

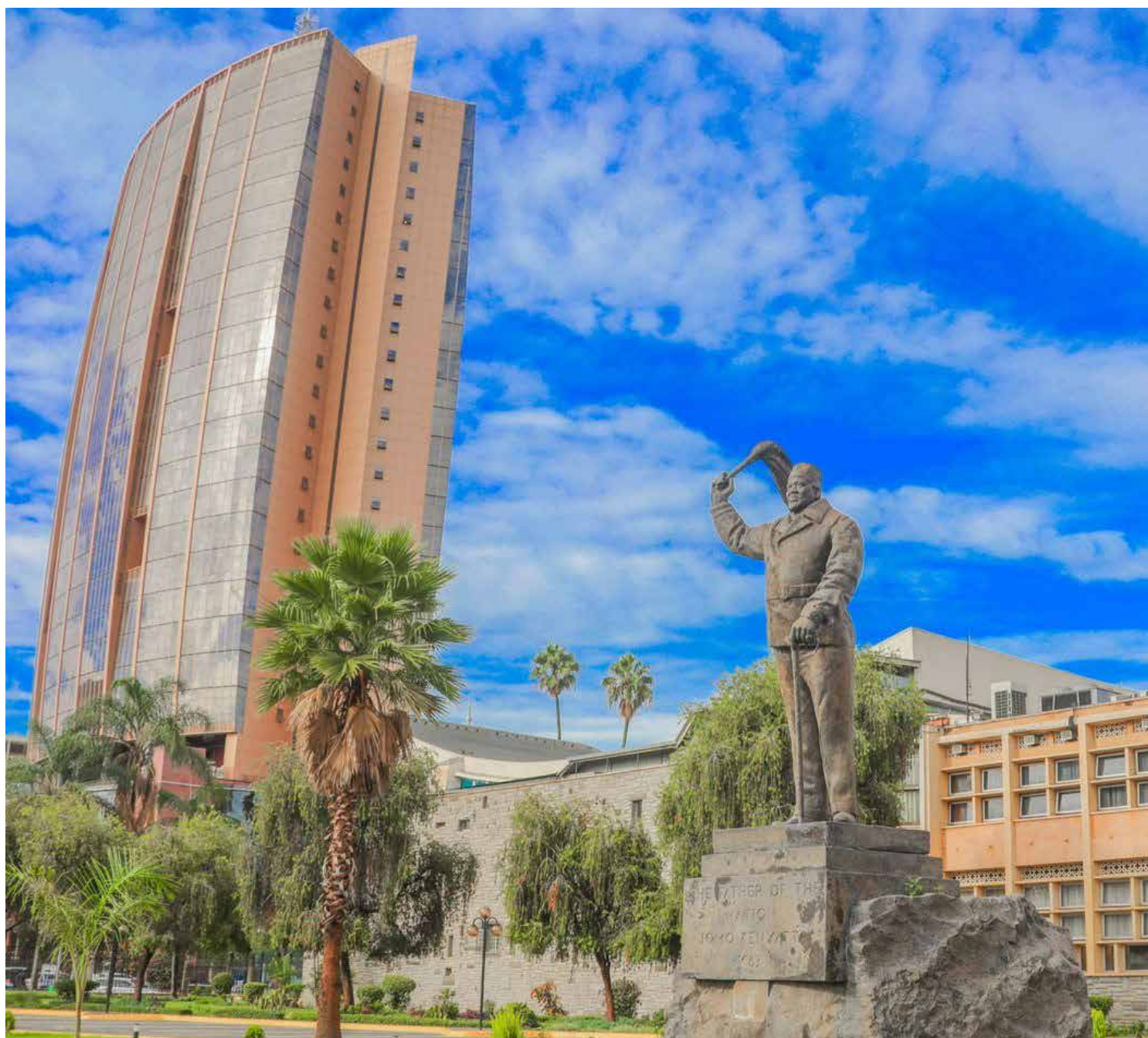


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President Ruto unveils ultra-modern Bunge Tower

The building is a towering monument of every citizen's legitimate expectation that their leaders will apply themselves in a responsible, conscientious, patriotic, accountable and honest manner to protect, uphold and enhance security, freedom and prosperity – President Ruto



The Bunge Tower that was inaugurated by President William Ruto on Thursday last week.

