



# The SENATE

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## Senators demand probe on Beijing Half-Marathon scandal

**Why on earth would someone sell the good name of our country? These are the Judas Iscariot who sold the Lord Jesus Christ for pieces of silver. We cannot sacrifice the name of our country because some people want to get a few pieces of silver – Senator Mungatana**

Senators have called for quick and thorough investigations into the incident in which some three Kenyan marathoners are accused of having assisted a Chinese to controversially win the 2024 Beijing half marathon.

The lawmakers say Kenya has over the years acquired a special place in the continent and world because of how it has projected athletics, and the medals it has won.

They expressed fear that the conduct by the athletes in Beijing could jeopardise the country's international reputation.

In a hushed debate in the House on Tuesday last week, the House directed the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the national athletics governing body, Athletics Kenya (AK) and the National Olympics Committee of Kenya (NOCK) to conduct comprehensive investigations and report back to the country in the shortest time possible.

"I urge our athletes, sportsmen and women, that they should either win or lose. What we saw in the Beijing's Half Marathon is very unfortunate. The three were supposed to win, but they wanted a Chinese to win the race, and retreated. We must have a comprehensive report on the same," Senator Cherarkey said when he issued a personal statement in the House.

The organisers of the race have since revoked He Jie's win after investigations confirmed that three Kenyan runners had slowed down to let him win the race.

The four were disqualified and had to return their medals and prize money.

The three Kenyan deliberately reduced their pace, according to a state-



Senator Danson Mungatana



Senator Samson Cherarkey



Leader of Majority Aaron Cheruiyot

ment from a committee set up to investigate the race.

"We deeply and sincerely apologise to the world and to every part of society, that we did not discover and correct the mistakes in time at this race," the committee said.

He Jie, the winner, was trailing three runners from Kenya and Ethiopia as they approached the finish line. One of the runners then seems to gesture for the others to slow down as the Chinese moved to the front, sprinting easily to

the finish line.

"People were making comments that maybe Kenyans had started to pay Chinese loans by allowing the Chinese to win. This, among other issues such as doping, fixing athletics and sports have tarnished our nation's reputation internationally and undermines the principles of fair play and transparency in sportsmanship and it kills the spirit of competition."

The lawmaker said the Ministry, AK, NOCK in collaboration with the

Beijing's Sports Competition, an international sports exchange centre, should provide a comprehensive update on the investigations concerning the incident.

The Senator further requested the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare, whose mandate includes oversight on matters related to sports, to look into the issue and update the House.

Senator Danson Mungatana supported the statement calling for investigations to be expedited.

"The investigations should not just

be carried out casually. There should be a serious investigation by the Athletics Kenya (AK). They should involve state agencies that are competent in that area, so that we take the blame where it belongs,” said Senator Mungatana, adding that it was a scam and those involved must be punished.

“Why on earth would someone sell the good name of our country? These are the Judas Iscariot who sold the Lord Jesus Christ for pieces of silver. We cannot sacrifice the name of our country because some people want to get a few pieces of silver.”

Senator Mungatana said it did not make sense to him that a Chinese beat Kenyans in the race.

“It did not make any sense to me.

How on earth does that happen?” he asked. “There is a new trend that is now emerging, that is, race-fixing which has attacked the country’s integrity in sports.

Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot was cautious.

“I am also concerned about the incident in China. However, as a sportsman, I know that anything is possible in sports. I do not agree that a Chinese cannot beat Kenyans in a marathon race.”

He argued that nothing is impossible in sports. Many odd things happen in sports many times, he said, rejecting that it is not necessarily the case that those Kenyans who were defeated by the Chinese might have been compromised.

“It would however be important, just for the record, that the race organ-

isers update the world. Everybody is concerned whether this was genuine. It appeared to me from the final sprints of that particular race as if these were the pacesetters. However, it is for the race organisers to let us, as a country and the world of sports, know what happened.”

Senator Cherarkey pleaded with the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya to intensify its efforts to root out unscrupulous agents and coaches, who engage in doping and match fixing, therefore, jeopardising the careers of our sportsmen and women, and the reputation of our Kenyan sports,” he argued.

The Senator hailed Kenyan sportsmen for their outstanding performance at the Boston Marathon, held on Monday, April 15, 2024 saying they had brought

immense pride to the nation.

The lawmakers said Athletics Kenya (AK), Kenya Football Federation (KFF) and other sports federations should hold elections to allow efficiency in running the sports and asked the Sports CS Ababu Namwamba to come up with the roadmap.

He said the CS should have meetings with stakeholders, together with the athletes, and the officials and agree on the way forward.

He said Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba should take the lead in resolving the issues around athletics and sports.

## Senate seeks to streamline collection of Own Source Revenue in counties through Bill

County Governments are set to have increased Own Source revenues after the House started debate on the National Rating Bill, 2022.

The Bill, which originated from the National Assembly, aims to provide a legislative framework for the imposition of property taxes on land and buildings by county governments pursuant to Article 209(3) (a) of the Constitution.

The Bill contains provision of the duty to levy rates by county governments and the principles they need to adhere to in accordance to the Public Finance Management Act (PFM). It defines who the owner is and the mandate, spelling out requirements for ensuring that the rates are paid.

The proposed law also provides for forms of rating, the notice of rating, ratings track, the notice of rate payments and remissions, discounts, waivers and enforcement of payment of rates.

