



The SENATE

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

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Weekly

House tightens noose on those who defy summons to appear

The amendment provides that where an arrest order is effected by an officer of Parliament, the Inspector General will be expected to assist such an officer in the execution of the arrest.

Individuals who regularly defy summons to appear before Houses of Parliament have nowhere to run to.

This after the Senate approved the Kenya Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Bill, 2023, with amendments aimed at strengthening its oversight roles and bring public officers to account for the decisions they make while in office.

The House unanimously adopted an amendment that seeks to enhance fine for such defiance to Sh2 million from Sh500,000 as it seeks to tighten the noose around the necks of those public officer who have decided to ignore either invitation or summons to appear.

However, the Bill is clear that a witness shall be given an opportunity to be heard prior to imposition of the fine.

Under the Bill, the Clerk of either House is mandated to cause a summon to be served within seven days by transmitting the order of directive to the Inspector General of Police.

Similarly, the culprits will have to be detained in the police cells pending their appearance before either House or relevant committee as much as they will be required to provide proof that the funds they pay as fine are drawn from their personal funds.

The amendment also suggests that those arrested for defying parliamentary summons will be held in police cells before they are presented to the relevant House or committee.

In an amendment brought by Senator Godfrey Osotsi, who sponsored the Bill, the Inspector General of Police will have seven days to effect the arrest and present such an officer to the House or relevant committee.

“If the Inspector General fails, without sufficient cause, to effect the order



Senator Godfrey Osotsi, the sponsor of the Kenya Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Bill, 2023.

of arrest within the 7 days, from the date of the receipt of the order, the order may be effected by an authorized officer of Parliament,” said the proposal by the Senator.

The amendment further provides that where an order is effected by an officer of Parliament, the Inspector General will be expected to assist such an officer in the conduct of an arrest.

And where such an arrest is effected, the individual will be held at the Parliament Police Station or “any other police

station gazetted under section 40 of the National Police Service Act.

In supporting the amendments, Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot described the amendments as consequential. “This is an important amendment. This is something that we have discussed for a long time, but have never actualised. It is giving decency to Members of Parliament,” he said.

Senator John Methu supported the amendment in which officers of parliament will be required to effect arrest.

“I am persuaded to having a parliamentary police force that shall help us in ensuring we are able to effect this.

We should get a police service that is dedicated to ensuring that we are able to arrest not only those witnesses who do not come here, but also the hostile witnesses. We have seen witnesses that are hostile in our committees. They do not want to follow the directions of the chair. These are people that we should lock up somewhere for six, seven or 12 hours until they are able to behave in a parlia-

mentary manner.”

While she wanted the fine payable increased to Sh5 million, Senator Veronica Maina said the Houses should have something close to a list of shame of those governors and officers who have been summoned and have consistently refused to appear.

“There is need for a rule that proposes that if you fail to appear on one single summon, three times, and maybe you have even been fined the first time, and there are no justifiable reasons why you did not present yourself before the Committee your name should be pushed to the list of shame,” she said, adding that

through such action, the whole country will know that the officer received public funds and refused to account for it.

Article 125 of the Constitution gives Parliament the power to summon witnesses.

Either House of Parliament, and any of its committees, has power to summon any person to appear before it for the purpose of giving evidence or providing information.

The provision further gives a House of Parliament and any of its committees the same powers as the High Court in terms of enforcing attendance of witnesses and examine them on oath, affirmation or otherwise.

In accordance with the Kenya Parliamentary (Powers and Privileges) Act, committees enjoy and exercise all the powers and privileges bestowed on Parliament by the Constitution and statute, including the power to summon witnesses, receive evidence and to request for and receive papers and documents from the Government and the public.

The Bill will be forwarded to the National Assembly for concurrence as required of all the Bills originating from the Senate.



Senator Veronica Maina.

Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 introduced in the House



Senator Ali Roba, the chair, Finance and Budget Committee.

The Division of Revenue Bill, 2024, has formally been introduced in the Senate.

The Bill, which originated from the National Assembly, was read for

the first time on Wednesday

The National Assembly considered and passed the Bill on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 without amendments and in accordance with the

provisions of Article 110(4) of the Constitution and Standing Orders No.41 and 142 of the National Assembly, Speaker Moses Wetangula referred the Bill to the Senate for consideration.

In the version passed by the National Assembly, counties will receive Sh391 billion in equitable shareable revenue for the 2024/25 financial year raised nationally.

This is an increase from a base of Sh374 billion allocated to the devolved units in the 2023/24 financial year.

The Council of Governors (CoG) is demanding Sh450 billion as its share of the national revenue while the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) had proposed Sh407 billion counties down from Sh416 billion during its presentations to the National Treasury.

However, the Senate has proposed to ensure that counties are allocated Sh415 billion in the next financial year.