President William Ruto has commissioned the new Bunge Tower, a significant development that will cut the cost of Parliamentary operations.

During the launch, the President noted that the amenity is a major boost in facilitating MPs in their constitutional mandate of representation, oversight and legislation.

Speaking at the event, Members of Parliamentary Leadership led by Speaker Moses Wetang'ula of the National Assembly, Speaker Amason Kingi (Senate) expressed their excitement at the completion and inauguration of the Building.

The leaders noted that the Building will alleviate the financial burden on the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC).

This relief, they said, is particularly crucial as the PSC juggles competing financial priorities, balancing the need for adequate space for Parliamentary Committees and office accommodations for Members and staff.

In his address during the occasion, President William Ruto applauded the Parliament Service Commission (PSC) for erecting the building, expressing satisfaction that it will facilitate effective discharge MP's constitutional mandate.

He commended the Commission for spearheading the project to completion, giving an assurance that his government will continue supporting projects aimed at enabling Members of Parliament to serve Kenyans better.

He used the opportunity to appeal to Members of Parliament to take advan-



President William Ruto cuts the tape to signal the official launch of the Bunge Tower on Thursday, April 25. He is flanked by Speaker Moses Wetangula (left), Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua (right) and Speaker Amason Kingi (second right).

tage of the new world class building, to offer world class services to Kenyans.

“Because you now have a world class building and facilities, Kenyans expect world class services from you,” said the President.

“You have no reason but to give the people of Kenya the best. Parliament as an institution has no choice but to rise to the new era inaugurated by the opening of Bunge Towers and deliver rigorous, effective and consistent representation, legislation and oversight.”

The Bunge Tower offers a shot in the arm to the operations of Parliament and the Head of State urged the lawmakers to strive to improve the quality of the legislature’s output now that they have the state of art facilities.

“This building is a towering monument of every citizen’s legitimate expectation that their leaders will apply themselves in a responsible, conscientious, patriotic, accountable and honest manner to protect, uphold and enhance the security, freedom and prosperity of every citizen,” explained the President.

Speaker Wetang’ula, who is also the PSC Chairman, told the gathering that the Building faced the peril of becoming

a stalled project and a white elephant and assured the President that it will be put to use.

“The building is here. We will use it and it will serve the purpose for which it was meant,” the speaker said.

Speaker Wetang’ula praised the intervention of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) in rescuing and expediting the completion of the Tower, ensuring its utilization by the lawmakers.

Speaker Kingi heralded the opening of the Tower describing it as godsend for Parliament, projecting savings of up to Sh400 million in rental expenses, which he noted was a substantial amount.

The money consists of funds allocated to members of the Senate and the National Assembly, for leasing offices outside the Parliament precincts.

“This is what makes Bunge Tower a game-changer for the Parliament of Kenya. The modern facilities available in this building, including a library, gymnasium, committee rooms, and other essential amenities, provide a conducive environment for Members of Parliament and PSC staff and promise to enhance their work output,” stated Speaker Kingi.

Senate Majority Leader Senator Aar-

on Cheruiyot observed the notable features of the Tower pointing out that the advanced audiovisual system will enhance public understanding of Committee decisions before reports are presented to the House.

“In all the 26 committee rooms, there’s state-of-the-art audiovisual technology that allows the people of Kenya to witness committee proceedings live for the first time,” explained Senator Cheruiyot.

“As a member of parliament, this serves as a reminder to colleagues that you can no longer use the excuse of being in a Committee to ignore constituents’ calls, as sessions are accessible via live web streams. Your constituents can easily verify your attendance.”

The Leader of the Majority in the National Assembly Kimani Ichung’wah noted the significance of the latest addition to the Bunge Square in reducing costs and optimising financial resources for legislative purposes.