It provides the general basis of valuation, declaration of rateable areas, methods to be used for valuation, preparation and contents of valuation roles, supplementary valuation, and alteration.

Further, it provides publication of role, objections thereof, and exceptions.

“Amongst the many Bills we have considered as a House, this is a very important piece of legislation,” said Leader of Majority Aaron Cheruiyot, while moving the Bill.

“It provides a buoyant source of revenue for county governments which is necessary to enable each county gov-

ernment to perform its functions as assigned.”

Few county governments have grown their Own source revenue since the inception of devolution by an equation similar to what economic growth is. In some instances, collection in some counties has dipped despite the fact that people continue to pay taxes and land rates.

If approved, the Bill will address the challenge and ensure the counties maximise on the resources within their boundaries.

The Bill provides a universal practice that will apply across all the 47 counties.

“We must ensure that all the taxes being levied and paid for by our people in the county governments are accounted for. It should become impossible for people to pilfer electronically paid resources because there is a trace and the taxes are paid using a system that is accountable and from reputable firms,” said the Leader of Majority.

Senator Danson Mungatana seconded the Bill saying the aim of the proposed law is to create a legal framework that will ensure counties like Tana River, with huge pieces of land, attract investors.

“This law is a good law for our counties especially because we have massive land and little population and people who have come to invest there, but they are not paying rates. The National Rating Act will enable county



Senator Catherine Mumma

governments to collect enough,” said Senator Mungatana.

Senator Okongo Omogeni assured the public the Bill will not introduce new taxation measures.

“We are putting in place a mechanism to ensure that there is equity and fairness in collection of land rates from Kenyans,” he said.



Senator Okongo Omogeni

Senator Catherine Mumma said the two levels of government will be expected to find the formula that will keep rates collections to the counties while also ensuring there is transparency and accountability.

“The digital system that is supposed to be put in place, I hope, can be done in a manner that will ensure that transparency and accountability are achieved.”

# Speaker Kingi meets French Senator, seeks increased involvement of Parliaments in conflict resolution



Speaker Amason Kingi and his team in discussion with the French Senator Hon Olivier Cadic, at a dinner meeting hosted by the French Ambassador to Kenya, Arnaud Suquet.



Speaker Kingi and Senator Karungo Thangwa (second left) and Senator Karen Nyamu (right) during the dinner with the French Senator at the residence of the French Ambassador to Kenya.

Parliamentary Diplomacy featured prominently in discussions between Speaker Amason Kingi and the visiting French Senator, Hon Olivier Cadic, at a dinner meeting hosted by the French Ambassador to Kenya, Arnaud Suquet, at his Nairobi residence.

Hon Cadic is the Senator for French Citizens Living Abroad. His visit to Kenya was part of his global engagements aimed at identifying and addressing emerging challenges they face wherever they in the hope of improving their welfare.

During the Monday evening meeting, also attended by Senator Karungo

Thang'wa and Senator Karen Nyamu, Speaker Kingi and Senator Cadic had candid discussions on a wide range of issues, at the heart of which was the need for more involvement by parliamentarians in providing solutions to emerging global challenges.

Speaker Kingi cited the upheavals in a number of countries in Africa, Middle East, the prolonged Ukraine-Russia war, saying legislators must now join Heads of States in building efforts for the desired results to be realised.

“Parliament is a product of the people. If, as parliamentarians, we can con-

vince the people to vote for us, we can in equal measure persuade our people involved in war to drop the gun and embrace peace. This is the essence of Parliamentary Diplomacy that must now be promoted in our quest to have a peaceful and stable world,” said Speaker Kingi.

While appreciating the Senator’s visit, Speaker Kingi noted its significance in strengthening parliamentary engagements and deepening the diplomatic ties between Kenya and France.

The two leaders agreed to support the establishment of Parliamentary Working Group, bringing together Kenyan and French legislators in a bid to boost the

collaboration between the two countries and promote democracy and good governance.

The Ambassador revealed that the French government is working the National Museums of Kenya to generate 3-D images of Fort Jesus in Mombasa for use in marketing the historical edifice, that has remained a major tourist attraction at the East African coast.

Senator Cadic expressed firm support for the Parliamentary Working Group bringing together Kenyan and French legislators, saying it would enhance the effectiveness of parliamentarians in both countries.



Speaker Amason Kingi joined the faithful at the Nyagachi West Seventh Day Adventist Church in West Mugirango Constituency, Nyamira County, for a worship service and, afterwards, a fundraiser for completion of the Church building.

During the event, the Speaker was accompanied by Senator Okong’o Omogeni, Senator Catherine Mumma and Senator Tom Ojienda.

1. Speaker Kingi joins the faithful in a singing a hymn during the church service. He is joined by Senators Ojienda, Mumma and Omogeni.
2. The Speaker is welcomed at the Church by elders before the fund raiser.
3. Speaker Kindi addresses the Church before the fund raiser.



## Seneta Sifuna ataka ufafanuzi kuhusu makubaliano ya serikali kwa serikali kwenye usambazaji wa bidhaa za petroli

Seneta Edwin Sifuna ameitaka Kamati ya Kawi kufanya uchunguzi na kuwasilisha Bungeni ripoti kuhusu makubaliano ya serikali kwa serikali ya usambazaji wa bidhaa za petroli nchini.

Akiwasilisha ombi la kutaka Kauli, Seneta Sifuna alitaka Kamati ya Kawi kueleza hali ilivyo kwa sasa kwenye makubaliano kati ya serikali kwa serikali ya usambazaji wa bidhaa za petroli.