In the report for 2024 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) adopted by the House last month, the Senate argued that the Sh391 billion represents approximately 13.2 per cent of the projected ordinary revenue of Sh2.948 trillion for 2024/25 financial year.

“Our engagement with the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary has indicated that a lot of reality has

not gone into the scientific determination of what the bare minimum revenue growth for the county governments should have been,” said Senator Ali Roba, the chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee.

Senator Roba, who chairs the Finance and Budget Committee, said the proposal for Sh415 billion was based on the baseline of Sh385.425 billion, being the approved allocation in the last Division of Revenue Act (DoRA), adjustment for absolute revenue growth of 6.4 per cent which is based on the actual ordinary revenue growth realised in the 2022/23 financial year and further adjustment by repurposing of the scrapped MES programme, that is shared medical equipment that the counties still need to have for Sh5.86 billion.

The committee argued that the total additional allocations to counties should stand at Sh55.453 billion; and the allocation to the equalisation fund for 2024/25 be set at Sh7.852 billion in line with the most recent audited and approved accounts by the National Assembly of Sh1.570 trillion.

Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi committed the Bill to the Finance and Budget Committee for consideration and public participation.

Speaker Amason Kingi has challenged Parliaments across the world to increase their role in conflict prevention and resolution.



Speaker Amason Kingi speaks at the 148th Assembly of The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva, Switzerland.



Speaker Kingi and the Kenyan delegation to the 148th Assembly of the The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva following proceedings at the Conference. The Speaker is flanked by Hon Rebecca Tonkei, Kajiado Woman Rep, Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye, Deputy Clerk Mohamed Ali and Principal Clerk Daniel Chania (left).

Speaker Amason Kingi has challenged Parliaments across the world to increase their role in conflict prevention and resolution.

“The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) should leverage Parliament’s enormous influence in legislation, oversight, representation and budgeting to deploy Parliamentary Diplomacy in conflict prevention and resolution in the world’s troubled spots and to ensure a fair, just

and prosperous society,” said the Speaker.

The Speaker made the remarks in his address at the 148th Assembly of IPU held in Geneva Switzerland between March 23rd – 27th, 2024.

The Speaker shared Kenya’s experience in harnessing the critical role of Parliament in providing checks on the Executive, protecting democracy and political pluralism, providing a platform

Speaker Kingi advises Senators on co-sponsoring of Bills for political alternatives; and legislating and ratifying peace agreements. IPU is a global organisation of national parliaments whose primary role is to promote democratic governance, accountability and cooperation among its members. The Assembly took place at the IPU headquarters in Geneva Switzerland and was also attended by Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye, Deputy

Clerk Mohamed Ali, Mr Benedict Fura-ha, Director in the Office of the Speaker and other parliamentary officers. IPU is one of the global caucuses that Kenya’s bicameral Parliament – made up of the Senate and National Assembly – is a member. It seeks to rally parliaments to exert their influence in diverse issues that affect populations and nations across the world.

Speaker Kingi advises Senators on co-sponsoring of Bills

Speaker Amason Kingi has advised Senators to consider co-sponsoring Bills with Members of National Assembly as provided for in the Standing Orders of the Senate.

Standing order No.162 of the Senate provides for the framework for co-sponsorship of Senate Bills in the National Assembly and Speaker Kingi observes that this important provision may have been overlooked by lawmakers, leading to the delay in the enactment of crucial Senate Bills in the National Assembly.

“Sponsors of Bills in the Senate are encouraged to identify co-sponsors in the National Assembly and communicate the same in writing to my office, immediately the Bill is passed in the Senate,” said the Speaker in the communication to the House.

He added that the Message to the National Assembly on the passage of a Bill originating from the Senate will hence include the name of the co-sponsor identified in the National Assembly, as required under Standing Order No.162(2).

In the absence of a co-sponsor in another House, the Speaker Observed, a Bill is likely to be introduced and moved

by a member who may not fully appreciate its importance and gist.

In numerous jurisdictions, including the United States of America (USA), co-sponsorship of House Bills is an entrenched norm. In an effort to show their support for a Bill and increase its prospects of passing the other House, sponsors frequently look for co-sponsors

“It has now become necessary for me to communicate a provision in the Standing Orders relating to co-sponsorship of Bills, as a number of sponsors may have overlooked this provision upon conclusion of Bills in the Senate and subsequent referral to the National Assembly for consideration,” he explained.

According to the Speaker, a Senator who intends to nominate a Member or Members of the National Assembly to co-sponsor a Bill passed by the Senate shall notify the Speaker in writing of the name or names of the proposed co-sponsors once the Bill is passed in the House.

The National Assembly shall be notified of the proposed co-sponsorship through the message referring the Bill to the National Assembly under Standing Order 161(1).

A similar provision has been made in the National Assembly relating to Bills originating from the National Assembly to the Senate, at Standing Order No.142 of the National Assembly Standing Orders. Implementation of the framework referred to above is ongoing.