Hon Ichung’wah observed the move is expected to result in substantial savings for the PSC, previously allocated for facilitating Members and House committees to convene outside the pre-

cinets of Parliament.

“Over 100 MPs have been renting offices outside Parliament,” said Hon Ichungwah, adding that about 70 MPs were being housed at the KICC on leased arrangements.

“A good number who were fortunate to be allocated office space within the precincts of Parliament, shared office space with their staff,” he explained.

Minority Leader in the National Assembly Opiyo Wandayi, expressed regret over the negative publicity surrounding the project. He said as the chair of Public Accounts Committee in the 12th Parliament they never discovered any form of impropriety when considering PSC books of accounts.

Defence Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, who spoke on behalf of Cabinet Secretaries, held that from his experience as a lawmaker, the Parliament possesses the finest infrastructure, emphasising the uniqueness of the tunnel connecting Bunge Tower to the Main Parliament Buildings.

Bunge Tower to reduce PSC operational cost by sh400m annually, speaker Kingi



Senate Speaker Amason Kingi delivers his address during the official opening of the Bunge Tower

Speaker Amason Kingi has heralded the opening of Bunge Tower, describing it as a godsend for Parliament even as he revealed that Parliamentary Service Commission will save as much as Sh400 million annually in rental expenses.

The figure contains funds which

has been allocated to members of both Houses annually for leasing offices outside the Parliament precincts.

He said the completion of Tower instills in Kenyans a sense of pride and ownership, symbolising their collective investment in the future of the country.

“It stands out not only for the beauty

it adds to the Nairobi skyline but also for its outstanding features that have been of great interest to visiting delegations and school teams on learning tours,” said Speaker Kingi.

He noted the building would bolster the image of the Parliament as an institution and a destination for benchmarking for other Parliaments across the world, making it a landmark for the nation.

Speaking at the launch of Bunge Tower, Speaker Kingi said the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution ushered in a new political era, leading to the establishment of a Bicameral Parliament consisting of the Senate and the National Assembly.

This transformation triggered an unprecedented surge in demand for office space for Members of Parliament, Committee sittings and support staff.

Consequently, Parliament had to seek additional office accommodation, significantly impacting its annual budget.

The re-established Senate introduced 67 Senators, 47 of who are elected by universal suffrage, while 20 are nominated to represent various interest groups.

The National Assembly saw an increase in numbers from an initial 222 to the current 349, with a notable inclusion

being the 47 Woman Representatives.

“This increase in the number of legislators led to an unprecedented surge in demand for space for Members and their support staff, compelling Parliament to seek additional space,” remarked Speaker Kingi.

This necessitated the renting of premises within Parliament Square and the CBD at large, resulting in an annual rent bill that has since soared to Sh400 million.

“This predicament justifies the need for an office block like Bunge Tower, which not only provides a centralised work environment with all essential amenities easily within reach but also meets the standards of a modern workstation ideal for use by legislators,” said Speaker Kingi.

The launch of the Tower will curtail further expenditure on rent, he noted.

“This is what makes Bunge Tower a game-changer for the community of Parliament of Kenya. The modern facilities available in this building, including a library, gymnasium, committee rooms, and other essential amenities, provide a conducive environment for Members of Parliament and PSC staff and promise to enhance their work output,” he stated.

PSC rescued Bunge Tower, says Speaker Wetangula



Speaker Moses Wetangula, who is also the chairman of the Parliamentary Service Commission, addresses the gathering after the Building was unveiled.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula has revealed that the newly inaugurated Bunge Tower faced the risk of becoming a stalled project.

However, quick intervention by the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) rescued the project which expedited the construction works and the completion of the tower, ensuring its readiness for occupation by Members and House Committees.

“This building is here. We will use it and it will serve the purpose for which it was meant,” Speaker Wetangula who he delivered his speech during the launch of the Building.