Alitaka ufafanuzi kuhusu kuongezwa kwa muda wa usambazaji kwa mkopo, makubaliano yaliyofanywa kati ya serikali ya Kenya na kampuni tatu za uuzaji wa mafuta eneo la Ghuba mnamo mwezi Machi 2023.

Ripoti hiyo inapaswa kuyafichua majina ya kampuni za mafuta nchini Kenya ambazo zinahusika na mpango huo na wakati unaokusudiwa kwa mpango huo kufikia kikomo.

Seneta Sifuna vile vile anaitaka Kamati hiyo kubaini na kuyafichua majina ya benki za Kenya ambazo zinatoa ufadhili katika ununuzi wa mafuta yanayoingia nchini Kenya kwa sasa chini ya Makubaliano ya serikali kwa serikali huku pia ripoti ya kamati hiyo ikiweka

wazi kiwango cha fedha kwa kila mwezi ambazo kampuni za mafuta zinadai chini ya mpango huo.

Seneta huyo aidha anaitaka Kamati hiyo kufafanua hitaji la usambazaji wa bidhaa za petroli chini ya makubaliano ya serikali kwa serikali kuendelea ikizingatiwa kuwa dhamira ya mpango huo ambayo ilikuwa kuikoa thamani ya shilingi ya Kenya tayari imeafikiwa baada ya thamani ya shilingi ya Kenya kuimarika pakubwa dhidi ya dola ya Marekani.

Kadhalika Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Wahome Wamatinga itahitajika kubaini ni lini nchi ya Kenya itaurejelea utaratibu wa wazi katika utoaji wa zabuni kwenye uagizaji wa bidhaa za petroli kutoka kwa soko la ndani.

Kwingineko Seneta Ali Roba amelalamikia ongezo la kukatizwa kwa umeme katika Kaunti ya Manderu.

Akiwasilisha ombi la Kauli bungeni, Seneta huyo alitaka Kamati ya Kawi kubaini sababu za kukatizwa mara kwa mara kwa umeme katika Kaunti ya Manderu kunakochukua zaidi ya saa kumi na mbili akisema hatua hiyo imewaathiri vibaya wenyeji wa Kaunti hiyo na kus-

itisha huduma muhimu hususan kwenye vituo vya utoaji wa huduma za afya.

Seneta Roba anaitaka kamati hiyo kutaja hatua ambazo zimechukuliwa na kampuni ya Kenya Power kukabiliana na changamoto hiyo na kuwahakikishia wenyeji wa Kaunti ya Manderu usambazaji bora wa umeme huku pia ikiwasilisha mikakati ambayo inatekelezwa kwa sasa na Kampuni ya Kenya Power kuimarisha mawasiliano na wateja na kuanzazia lalama zao.

Aidha Seneta huyo alitaka Kamati hiyo kueleza mipango iliyowekwa na kampuni ya Kenya Power kuboresha usambazaji wa umeme kwenye miji ya Manderu na Wajir ikiwemo ujenzi wa miundo mbinu itakayosaidia katika utumizi wa kawi kutoka kwa jua.

Kadhalika kiongozi huyo anataka Bunge lifahamishwe kuhusu kilichozingatiwa kuondoa mitambo ya jenereta ya megawati tano iliyokuwa inaendeshwa na wahudumu binafsi mjini Manderu akiitaka Kampuni ya Kenya Power kuweka wazi hatua ambazo imechukua kuirejesha na kuimarisha mitambo ya jenereta iliopo ili kusambaza umeme wa kutosha mjini Manderu.



Senator Ali Roba



Senator Edwin Sifuna

## Seneta Githuku alalamikia huduma duni za matibabu katika Kaunti ya Lamu akitaka ukaguzi wa kina ufanywe

Seneta Joseph Githuku amewasilisha ombi la Kauli kwenye Bunge akitaka majibu kuhusu utoaji duni wa huduma za afya kwenye hospitali zilizoko katika Kaunti ya Lamu.

Kwenye ombi hilo, Seneta Githuku anaitaka Kamati ya Afya kufafanua mikakati ambayo serikali ya kitaifa na ya kaunti zimeweka kuikoa sekta ya afya katika Kaunti ya Lamu akisema sekta hiyo inakodolea macho hatari ya kuporomoka kutoka na hali duni ya hospitali na lalama nyingi kuhusu kutokuwepo kwa dawa, vifaa duni vya utoaji wa huduma za matibabu na huduma duni kutokana na kutokuwepo kwa vifaa muhimu kwa mfano huduma za magari yanayowasafirisha watu wanaogua.

Aidha Seneta Githuku anaitaka Kamati hiyo kueleza mikakati ambayo serikali ya Kaunti ya Lamu imeweka kuangazia ongezeko la hali ya kutojali na uzembe unaooneshwa na wahudumu wa afya kwenye hospitali za Kaunti ya



Seneta Joseph Githuku

Lamu hususan hospitali zilizoko katika eneo bunge la Lamu Magharibi.

Kadhalika Seneta huyo anaitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Jackson Mandago kuamuru ukaguzi wa hali ilivyo kijumla ya sekta ya afya katika Kaunti ya Lamu kwa dhamira ya ku-



Seneta Peris Tobiko

hakikisha wenyeji wa kaunti hiyo wanawezeshwa kufurahia haki zao za huduma za afya hadi kwenye kiwango kinachohitajika kama inavyoelekeza Katiba ya Kenya chini ya Kifungu cha 43 ibara ya kwanza, (a).