So far at least 10 Bills have been co-sponsored in both Houses.

They include The Cotton Industry Development Bill (Senate Bills No.5 of 2023) was sponsored by Senator Beth Syengo, MP, and co-sponsored by Hon Mary Emaase in the National Assembly, The County Licensing (Uniform Procedure) Bill (Senate Bills No.9 of 2022) sponsored by Senator Mariam Sheikh Omar and co-sponsored by the Leader of Majority Party in the National Assembly, Kimani Ichungwah, The Mung Beans Bill (Senate Bills No.13 of 2022) sponsored by Senator Enoch Kiio Wambua and co-sponsored by Hon Paul Musyimi Nzengu in the National Assembly and The Startup Bill (Senate Bills No.14 of 2022) sponsored by Senator Crystal Asige and co-sponsored by Hon Irene Mayaka in the National Assembly.

Others are The Persons with Disabilities Bill (Senate Bills No.7 of 2023)

sponsored by Senator Crystal Asige and co-sponsored by Hon Millie Odhiambo in the National Assembly.

The Kenyan Sign Language Bill (Senate Bills No.9 of 2023) sponsored by Senator Margaret Kamar and Senator Crystal Asige and co-sponsored by Hon Millie Odhiambo in the National Assembly, The Agricultural and Livestock Extension Services Bill (Senate Bills No.12 of 2022) sponsored by Senator Tabitha Mutinda and co-sponsored by Hon John Kanyuthia Mutunga in the National Assembly, The Care and Protection of Child Parents Bill (Senate Bills No.29 of 2023) sponsored by Senator Miraj Abdillahi Abdulrahman and co-sponsored by Hon Beatrice Kemei in the National Assembly and The Sugar Bill (National Assembly Bills No.34 of 2022) sponsored by Hon Emmanuel Wangwe and co-sponsored by Senator David W. Wafula in the Senate.

There is also the Public Service (Values and Principles) (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No.46 of 2022) sponsored by Hon Abdul Rahim Dawood and cosponsored by Senator Samson Cherarkey in the Senate.

Seneta Cherarkey ataka majibu kuhusu usambazaji wa mbolea yenye ruzuku kwa wakulima kote nchini

Seneta Samson Cherarkey ameitaka Kamati ya Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi kuchunguza na kutoa majibu kuhusu shughuli ya usambazaji wa mbolea yenye ruzuku kwa wakulima kote nchini Kenya.

Akiwasilisha ombi la kauli bungeni, Seneta Cherarkey aliitaka Kamati hiyo kuandaa na kuwasilisha ripoti rasmi kuhusu idadi ya magunia ambayo Hal-mashauri ya Nafaka na Mazao nchini Kenya, NCPB imehifadhi kushughulikia mahitaji yaliyoongezeka ya mbolea ikizingatiwa kwamba kwa sasa ni msimu wa upanzi kwenye eneo la Kaskazini wa Bonde la Ufa.

Aliitaka Kamati hiyo kuweka wazi

sababu za kucheleweshwa kwa shughuli ya usambazaji wa mbolea yenye ruzuku kwa wakulima ikifafanua iwapo kucheleweshwa huko kunatokana na upungufu wa mbolea na iwapo wakulima na umma wamearifiwa kuhusu upungufu wa mbegu.

“Fichua iwapo Wizara ya Kilimo na Mifugo imekumbatia mikakati yoyote ya kuongeza upatikanaji wa mbolea yenye ruzuku kwa wakulima kwa mfano utoaji wa vocha kwa wakulima, ujumbe na vocha za elektroniki kuwawezesha kupata mbolea kutoka kwa wauzaji wa binafsi kwa bei ya shilingi elfu mbili na mia tano ili kuwawezesha kujiandaa mapema ikizingatiwa kuwa kumekuwepo na ma-



Seneta Cherarkey

dai ya uuzwaji wa mbolea kwa shilingi elfu tatu na mia tisa hamsini,” alisema Seneta Cherarkey.

Seneta huyo aidha ameitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta James Murango kufafanua hatua ambazo zimechukuliwa na serikali kupitia kwa Wizara ya Kilimo na Mifugo kuangazia madai ya ufasidi na ukiukaji wa kanuni vikiwemo visa vya watu binafsi na wafanyakazi wa NCPB na taasisi zingine kufanikisha usambazaji wa mbolea yenye ruzuku kwa watu wasioafiki mahitaji hususani watu ambao hawako miongoni mwa wakulima takribani milioni nne waliosajiliwa rasmi na serikali kote nchini.

Seneta Lomenen ahimiza uimarishaji wa dharura wa huduma za usafiri wa majini ziwani Turkana

Ipo haja ya hatua za dharura kuchukuliwa na serikali kuimarisha usafiri wa majini kwenye ziwa Turkana kama njia itakayokuza biashara na ushirikiano kabambe.

