Kenyan Delegation to the OGP Summit in Estonia, from left Picture 2, Mr Dennis Omondi, Kenya Country Director, National Democratic Institute, Senator Khalwale, Hon Shurie and Mr Philip Thigo.

Kenya has been handed the leadership of the Global Open Governments Partnerships (OGP). For the next one year, the Kenya government will be the Co-Chair of the OGP alongside Blair Glencorse, Co-CEO of Accountability Lab.

The honour was passed onto Kenya on Thursday at the conclusion of the 8th Global Summit held in Tallin, Estonia, between September 6 and 7, 2023.

While accepting the mantle, the Principal Secretary Diaspora Affairs, Korir Sing'oei promised the Summit that the Kenya government will not only lead from the front but also facilitate the deepening of democracy in the region.

"The honour you have bestowed on us is a demonstration that the least among us can also lead," said the PS in his speech accepting the honour to hold the co-chair mantle.

He told the gathering, which included Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, that OGP is a transformative network and an effective tool of building trust

and revitalising democracy's flooding fortunes, which he argued should not be taken for granted.

The PS hailed the OGP as a catalyst for culture change within the public sector and an anchor of forging governance reforms for innovative service delivery.

Dr Sing'oei was part of the Kenyan delegation to the summit which also included Members of the Parliamentary Caucus on Open Government Partnership (OGP), the National Assembly Committees on Public Debt and Privatization; and Budget and Appropriations.

The Members were Senate Majority Whip Senator Boni Khalwale and Senator Abdul Haji and Members of National Assembly Chikati Murumba, Shurie Abdi and Njuguna Chege.

OGP is a multilateral initiative based on the co-creation model between governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that aims to promote open government, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

Kenya, as a member of the partnership has one of the most unique models that brings together the Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, Civil Society Organizations and the Academia.

The model has generated interest and benchmarking by other partners.

During the Summit, the European Union made a contribution of €3 million towards the OGP support unit and the Partnership for Democracy and Accountability to advance open government efforts on anti-corruption and accountability, gender, youth, inclusion, civic space, and participation.

The partnership will be implemented globally in member countries, including Colombia, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, and the Philippines.

The programme will run over a period of 40 months. This resonates with the remarks by the Senator Khalwale, who in one of the panel discussions, he urged parliaments to ensure sufficient budget allocations towards implementa-

tion of the OGP National Action Plans.

An award for 'Inspirational Reforms' was launched and it sought to recognize and reward reformers at the forefront of advancing open government. Nandi County was one of the counties that got awarded.

Hon. Shurie Abdi, the Chairperson of the Committee on Public Debt and Privatization elaborated on the work of the Committee juxtapose data openness. He explained that for parliaments to actively perform their oversight responsibilities regarding public debt and public debt management it is essential to have timely access to accurate data on public debt.

As part of its plan to deepen democracy, Dr Sing'oei announced that Kenya will host the OGP regional meeting and ministerial retreats in September 2024 and urged partner states to send high level participation.

Two Commissioners tour PSC exhibition booth at Mombasa Trade Fair, interact, educate the public

Commissioners Mishi Mboko and Rachael Ameso toured the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) exhibition booth at Mombasa ASK Show in Mkomani, Mombasa County where they joined Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye and Director General Clement Nyandiere in engaging the public.

The two Commissioners toured the stand to connect with Parliament on the third day of the Mombasa International A.S.K Show.

Mr Nyegenye, who is also the Secretary of the Commission, explained to the public the mandate of PSC in facilitating the Members of Parliament in executing their three constitutional roles namely, legislation, oversight and representation.

Members of the public and schools who flocked the stand were taken through the parliamentary traditions and procedures and treated to various activities, including question and answer sessions. The winners were rewarded.

In their interaction with the public, the two Commissioners took the lead in providing education on the history of Kenyan Parliament and its processes.