Huku hayo yakijiri Seneta Peris To-

biko ameitaka Kamati ya Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Masuala ya Kigeni kufanya uchunguzi na kuwasilisha ripoti kwenye Bunge kuhusu kifo cha afisa wa DCI Inspekta Felix Kelian Kintosi aliyekuwa akihudumu katika Kaunti ndogo ya Dagoretti.

Seneta Tobiko anaitaka Kamati hiyo kubaini mazingira ambayo yalisababisha kifo cha kusikitisha cha Inspekta Felix Kelian Kintosi mnamo Alhamisi tarehe ishirini na moja mwezi Machi, 2024.

Inadaiwa afisa huyo aliuawa baada ya kuwepo na makabiliano makali kati yake na watu wengine yaliyofuatia ajali ndogo ya barabarani katika sehemu ya Kikuyu, Kaunti ya Kiambu.

Seneta huyo aidha anaitaka Kamati hiyo chini ya Uenyekiti wa Seneta William Cheptumo kulifahamisha Bunge zilifikia hatua za uchunguzi wa kifo hicho ikikariri iwapo washukiwa wa mauaji hayo ya kusikitisha wametiwa mbaroni na kufikishwa mahakamani hadi sasa.

# ICT Committee pitches for collaboration with the stakeholders



Senator Allan Chesang, the chair of the Committee on ICT, addresses stakeholders in the ICT sector during the retreat in Mombasa.



Members of the Committee on ICT in a group picture with the stakeholders in the ICT space after the retreat that explored how the two sides can collaborate.

The ICT Committee is pushing for collaboration with the stakeholders to boost partnership among the various sector players with a view of making the country become one of Africa's leading technology hubs.

Senator Allan Chesang, the chairman of the Committee, has asked stakeholders to always submit their views when the Committee is looking into legislation on matters affecting the sector saying this is one of the main pillars of the Government to improve service delivery.

"We have come to engage so that we continue creating legal frameworks and policies on matters affecting the ICT sector. If we work together, we will achieve the mandate and interests of the Kenya Kwanza Government," said Sen-

ator Chesang.

He spoke during a retreat between the Committee and stakeholders in the ICT sector in Mombasa on April, 9.

The theme of the retreat was "Strengthening ICT Sector Policies and Legal Frameworks in Kenya" which is aimed at achieving the national ICT plan through legislation.

The Cabinet Secretary for ICT and Digital Economy Eliud Owalo, took the Senators through the status of the sector and the implementation of ICT infrastructure in the country.

He also delved into the status of the e-government and digital service delivery and explored the legislative gaps and areas of collaboration between his Ministry and the Committee.

CS Owalo thanked the Members of

the Committee for their continued support and urged them to continue making laws in the sector to ensure Kenya becomes the Silicon Valley of Africa.

"The Senate ICT Committee is an important player in Kenya Kwanza's digital transformation agenda. We will continue working with you for the betterment of the country," pledged the CS.

The Committee also met with Governor Wisley Rotich, the Chairperson of the ICT and Knowledge Management Committee of the Council of Governors (CoG).

Governor Rotich apprised the Senators on the implementation status and integration of ICT in county functions and urged the Senate, the Ministry and Council of Governors to develop an e-commerce platform for the entire

country which supports businesses and revenue collection in counties.

"We have been doing business in a very haphazard manner because of unreliable network coverage in some parts of the country. An e-commerce platform will be a platform where farmers and business people could sell their products and get their money online," Governor Rotich said.

Other stakeholders that the Senate Committee met with included the Permanent Secretary for ICT and Digital Economy, Eng. John Tanui, and the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of all the Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies under the Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy

## Devolution Committee keen to ensure seamless implementation of devolution

Two Bills touching on counties and the general status of implementation of devolution consumed time for the Committee on Devolution during first quarter of 2024.

The Bills are The County Governments (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and The County Assembly Services (Amendment) Bill 2023.

Taking the floor to brief the Committee's work in the first quarter of the year, the chair Abbas Sheikh revealed that Committee had also processed 10 Statements out of which two have been considered.

To acquaint itself with the status of implementation of devolution in the country, the Committee held a consultative retreat with the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Devolution and the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee.

The retreat saw members deliberate on matters relating to Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations, including the status of transfer of devolved functions. This includes the valuation and verification of assets and liabilities be-



Senator Abbas Sheikh

longing to the counties.

"I am pleased to report that the two offices have robustly carried out the exercises and are at the final stages of completion," the Senator told the House.

The Committee visited Trans Nzoia County and successfully mediated a long-standing dispute between the County Governor and his Deputy, bringing harmony to their previously strained working relationship, which had threatened to hamper the smooth running of

the county affairs.

The Deputy Governor has not been working with the Governor for the last one and a half years but Sen. Abbas reported that they are now working together.

The Committee is currently considering matters concerning the alleged discrimination in the implementation of development projects in various wards in Meru County.

"The Committee has invited the County Government of Meru to submit various documents that will provide the relevant information on the implementation of projects within the County," he said.

Additionally, the Committee will conduct a project inspection and public participation in the various wards of the counties, where the aforementioned allegations were made.

"The situation in Meru is still fluid. We have a lot of communication from various Members of the Assembly that they have been denied development by the County Government. We are obliged to visit Meru County, so that we can ver-

ify all these things," he added.