Akiwasilisha taarifa kwenye Bunge, Seneta James Lomenen alifichua kuwepo kwa changamoto katika usafiri wa majini ziwani Turkana akisema hali hiyo imeathiri pakubwa biashara kati ya Turkana na jamii zingine zinazoishi mkabala na ziwa hilo.

Alisema licha ya kuwepo na uwezekano wa biashara na uchumi ulionawiri, kukosekana kwa vyombo vya usafiri wa majini wa kiwango pana kumezuia kuafikiwa kwa nafasi pana za kiuchumi.

Seneta huyo aliliambia Bunge kuwa kutokana na kuwepo kwa rasilimali nyingi na kuwa kwenye sehemu bora, ziwa Turkana linashikilia nafasi nzuri ya kufanikisha biashara na ushirikiano kati ya jamii mbali mbali katika eneo.

Alifichua kuwa kutokuwepo kwa miundo mbinu ya usafiri wa majini kumesababisha changamoto chungu nzima na kuathiri usafiri wa bidhaa, watu na huduma ziwani.

“Inasikitisha maziwa mengine kwenye eneo kama ziwa Victoria yanajivunia kuwepo kwa vyombo vikubwa vya usafiri wa majini kama MV Nyehunge kwenye ufuo wa Analo, nchini Tanzania, MV Uhuru ufuoni Kisumu nchini Kenya na MV Pearl nchini Uganda, vyombo hivyo vikifanikisha usafirishaji

wa bidhaa, biashara na uvuvi ilhali ziwa Turkana linasalia kutohudumiwa vyema katika miundo mbinu ya usafiri wa majini,” alifafanua Seneta Lomenen.

Miongoni mwa changamoto ambazo zimesababishwa na ukosefu wa miundo mbinu bora ya usafiri wa majini ni pamoja na kushindwa kuyafikia masoko kwa bidhaa kunakochangiwa na kutokuwepo kwa vyombo vya usafiri wa majini hivyo kuathiri vibaya shughuli za kiuchumi na fursa zake.

Vile vile kiongozi huyo alifichua kuwa jamii zinazoishi ufuoni mwa ziwa Turkana zimekumbwa na tatizo la kutengwa kutokana na kutokuwepo kwa chaguo la usafiri wa majini jambo linaloathiri pakubwa ushirikiano wa kibiasara na ukuaji wa uchumi.

“Kutokuwepo kwa usafirishaji kabambe wa bidhaa ziwani kumezuia ukuaji wa kiuchumi na nafasi ya maendeleo ya jamii zinazoishi karibu na ziwa Turkana na eneo kijumla jambo linaloathiri ustawi,” alikariri Seneta Lomenen.

“Matumizi ya vyombo duni vya usafiri wa majini yanatishia maisha ya wasafiri na bidhaa hasa wakati wa hali mbaya ya anga, Bunge la Seneti linapaswa kupa kipaumbele miundo mbinu ya usafiri wa majini ziwani Turkana na hatua hizo zinajumuisha ununuzi wa vyombo muafaka vilivyo na uwezo wa kufanikisha usafirishaji pana wa bidhaa na watu sawia na vinavyohudumu kwenye maziwa mengine kwenye eneo,” aliongeza Sene-



Seneta Lomenen

ta huyo.

Kadhalika Seneta Lomenen alitoa wito kwa serikali kukeza pakubwa kwenye usafiri wa majini kama njia muafaka itakayofungua uwezo wa kiuchumi wa ziwa Turkana, kukuza biashara na ushirikiano kati ya jamii kando na kuchochea maendeleo ya kiuchumi

kwenye eneo.

Alisema pana haja ya ushirikiano wa washikadau wote kushughulikia changamoto zilizopo na kuhakikisha usawazishaji katika utoaji wa huduma za usafiri wa majini kwa wenyeji wote wa Kaunti ya Turkana.

Committee on Health on an inspection tour of Nairobi health facilities



Governor Johnson Sakaja addresses members of the Health Committee who paid him a courtesy call before the Committee conducted an inspection tour of health facilities in Nairobi County.



Senator Jackson Mandago, the chair of the Health Committee, flanked by his deputy Mariam Omar, during the meeting with Nairobi City County Executive before the tour of Nairobi Health facilities.



Senator Mandago, Senator Edwin Sifuna and Senator Ledama ole Kina with Nairobi County MCAs when the Health Committee visited the County Assembly.

As part of executing its mandate, the Committee on Health last week conducted an inspection of Nairobi City County's healthcare infrastructure and operations.

The inspection was meant to assess facilities across various aspects, including infrastructure, medical equipment, hygiene, patient care, pharmacy operations, emergency response, infection prevention, record management, and community engagement.

Nairobi City County has a network of over 120 health centers and dispensaries, underscoring the importance of the inspection for evaluating healthcare delivery.