Mr Nyandiere said that the presence of Parliament at the Trade Fair was a great show in demystifying Parliament as an Ivory tower while at the same time promoting cohesion and integration in nation-building.

Commissioner Ameso said that this year's year Show themed "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth", resonates with current global debate on Climate Change that has caused adverse effects on the environment.

Commissioner Mboko, who chairs the committee on Information and Public Communication at the Commission, underscored the importance of developing legislation geared towards mitigation of climate change to secure the country and the continent at large.



1. Commissioners Rachel Ameso (third from left, front row) and Mishi Mboko join Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye and other staff members for a photo after they visited the PSC exhibition stand at the Mombasa Trade fair on Thursday, September 8, 2023.
2. Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye, Commissioners Mishi Mboko and Rachel Ameso pose with students from Mtopanga Junior Secondary School who had been dressed for the mock Senate proceedings at the Mombasa Trade Fair.
3. Commissioners Mishi Mboko, Rachel Ameso and Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye with students from Mtopanga Junior Secondary School who toured the PSC exhibition at Trade Fair
4. Clerk Nyegenye and other PSC staff with members of Kenya Scouts Association after they toured the Exhibition booth.
5. Commissioner Mishi Mboko in discussion with Mr Clement Nyandiere, the Director General of the Parliamentary Joint Services when the two met at the Mombasa Trade Fair.

GUESS WHO!

How well do you know your Senators?



Tell us who this is and win yourself a copy of the Senate Standing Orders, autographed by the Hon. Senator himself.

Email us at:

Senate.weekly@parliament.go.ke

The answer to last week's query is...

Hon Aaron Cheruiyot

Kericho Senator who is Leader of Majority Party



THEN



NOW

There is no winner for last week's quiz.

**Staff of the Senate and Parliament of Kenya are not eligible to participate in this quiz.*

This Week in History



"The officers in the disciplined forces work in really stressful and risky environments. Daily, they are exposed to risks in the line of duty. Locally, there are also increased threats of terror and terrorism. The purpose of this Motion is to ensure that even the families of officers in the disciplined forces are also exposed to trauma. They live in constant fear, debilitating depression, nightmare, crippling anxiety, thoughts of suicide and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Further, they are exposed to stigma from the society and they are unable to take care of themselves."

Senator Johnson Sakaja contributing to debate on the motion on the creation of support services for members of the disciplined forces and their families on **September 7, 2019**.



"The new service should be encouraged to look at their welfare, including housing, salaries and even establishment of the centers that we are talking about. This will ensure that despite being trained to be tough, they will also have a human heart. It is high time that this particular force should be assisted, not only in terms of salary, housing and other welfare issues, but also in terms of counselling and areas where they can receive support services together with their families."

Senator Alice Milgo contributing to debate on the motion on the creation of support services for members of the disciplined forces and their families on **September 7, 2019**.



"PWDs are actually high-risk and vulnerable pedestrians. Blind people are vulnerable because they are not able to see when a vehicle is coming. Even when a motorist hoots, they may not be able to see which direction the vehicle is coming from, so that they know which way to go. Deaf people may also be unable to hear when a motorist hoots. People who are physically challenged have mobility problems, which hinders them from walking very fast. That is why they are highly vulnerable. This Statement has come at the right time because it will ensure that PWDs do not get double disability." – Sen. (Dr.) Musuruve

Senator (Dr.) Gertrude Musuruve contributing to debate on the motion on the Safety of pedestrians and Persons with Disability (PWDs) on **September 9, 2019**.



"If you travel to Europe, the USA and other developed nations; you will find they have foot paths, crossings and other signs important for pedestrian use and PWDs. We are in the 21st Century and we continue seeing modernization of roads. However, we are yet to see parts of roads that are designated for cyclists, pedestrians and PWDs."

Senator (Dr.) Ochillo-Ayacko contributing to debate on the motion on the Safety of pedestrians and Persons with Disability (PWDs) on **September 9, 2019**.



A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

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