Further, the Committee reported that it is considering holding a retreat with deputy governors of all the 47 counties to deliberate on matters affecting the effective performance of their official duties in the Counties.

The retreat will see his team look into the performance of counties on implementation of the Budget with a view to oversight the utilisation of the resources meant for devolution.

The Committee will also conduct a post-legislative scrutiny of the Urban Areas and Cities Act of 2011 with the objective of proposing amendments to the framework of the management and governance of cities and urban areas.

The Committee is also scheduled to look into the process of the dissolution of a County Government with a view to making proposals on the enhanced role of the Senate in the process.

Also on the cards is consideration of the current laws on the impeachment of a County Governor, including the proposed Impeachment Procedure Bill.

# Education Committee focused on improving welfare of ECDE teachers, House told

The Committee on Education held 17 sittings during the first quarter of the third session that covered the period between February 15, 2024 to April 15, 2024 with the main focus being on the plight of ECDE teachers.

During the period, the Committee considered 17 Statements, two public petitions, one Bill, conducted two inquiries and undertook two county oversight visits.

The chair of the Committee, Senator Joe Nyutu told the House the Committee also hosted one foreign delegation from Uganda and held meetings with two counterpart committees from the county assemblies of Kajiado and Taita-Taveta.

Senator Nyutu made the revelation when he submitted a quarterly report on the activities of the Committee to the House as required by the Standing Orders.

During the period, the Early Childhood Education (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was committed to the Committee

for consideration.

The Bill seeks to provide for improved remuneration and better welfare of teachers serving in early childhood centers in the counties

The Committee invited stakeholders to submit their presentations on the Bill and further held an engagement with the Council of Governors (CoG), in order to acquaint itself with the implementation status of the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) policies in the counties and the challenges facing implementation of the said policies.

“The Committee has reviewed all the submissions from the stakeholders and consequently prepared its report on the Bill, which is currently undergoing processing for tabling,” Senator Nyutu told the House.

The two petitions that were considered by the Committee include the discrimination by Teachers’ Service Commission (TSC) on payment of hardship allowances and enhanced house allowance to some teachers in Kilifi County.

The Committee also considered the petition concerning the discrimination in the payment of hardship allowance to teachers in Taita-Taveta County.

“The issues raised in the two petitions are on inclusion and classification of some parts of Kilifi and Taita-Taveta counties as hardship areas and payment of attendant hardship allowances to the teachers in those areas,” he explained.

In considering the petition, the Committee sought information and reports from the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Performance and Delivery Management and the Chief Executive Officer of the TSC.

“Preliminary findings by the Committee indicate that there are discrepancies in the designation of hardship areas within various sectors of the public service,” he explained.

The Ministry of Public Service and Gender have established an Inter-Agency Technical Committee in March 2019 to examine the current policies on hardship allowances and streamline payment.

The Committee also considered 27 Statements, 12 of which were not concluded during the Second Session.

The Committee is also scheduled to follow up on the Government commitment towards expeditious release of the Capitation Fund to learning institutions, payment of pending bills by the universities and the implementation of a Medical Insurance Cover to learners following termination of the EduAfy.

The Committee is also scheduled to hold meetings with the Council of Governors (CoG) to deliberate on the plight of ECDE Teachers and the status of infrastructural projects undertaken by county governments in the education sector.

The challenges included incomplete and unsatisfactory responses from the Ministries and Government agencies, frequent requests for postponement of the Committee meetings by different stakeholders invited to provide information and quorum hitches.

## BILLS

# Lawmakers start debate on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Bill, 2023

The House has started debate on The Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Bill, 2023, which seeks to provide for a coordinated system for the provision of quality maternal, newborn, and child health services.

If passed into law, the Bill provide for a framework for the delivery of comprehensive quality health services that meets the needs of mothers, the newborn and the children.

“When we talk about the mothers in the Bill, it is very specific that mothers are grouped into two. We have pregnant mothers and the services they are entitled to by the two levels of governments that we have in this country,” said Senator Ogola, while moving the Bill on Tuesday.

The Bill spells out the services that mothers are entitled to before they get pregnant and also the services that the newborn babies are entitled to when they are born until they are 12 years.

“This Bill is specifically about strengthening the services that we give

to these three components so that, at the end of it we reduce maternal deaths and offer services that are to the international standards,” the Senator added.

In coming up with the Bill, Senator Ogola seeks to promote innovative, comprehensive and integrated approaches to the delivery of maternal, newborn and child healthcare services.

The services captured in the Bill are not only limited to curative but also about promotive, curative and preventative.

The Bill has principles for service delivery, the first which is universality of access and equity in delivery of healthcare services and the recognition that in offering these services, there are people with special needs. This Bill is going to spell out how that category is captured.

On the principle for service delivery, the Bill talks about availability and access to services. It not only talks about access, but also timely and reliable information necessary to make an informed decision regarding one’s health and

treatment.

The 2022 Demographic Health Survey states that there is a percentage of women aged 15 to 19 years, the adolescents who have ever been pregnant.

The survey further show that in Samburu County, the adolescents who have been pregnant is at 50 per cent, West Pokot (36 Per cent), Marsabit (29 per cent) Narok (28 per cent), Meru (24 per cent), Homa Bay (23 per cent), Migori (23 per cent), Kajiado (22 per cent), Siaya (21 per cent) and Baringo (25 per cent). The lowest is only in Nyeri and Nyandarua counties at 5 per cent.