The committee began with a cour-

tesy call to the Nairobi City Governor's Office at City Hall.

The governor provided insights into the county's current health situation and infrastructure status. The committee then engaged with the Nairobi County Assembly Health Committee, where they were welcomed by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Chair of the Health Committee, facilitating an exchange of perspectives on healthcare governance.

The committee proceeded to inspect the Nairobi Funeral Home (formerly the Nairobi City Mortuary). Upon arrival, they encountered a five-hour power outage. The backup generator had been non-functional for five years, further hindering the facility's operations.

The inspection revealed the 68-year-old facility's severe disrepair, with rusty storage areas containing consumables and old files from the 1960s.

The chairman of the Committee Jackson Mandago expressed grave concern.

"Even with dedicated staff, the facility's state compromises quality service delivery. Renaming without improvement is meaningless."

The facility Head David Wanjohi informed the committee of plans to procure a new generator at an estimated cost of Sh11 million and construct a modern state funeral home.

Since taking office, Governor John-

son Sakaja has initiated reforms, including appointing a new board headed by Chief Government Pathologist Johanson Odour, acquiring six coolers, and ensuring continuous supplies.

Despite this, the country's largest funeral home operates with inadequate staffing. Employees voiced concerns over delayed allowances and reported instances of theft within the facility, highlighting systemic issues requiring attention.

The inspection concluded at Mbagathi Hospital.

Government plan to accommodate growing Nairobi student population



Members of the Committee on Education, from left Senators Joseph Gathuku, Tabitha Mutinda, Agnes Muthama and Peris Tobiko when Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu appeared before the committee.

Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu has said the government plans to prioritise infrastructure development to accommodate Nairobi's county's growing student population.

"The Ministry's focus is on ensuring that all schools have adequate in-

frastructure to accommodate students," said CS Machogu during a meeting with the Committee on Education, chaired by Senator Joe Nyutu.

The committee began its tour with a courtesy call to Governor Johnson Sakaja at City Hall.

The CS highlighted various channels

through which schools receive funding for infrastructure, including government allocations, contributions from parents and learners and the Ministry's Infrastructure Fund.

However, Senator Tabitha Mutinda pressed for specific actions regarding the situation in Nairobi County, particularly the dire conditions at Mwiki Primary School.

"Kindly provide a specific response to the congestion issue in Nairobi County, especially Mwiki Primary School," she urged.

Acknowledging the severity of the problem, CS Machogu attributed the crisis in Nairobi to the rapid population growth and the limited number of public schools compared to private institutions.

"Only 31 per cent of schools in Nai-

robi County are public, compared to 69 per cent private," the CS explained, adding that the Government is determined to address the imbalance.

"The Ministry has unveiled an ambitious plan to construct 3,500 additional classrooms in Nairobi County over the next three years," CS Machogu revealed.

A total of Sh1 billion has been allocated in the current financial year specifically for the construction of 1,000 classrooms, with each constituency of the 17 receiving Sh58.8 million.

The CS emphasised the Ministry's commitment to a needs-based approach, assessing school conditions and enrolment figures to prioritize those areas with the most urgent infrastructure requirements.

House to be briefed on the pending bills NMS accumulated before its dissolution



Senators Methu, Wakoli, Maina, Murango and Mundigi

In keeping up with their representative role Senators sought clarification on various issues that concern their constituents before they departed for a short recess.

Among the areas senators want clarification from range from the alleged disproportionate expenditure of Corporate Responsibility Funds (CSR) by Kenya Power in Embu County in the last three years beginning 2021.

Senator Munyi Mundigi wants a statement delivered to the House regarding the alleged disproportionate expenditure of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) in Embu County.

The lawmaker says in comparison to other Counties that are home to electricity production in Kenya, the utility company should state the amount of electricity produced in the hydroelectric dams in Embu, including Masinga, Kamburu, Kindaruma, Gitari and Kiambere by the Kenya electricity generating company KenGen and distributed by the KPLC.

In a statement on the floor of the House, the legislator wants the Committee on Energy to outline the estimated proportion of KPLC annual profit attributable to the electricity itself that is produced in the said five dams and the amount of money that KPLC set aside for CSR from the year 2021 to date and the counties in which the CSR budget was expended explaining the proportion of the CSR budget spent in Embu County and the project funded.

In another statement, the Senator has sought another statement from the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries regarding the purchase of cereals by the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) from the farmers in Embu County.

In the Statement, the Senator wants the Committee to provide the estimated question of the last seasons' harvest in Embu County, specifying in bags of cereals produced just as maize, beans, green grams, sorghum, cowpeas, and other cereals, comparing these figures with the harvest of the previous eight seasons to restrict any trade of changes over the last four years.

He also wants an outline the quantity of bags of cereal that the NCPB has purchased from Embu County farmers over the last four years, providing a yearly breakdown.