The Speaker expressed his gratitude to the PSC saying that the Commissioners had showed selfless determination and sacrifice in ensuring that the building was completed.

“We have been meeting every fortnight, sometimes every week to negotiate with contractors to get back to work, threatening some with criminal sanctions

because they had been paid and had left the site,” he revealed.

Speaker Wetang'ula, who is also the Chairperson of PSC, said the structure of the building can attest to its worthiness as an investment.

With its completion the building significantly enhances the skyline of Nairobi City, adding substantial value.

“When you drive from Westlands to the Airport, apart from the new Marriott Hotel, the next most iconic building along the way is this building, Bunge Tower. It is aesthetically beautiful and very good to look at,”

The Speaker said the facilities in the Building will provide Members of Parliament the opportunity to work in first class structure.

“The only Parliament in my many travels I can compare with this building is probably the Parliament of Australia in Canberra City. It is as good as any other. I even dare say that this is a better facility than the House of Commons in the UK for those of you who have been

there,” he said.

In his capacity as the head of PSC, Speaker Wetangula expressed gratitude to the Executive for facilitating the completion of the building by allocating funds from the exchequer to Parliament.

Parliament stands as a vibrant and independent institution, diligently fulfilling its role in representing oversight of the government and crafting legislation to enhance the nation.

Speaker Wetangula also explained the method used in allocating offices to Members.

PSC used balloting method which was fair, transparent and democratic manner.

“Apart from ranking members, there is no member who was favoured. We are going to renovate Continental House to make sure that we accommodate those who missed out space in the Tower,” he clarified.

Construction of Tower was like a relay race – Commissioner Makau

Mavoko MP Patrick Makau has likened the construction of the new Bunge Tower to a 400-meter relay race, attributing the project's journey to the vision of the third of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC).

The concept of Bunge Tower originated from the third Commission, which served between 2008 and 2013, with subsequent Commissions contributing to development and actualisation of the dream.

While the design and drawing were approved by the fourth Commission (2013-2017), it was the fourth and fifth commissions that oversaw the construction of the Tower.

The sixth commission that finalised and equipped the Tower for occupation.

Speaking at the launch of Bunge Tower, Commissioner Makau, who also chairs the Committee on Security and Development of PSC, expressed gratitude to the members of the sixth Commission, led by Speaker Moses Wetangula, for their dedication and ensuring the project came to fruition.

“Today marks a significant milestone for us as a Commission and for Members of Parliament. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the members of the sixth commission for their tireless efforts that ensured this project was completed,” remarked Commissioner Makau.

Lands, Public Works, and Housing Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome commended the PSC for completing the Tower, stressing its potential to save the Commission's budget previously set aside for renting offices outside the Parliamentary precincts.

Recalling her own experience as MP for Kandara, CS Wahome noted the significance of having an office within Bunge Tower because of its accessibility, convenience, and safety for members.

“This completed project presents a remarkable opportunity, launched by the President, the Deputy President, and the Prime Cabinet Secretary, all of whom have served as distinguished legislators in Parliament,” stated CS Wahome in a speech read by Public Works Principal Secretary Joel Arumonyang.

The Parliamentary Joint Service has appointed the State Department of Public Works as the project manager for the Tower, the move hailed by the CS.



PSC Commissioners Patrick Makau and Mohamed Ali during the official launch of the Bunge Tower last Thursday, April 25.

Seneta Murungi ataka uchunguzi wa mauaji ya kikatili ya mwanablogu kufanywa hima



Seneta Kathuri Murungi.

Seneta Kathuri Murungi amewasilisha ombi Bungeni akitaka Kauli kutoka kwa Kamati ya Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Masuala ya Nchi za Kigeni kuhusu utekaji nyara, kuteswa na kuawa kwa mwanablogu kutoka Kaunti ya Meru, Daniel Bernard Muthiani.

Taarifa zinafichua kuwa Muthiani kwa jina jingine Sniper alitoweka ku-

toka Kaunti ya Meru mnamo Disemba 2, 2023 kabla ya mwili wake uliokatwatawa viungo kupatikana umetupwa kwenye Mto Mutonga, Kaunti ya Tharaka Nithi mwezi Disemba 16, 2023.