If you reflect on this background information, specifically on the percentages from the many counties, then it means that all these people must access certain services. These services must be deliberately made available and accessible to all women, wherever they are, and whatever time they need them every day,” said the Senator.

The debate on the Bill continues.



Senator Beatrice Ogola

# Starehe Boys Centre Students at Senate for voluntary scheme programme



1. Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi and other Senate staff pose with Starehe School students who are in Senate for voluntary service scheme attachment programme.  
 2. Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi welcomes the Starehe Students for the voluntary service scheme attachment programme.  
 3. The Starehe Students during the meeting with Deputy Clerk, Eunice Gichangi.

Students from Starehe Boys Centre are at the Senate for a voluntary service scheme attachment programme.

The School, which was founded in 1959 by the late Dr. Geoffrey William Griffin, Geoffrey Gatama Geturo and Joseph Kamiru Gikubu, sends about a dozen of students to the Senate annually for the programme. The school started as a rescue centre in Nairobi and is a member of the Round Square network of schools.

The students will be at Parliament for a two-week programme conducted by the Senate Liaison Office. They will be taken through various topics including an overview of the bicameral Parliament, history of Parliament and various services in Parliament. They also do a tour around the precincts of Parliament. They will also be expected to assist, wherever possible, in the discharge of the functions of the institution.

In the course of the scheme, they will

meet heads of the Directorates of Senate. They will get briefs on the functions and mandate of the Directorates and will be assigned tasks such as logistical arrangements for Committee sittings, filing correspondences and other documents, archiving, among other duties.

While welcoming the students to Parliament on behalf of the Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye, Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi commended the School for exposing the students to the

work environment. She asked them to ensure they are richer in knowledge by the time the programme ends and that Senate officers will be at hand to help them throughout.

“Your founder, Dr. Griffins always said, ‘if you are given a coffee cup to wash, wash it better than it has ever been washed’. His emphasis was on improving even the little things,” said Ms Gichangi.

## This Week in History



“Coronavirus is currently the biggest health and socioeconomic challenge of our time. I appreciate the direction taken by the Senate to form an Ad Hoc Committee to tackle comprehensively this disaster. The Committee has proven its competence and adaptability to the current times by successfully adopting technology to transact Committee business. They have been doing their meetings virtually and have had several virtual sessions.”

Senator George Khaniri during debate on the Statement on Government’s response to the Covid-19 Pandemic on expenditure, accountability on expenditure and enforcement of measures to mitigate the pandemic on April 28, 2020.



“There is hue and cry in every corner of this country on the issue of masks, things as basic as masks. Masks are never available and there are no tanks for people to wash their hands. We are told that if we are found without a mask, it amounts to a crime and you could be jailed for it. I urge the Committee to push that agenda and make sure that the Government is accountable on the spending of this money.”

Senator Enoch Wambua during debate on the Statement on Government’s response to the Covid-19 Pandemic on expenditure, accountability on expenditure and enforcement of measures to mitigate the pandemic on April 28, 2020.



“It is important to note that under Article 174 of the Constitution, one of the objects of devolution is to promote democratic and accountable exercise of power. This includes prudent management of all resources that have been entrusted to the devolved county governments.”

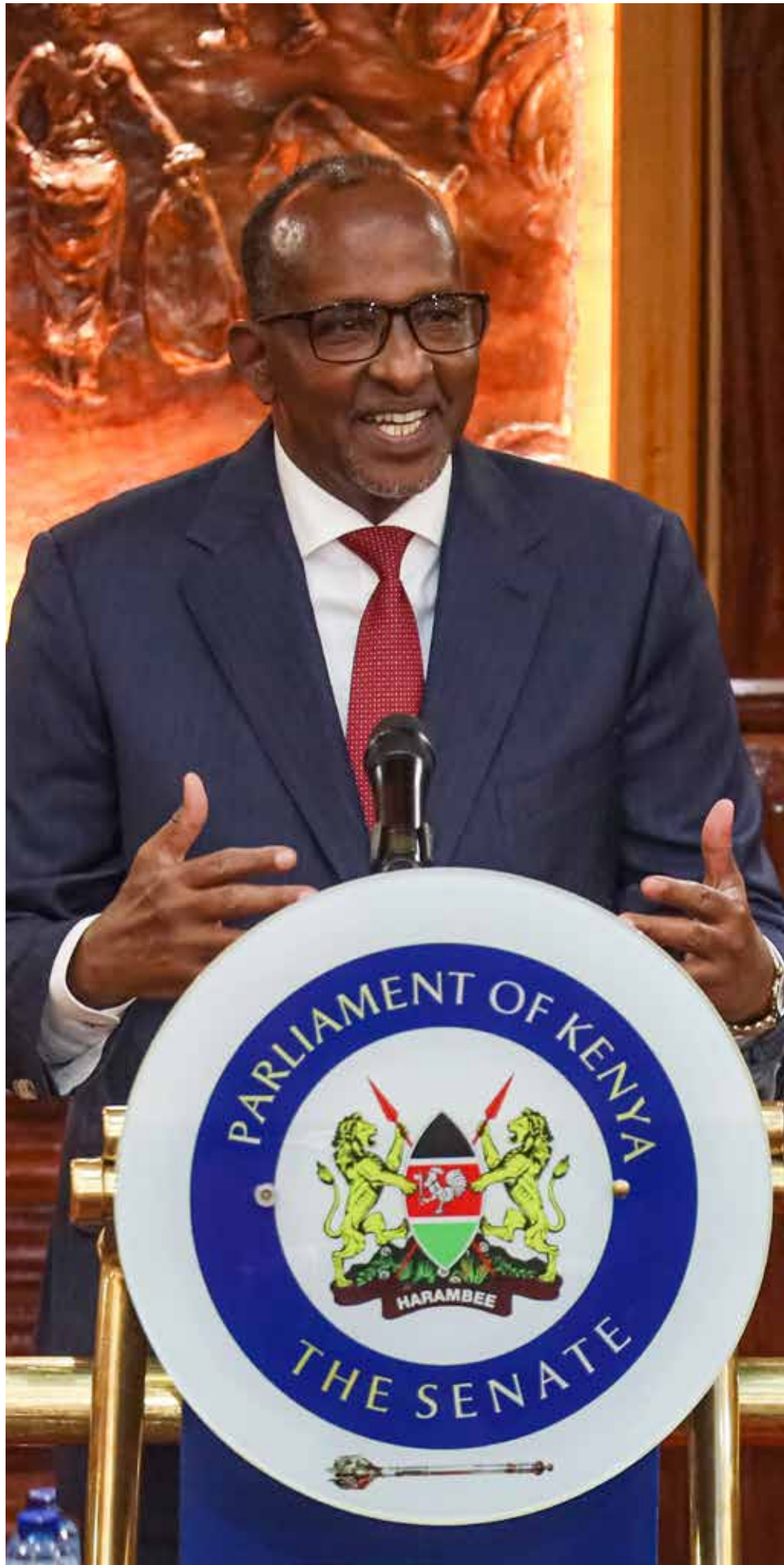
Senator (Eng.) Mahamud Mohamed during debate on the motion for the adoption of the report on the implementation status of the Senate resolution on County Governments infrastructure projects.