The Senate will also be waiting for a statement on the alleged grabbing of public utility land LR. NO.50059/86 in Makadara Constituency.

Asking for the statement on behalf of Senator Edwin Sifuna, Senator John Methu wants the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources to establish the legal ownership of the parcel, which is a road reserve lying between Buruburu Phase II and Harambe Estate.

He wants the committee to investigate the circumstances under which a private developer acquired the land, disclosing the individual or entities responsible and legal action taken.

The senator wants the committee to further spell out measures taken to ensure that residents regain access to the main road.

The senator wants the House to be appraised on the measures taken by the government against the destruction of trees on the said parcel of land.

The issue of the pending bills accrued by the defunct Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) and status of completion of the projects also came up in the Senate with Senator Methu, who was still acting on behalf of Senator Sifuna, asking for a statement from the Commit-

tee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources to provide a comprehensive breakdown of the matter.

He wants the pending bills accumulated by the NMS before its dissolution, indicating the amounts owed to respective service providers and the respective years in which the pending bills were incurred.

The statement should indicate the plans put in place by the Office of the President to ensure that all contractors owed money by the now defunct NMS are paid, specifying the timeframe.

"The committee should enumerate the short-term measures deployed to recover the Sh2.6billion reported to have been lost through advance payment made by NMS to contractors for works that have been stalled," said Senator Methu.

Senator Veronica Maina wants the Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing to investigate the causes of the accidents that took place in Gitugi-Murang'a Road on February 25, 2024, leading to the death of three pupils from Maadili School in Juja.

Another accident occurred along Karbarnet-Marigat Road at Patkawanin in Baringo County on March 16, 2024 involving the Kapsabet Boys High School bus where two people, a student and a teacher lost their lives.

Along Kimugul-Olenguruone-Silibwet Road another accident occurred on March 19, claiming the lives of five people with 15 others sustaining injuries.

Katangi-Kitui-Machakos Road also saw another accident reported on February 28, 2024, near Katangi, claiming the lives of nine people.

The House also heard that another accident was reported along Othoo-Kisumu Nairobi Highway on January 29, 2024 and claimed the lives of 11 people, with 50 others sustaining injuries.

Also on the list of accidents is the Voi-Mombasa-Nairobi Highway where another accident was reported on March 18, 2024 involving a Kenyatta University bus and truck, leaving 11 students dead and 42 injuries.

Senator Maina wants the committee to explain the roadworthiness of the vehicles involved in the accidents, stating the condition of the road infrastructure on the stretch of the roads where the accidents occurred.

The statements should also establish whether the drivers adhered to traffic regulations and recommend long-lasting solutions aimed at curbing accidents and outline mechanisms in place, if any, to ensure enforcement of traffic laws, improved road signage, maintenance and reinstatement of public awareness campaigns on road safety in Kenya.

Other statements that were sought included the entry qualifications for ECDE teachers and the fate of teachers holding P1 certificates by Senator Seki Lenku ole Kanar, approved budgets for Machakos County government for financial years 2013/2014 to 2023/2024 by Senator Kavindu Muthama and delayed upgrading of infrastructure in Ngurubani town by Senator Murango.

Other requests for statements are on the status of Daasanach community in Marsabit County by Senator Beth Syengo, delayed remittance of NHIF funds to health facilities by Senator David Wafula, legal compliance of various entities in Bomet County by Senator Ledama ole Kina and distribution of fake fertiliser in the country by Senator Boni Khalwale.

Bunge FC resumes training

Members of Bunge Football Club team have resumed their training sessions after the lengthy Christmas recess.

The team, which had no substantive training ground in 2023, is now training at the Ulinzi Sports Complex, thanks to the offer by the Department of Defence.

The switch to the Complex follows the closure of Nyayo National Stadium which is undergoing renovation in readiness for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations tournament which will be co-hosted by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The training sessions that are normally held every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00a.m. help the team to prepare for both local and international tournaments as well as improve and maintain physical fitness for both Members of Parliament and staff.

The opening fitness exercise was led by the team's co-captains Senate Leader of Majority, Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot and Hon Otiende Amollo and was attended by 19 team members despite both Houses being on a two-weeks recess.

"Thrilled to be back to the new training ground with team mates and colleagues. The atmosphere around the spanking new facility at Ulinzi Sports Complex provides the much needed motivation to push us to the limits and get back to the desired fitness levels," said Senator Aaron Cheruiyot.

"We have lined up a series of friendlies and hope to maintain consistency in the training to attain the result we want. Our worthy competitors are certainly not ready for us," he added.

He further observed that the modern facility and the quality surface goes along way to minimise injuries and brings the much-needed thrill in the training. This is evidenced by the turn out and the mood at the ground.



Members of the Bunge FC pose for a picture after they resumed training, below, Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot goes through training paces with members of the team.