“We cannot blame the Government sometimes when it says that counties do need the money that they get. This is because the proposals they make are extremely ridiculous. Sometimes back, we saw the pictures of a house of a governor, which was possibly three floors in the middle of nowhere. That county wants justification for the Senate to approve those things.”

Senator Mutula Kilonzo Jr. during debate on the motion for the adoption of the report on the implementation status of the Senate resolution on County Governments infrastructure projects.

# KDF to create a department for social outreach, CS Duale tells House



CS Aden Duale speaks on the floor of the Senate.

The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) is in the process of creating a construction industrial company within its ranks that will be sent to remote parts in secure regions to engage in social work, Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale has told the House.

The works will include the construction of roads, dams and building of schools.

CS Duale told Senators that the Defence Council in consultation with the Commander In Chief of Kenya Defence Forces, is working to make sure that there is a specific department on construction for the purpose, just like in the United States of America (USA) and Egypt.

“This is so that where contractors cannot reach because of the terrain or insecurity, the military have a wing that can do national projects.

The CS made the revelation when he appeared on the floor of the House to respond to concerns raised by Members during the Question Time on Wednesday.

Senators Danson Mungatana and Enoch Wambua had challenged the CS to explain if there is a framework for invoking formal involvement of the military in civilian affairs.

“I ask this because it has been like the Cabinet Secretary, whether him or the previous administration, tended to favour Nairobi. We know that when the military gets involved, they do very good work. However, is there a way we can invoke them?” asked Senator Mungatana.

The Senator revealed that the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) has mismanaged the bridge at a place called Madogo in Tana River County and Garissa County and requested the CS to invoke his office to bring in the military to solve the problem.

The Ministry of Defence was tasked with rehabilitation of the open spaces in both Uhuru and Central Parks of the County of Nairobi. The project began in March, 2022 and was jointly implemented with the defunct Nairobi

Metropolitan City Services.

The quality of the facilities in the Parks had been dilapidated over time to the point where they were no longer functioning and that became a security issue.

Article 187 of the Constitution gives the greenlight for the transfer of functions between the two levels of government.

Senator Wambua wanted to know whether this provision was invoked in the transfer of this function from the County Government of Nairobi to the Ministry of Defence, and whether the County Government of Nairobi transferred the resources necessary for that function to the Ministry of Defence to undertake the rehabilitation of Uhuru Park.

“Article 243(3) (b) of the Constitution allows KDF when called upon, particularly in an emergency to come in and assist citizens. We did that during the El Nino,” said CS Duale.

The renovation works KDF has undertaken in both Uhuru and Central Parks include the following the creation, improvement and sprucing up of green spaces, gardens and lawns, the introduction of control access points and enhanced security through gates and fences, setting up of container restaurants, mainly fast food, creation of a skating park, innovation of a culturally symbolic Nyatiti water feature for events, setting up of outdoor libraries and reading areas.

The rehabilitation of the parks was geared towards enhancing visitors’ experience by ensuring the parks meets globally accepted standards.

CS Duale said the Ministry is collaborating with the County Government of Nairobi to establish the management modalities for the parks before the official opening.

“The Nairobi County Government in future must do two things: One, to sustain and maintain the standards. Our biggest fear is for these Parks to go back to its old situation. We expect Nairobi County to have competent men and women and for people to learn from other countries on how parks are run.



# Medical insurance fraud is widespread, CS Nakhumicha reveals to House



Health CS Susan Nakhumicha address Senators.