This Week in History



"There was unwavering commitment on integrity and anti-corruption in our counties. If there was a strict commitment for value of money in procurement in our counties, devolution would transform this nation greatly. We deal with Bills that are related to these issues in the House and oversight counties. Therefore, we are aware of many counties that are only focused on recurrent expenditure. That is why many of our governors and county governments are lamenting that they need more money because they are investing more in recurrent expenditure. That is one of the reasons why the recurrent expenditure is more than development expenditure."

Senator Kipchumba Murkomen contributing to debate on the Presidential State of the Nation address on April 9, 2019



"I also appreciate the fact that the President commended Parliament for what it has done. It is not often that Parliament is commended. Sometimes when you go out there, Parliament is normally an object of criticism, if not ridicule. However, this time the President recognised the work of Parliament in various responsibilities and mandates. That is not just in regard to our legislative functions, but in approval and ratification of reports and protocols which was something that is unprecedented. I have been in this House for quite a bit of time, but I do not remember a Presidential Speech where there was an appreciation of this nature of the work being done or has been done by Parliament."

Senator James Orengo contributing to debate on the Presidential State of the Nation address on April 9, 2019



"On the question of devolution, we have been told that Kshs1.7 trillion has been devolved since we last recognised the county governments as another second tier of Government. I sit in the County Public Accounts and Investments Committee (CPAIC) and one of the most appalling things we are beginning to see is the squander of public resources at will – not following the laid down procedures and the frameworks that have been put in place to take care of this squander of money. Therefore, in due course, maybe through our Committee, we shall appraise this august House on how we intend to deal with such run away corruption that is embedded in our counties."

Senator (Prof.) Sam Onger contributing to debate on the Presidential State of the Nation address on April 9, 2019



"This mistreatment of a people by their own government is not acceptable. The government of the people should be nicer to the people than other organizations or anything else that is not the government. Therefore, the people of Taita Taveta deserve to be respected. They need to be compensated for their land that has been used for road construction. I fully support the Petition that has been read by Sen. Mwaruma on behalf of the people of Taita-Taveta."

Senator (Prof.) Malachy Ekal contributing to debate on the motion on the non payment of compensation for land compulsorily acquired to construct Mwatate-Taveta and Holili Road on April 9, 2019.

Government to cancel Tom Mboya Memorial Hall title deed, CS Wahome tells the House

The Government has started the process of cancelling the title deed on which the Tom Mboya Memorial Hall in Nairobi sits, a cabinet secretary has told the House.

CS Alice Wahome told the House that the land on which the Hall stands is public land and Gami Properties Limited, who are the alleged owners of the land, got an irregular allocation.

“I will proceed to cancel that title deed. It is going to remain public property,” said CS Wahome, adding that senior officers in the Ministry misbehaved by allowing the allocation.

“This was done jointly with the National Land Commission. We will work together using Section 79 of the Land Registration Act.”

The Cabinet Secretary was speaking on Wednesday when appeared in the House to respond to Members’ Questions.

Senator Edwin Sifuna had filed a question demanding answers to know who holds the title deed for the parcel of land on which the Tom Mboya Social Hall in Makadara Constituency in Nairo-

bi City County stands.

He wants also wanted the Cabinet Secretary to indicate the ownership history of the said parcel of land and for the Cabinet Secretary to explain the circumstances under which the parcel of land came into the possession of a private developer who has already commenced construction work

The CS Wahome told the House that her Ministry has already issued a 60 days’ notice to the holders of that title deed to return it, failure to which, the Government will proceed to cancel it.

“I will take up the process immediately. In most cases, when they know it was an untoward activity they normally do not present themselves. This is because they are supposed to present the title deed and themselves for interrogations. Once they do not show up, we just proceed to cancel it. It should not take me more than 60 days to do so,” she told the House.

The plot was reserved for the Ministry of Public Works for the development of a community hall in June, 1957

through an order of the Governor then.

The plot was leased to Kenya African National Union (KANU) for three years, from 1967 on condition that the party pays rent of one shilling.

The condition was that the land remains Government land and it is still owned by the public works, and then the party responsible for maintenance of the building is the KANU party during the terms of the lease for those three years.

KANU thereafter applied for allocation of the plot in 1985. A letter of allotment was issued in favour of the party in April, 1985 for a term of 99 years with the effect from March, 1985. The user of the plot was still social hall and offices.

Thereafter, KANU did not pay the statutory fees indicated in the allotment letter of April, 2018.

2021, the parcel was then transferred to Gami Properties Limited. I have also given supporting documents for that and the parcel having been registered as a social hall should remain as such.



CS Wahome addresses the House.

Public institutions to be connected to national grid – CS Chirchir



CS Chirchir speaks in the House

The government is keen to prioritise connectivity of all the public institutions to the national grid and ensure they are on power.

Energy Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir told the Senate that the State is working hard to see whether through the funding coming through Parliament and development partners, we can accelerate connectivity in Kenya and come close to 100 per cent by the year 2030, the same year we are saying we need to be 100 per cent renewable.

If you come to my office today, you will find out that some of those programmes you desire and are pushing the Cabinet Secretary to do, are already on our programmes because it is the job you have given us to do

last week that where there is need for three-phase within access in terms of the grid, the state will provide that power.

“Schools are not in isolated areas. Therefore, when we provide a transformer to serve a school, the commu-

nities around the schools are serviced through maximisation.

If we do the adjacent school, the pockets that are out of 600 metres because of resistance of the lines and the fact that we do not want to have too much power losses due to long cables, can then be batched with transformers and provide 100 per cent connectivity to the country.

Senator Jackson Mandago who wanted to know Government’s plans to ensure that Level 4 and Level 5 health facilities, where the Government intends to place equipment to support the roll-out of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC), have three-phase power.

“We are working to ensure that all public institutions and not just hospitals are on power. Before we go to our villages, there is no reason any public institution today in Kenya is not on power to support the livelihoods of the people around that region. We are committed and are working on that.

Senators move to address the challenge of pending bills in Counties

The House is set to debate a motion compelling County Governments to pay pending bills that less than Sh1 billion before the end of the financial year.

Kenya financial year runs between July 1 and June 30, and the Senators want the monies paid before June 30.

According to the County Governments Budget Implementation Review Report for the first half of the 2023/24 financial year, counties had accumulated a total of Sh156.34 billion in pending bills by December, 2023.

Nairobi City County had accumulated the largest share of Sh107 billion followed by Kiambu and Mombasa counties at Sh5.711 billion and Sh3.9

billion respectively.

The motion, sponsored by Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina, who argues the accumulated pending bills in counties have significantly affected service providers in the counties leading to the closure of businesses.

He also argues that projects have stalled, adversely affecting economic growth in counties, service delivery and ultimately slowing down the country's economic growth.

“Most of the service providers in the counties are battling court cases lodged against them by their financiers and suppliers while others are languishing in poverty exacerbated by the increased cost of living with increased mental

health disease incidences and others dying as a result of the effects of colossal amounts of debt owed to them by county governments,” said Senator ole Kina in the notice for the motion.

The Senator argues that pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 41(2) and (3) of the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations, 2015, county governments prioritise payment of pending bills as a first charge on the County Revenue Fund, failure to which the subsequent quotas budget releases will not be done.

He also wants the County governments only pay pending bills contained in their respective procurement plans pursuant to Regulation 50(2) and (3) of

the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations.

In the motion, the Senator proposes that Supplementary budgets for county governments be prepared in the third Quarter to curb instances of arbitrary re-allocations out of the approved budget estimates and County governments conduct public participation while formulating supplementary budgets, failure to which the Controller of Budget (CoB) shall not approve the supplementary budgets.

The House will debate the motion when it resumes from recess

PICTORIAL



1. Students from Mirera High School, Naivasha, Nakuru County, get a brief from a parliamentary protocol official when they toured Parliament Buildings during their education tour.
2. Students and teacher of Sekenani Girls' High School, Narok County after their tour of Parliament Buildings.
3. Students of Sawagongo Boys' High School, Siaya County, also visited the Senate during their tour of Parliament Buildings.



4. Senator Gloria Orwoba escorts Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome out of the Chamber at the end of the Questions Time.
- 5.. Energy Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir shares a light moment with Senators after he responded to Members' concerns during the Question Time.
6. Employees of the Nairobi Funeral Home, formerly City Mortuary, listen to Senators during the Committee on Health tour of the facility as part of members' oversight mandate.
7. Senator Jackson Mandago, the chair of the Committee on Health, signs the Visitors' book in the office of the Speaker, Nairobi County Assembly, during the committee's tour of the Assembly.
8. Members of the Committee on Health, led by Chairman Jackson Mandago, pose for a picture with MCAs at the Nairobi County Assembly before the committee conducted an inspection tour of Health facilities in the capital.
9. Senators Edwin Sifuna and Mohamed Chute at the Nairobi Funeral Home during the visit by the Health Committee.



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15



16

- 10. Students drawn from different learning institutions and who are interns attached to various directorates at the Senate follow House proceedings in the Chamber.
- 11. Students and teachers of St. Cecilia Aluor Girls Secondary, Siaya County, at the Senate after their tour of Parliament Buildings.
- 12. Learners from JM Good Hope Academy, Nyandarua County, listen to a Public Communication Officer during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
- 13. Students and teachers from Bloomington School, Thika, also toured the Senate
- 14. Students from Milimani High School, Nakuru County, follow proceedings in the Senate Chamber during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
- 15. Students and teachers from Kisima Girls High School, Samburu County at the Senate.
- 16. Student leaders from St. Paul's University after their tour of the Senate.



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