**H**ealth CS Susan Nakhumicha has said the state agencies are investigating 10 health care providers in relation to medical insurance fraud.

This is even as she called for collaboration among stakeholders to promote trust and accountability in healthcare delivery.

The CS told a sitting of the Senate on Wednesday that the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) is investigating the facilities that are currently suspended by the NHIF Board.

“There is widespread medical insurance fraud that is perpetuated by health facilities in Kenya, particularly within the private health sector,” the CS told the House, pointing out that fraud includes practices such as unnecessary medical tests, scans and incorrect diagnoses aimed at unfairly generating revenue for facilities.

“The fraud committed by health facilities, including the private sector, is a serious concern that has received attention from the Ministry of Health regulatory authorities and enforcement agencies.”

The CS was responding to the question raised by Senator Tom Ojienda. The Senator had wanted the Cabinet Secretary to confirm claims of widespread medical insurance fraud perpetrated by healthcare facilities in Kenya, particularly within the private health sector.

The lawmaker also wanted to know whether the Government conducted an inquiry into the matter and if the Cabinet Secretary could table the report of its findings and the measures put in place to ensure accountability by healthcare facilities.

The CS revealed that there have been reported cases of facilities engaging in fraudulent practices to unfairly generate revenue, such as impersonations, raising fake claims for patients who never received any service, ordering unnecessary tests or procedures, providing incorrect diagnoses and inflating bills submitted to insurance providers.

“These fraudulent activities not only harm patients by subjecting them to

unnecessary medical interventions, but also lead to financial losses for insurance companies and undermine the integrity of the healthcare systems,” noted the CS.

She told the House that her Ministry, the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) have taken action to address these issues, including suspending facilities found guilty of engaging in fraudulent practices.

“The prevalence of medical fraud as per external actuarial analysis stands at 20 per cent. It is important for stakeholders, including insurance providers, regulatory bodies, investigative bodies and law enforcement agencies to collaborate and identify investigating and prosecuting individuals and facilities involved in insurance fraud.”

She said strict enforcement of regulations, thorough audits and promotion of transparency and accountability in health care delivery, stakeholders can collectively work towards combating fraudulent activities and safeguarding the interests of patients and insurance beneficiaries.

She confirmed that her Ministry, NHIF and KMPDC have been actively addressing cases of medical fraud within the healthcare sector.

“Through joint efforts and investigations, several facilities have been identified and subsequently, suspended for engaging in fraudulent activities that compromise patient care and violate ethical standards,” she revealed, adding that authorities have taken steps to investigate and address instances of medical insurance fraud.

“Efforts have been made to scrutinise the practices of healthcare facilities, assess compliance with regulations, and hold to account those found to be involved in fraudulent schemes that are detrimental to both patients and insurance providers.

There are ongoing investigations by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) involving 10 healthcare providers currently suspended by the NHIF Board.



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1. A Senate protocol Officer takes Members of the Powers and Privileges of the Uganda Parliament on a tour of the Senate Chamber during the MPs' benchmarking visit to Parliament Buildings.
2. Senator Catherine Mumma and Senator Crystal Asige share a light moment during the meeting between Kenya Women Parliamentary Association and the delegation from Canada led by the Speaker of the House of Commons Hon. Greg Ferguson. The Association asked the delegation to support its Civic Education push so as to change the social norms and enhance acceptance of women leadership at the national level.
3. Senator Catherine Mumma (left), Senator Veronica Maina (second left) and Senator Crystal Asige with Hon Greg Ferguson, the Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons after a meeting between the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association at Parliament Buildings.
4. Members of the Committee on Powers and Privileges of Ugandan Parliament pose for a picture at the end of their tour of Parliament Buildings in Kenya. The MPs were in Kenya for a benchmarking tour.
5. Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha arrives at Parliament Buildings for the Questions Time in the Senate.
6. Speaker Amason Kingi with Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua (second left) for the fundraiser for Malindi Education and Development Foundation in Malindi town.
7. Defence Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale speaks to Senator Wakili Hillary Sigei (right), Catherine Mumma and Edwin Sifuna after he appeared in the Senate during the Questions Time on Wednesday.



7. Senator Mohamed Faki and Senator Dan Maanzo consult during the meeting between the Committee on Delegated Legislation and the Cabinet Secretary for Lands Alice Wahome over the draft Urban Areas and Cities (General) Regulations, 2023.
8. Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome briefs the Committee on Delegated Legislation on the draft Urban Areas and Cities (General) Regulations, 2023.
9. The Chairman of the Committee on Delegated Legislation Mwenda Gataya (left) leads the Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi out of the meeting after the meeting between the two sides. Hon. Mudavadi had appeared before the Committee to give a brief on the expired Statutory Instruments.
10. Senator Gloria Orwoba with Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi after the meeting with the Committee on Delegated Legislation.
11. Senator Issa Boy addresses guests during the Iftar dinner organized by Hon Hassan Omar Hassan, the East African Legislative Assembly member, to mark the end of the Holy month of Ramadhan at a function in Mombasa County. Members of the Committee on Health, Community Development, and Social Services of the Zambian Parliament take a group picture at the end of the benchmarking tour with their counterparts in both the Senate and National Assembly of the Kenyan Parliament.
12. Students and teachers of St. Mary's Nyamagwa Girls High School, Samate, Kisii County, after their educational tour of Parliament Buildings.
13. Students and teachers of Olare Olwang Secondary School, Narok County, at Parliament Buildings during their tour.



## A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

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