Seneta Kathuri ambaye pia ni Naibu Spika wa Bunge anaitaka Kamati hiyo kutoa taarifa kuhusu ulikofikia uchunguzi kwenye utekaji nyara, kuteswa na kuawa kinyama kwa mwanablogu Daniel Muthiani ikikariri matokeo ya awali au mafanikio yoyote ambayo yamejitokeza kufikia sasa.

Aidha anaitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta William Cheptumo kufafanua sababu zinazochangia kucheleweshwa kwa uchunguzi huo na kutokuwepo kwa utoaji wa habari kwa umma kuhusu hatua zinazoendelea ikizingatiwa umuhimu wa uchunguzi huo na ombi la familia la kutaka uchunguzi huo ukamilike hima.

Kadhalika Kamati hiyo imetakiwa

kuorodhesha hatua na mikakati ambayo serikali inapania kutekeleza kuangazia na kuzuia visa vilivyooongezeka vya dhuluma, vitisho na uvamizi dhidi ya waandishi wa habari na wanablogu wanaoangazia masuala ya siasa kwenye Kaunti ya Meru.

Kwingineko Seneta Mohamed Faki amewasilisha ombi akitaka taarifa kutoka kwa Kamati ya Ardhi, Mazingira na Maliasili kuhusu uharibifu na uchafuzi wa mazingira kutokana na uchimbaji wa madini ya chuma katika eneo la Jaribuni, Kauma, Kaunti ya Kilifi.

Kwenye ombi hilo, Seneta Faki anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuchunguza uharibifu na uchafuzi wa mazingira na athari za afya zinazotokana na uchimbaji wa madini ya chuma katika eneo la Jaribuni, Kauma, ambao unatekelezwa na Kampuni ya China ya Wu Ying.

Kamati hiyo kwenye taarifa yake inapaswa kufafanua hatua ambazo Wiz-

ara ya Madini na Uchumi Samawati na Mamlaka ya Kitaifa ya Usimamizi wa Mazingira (NEMA) zimechukua kuhakikisha usimamizi na matumizi sahihi katika uchimbaji wa madini eneo hilo la Jaribuni, Kauma kwa lengo la kuboresha maisha na mazingira ya wakazi wanaoishi sehemu hizo.

Aidha Seneta huyo ameitaka Kamati hiyo kubainisha wazi hatua ambazo kampuni ya China ya Wu Ying, chini ya wajibu wake wa kijamii, imechukua katika jitihada za kupunguza athari mbaya zinazotokea katika uchimbaji wa madini ya chumba kwenye eneo hilo la Jaribuni.

Kadhalika Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta John Methu itahitajika kupendekeza hatua zitakazochukuliwa kuzuia utegemeaji wa uchimbaji madini unaochangia pakubwa uharibifu wa mazingira na uchafuzi katika maeneo hayo.

Lazima tulikabili ongezeko la vifo vinavyotokea barabarani, asema Seneta Faki

Seneta Mohamed Faki ametaka hatua muafaka kuchukuliwa kuzuia maafa yanayozidi kushuhudiwa nchini kutokana na kukithiri kwa ajali za barabarani.

Akiwasilisha taarifa Bungeni kuangazia ongezeko la vifo vinavyotokana na ajali za barabarani, Seneta Faki alifichua kusikitishwa na visa vya ajali za mara kwa mara barabarani ambazo zimesababisha vifo na majereha kwa Wakenya wengi.

Alisema licha ya juhudi zinazofanywa na Mamlaka ya Kitaifa ya Uchukuzi na Usalama Barabarani nchini Kenya NTSA, Wakenya wamezidi kupoteza maisha kupitia kwenye ajali mbaya za barabarani.

“Takwimu zinatisha, uchunguzi wa uchumi wa mwaka 2023 unaripoti ongezeko la vifo vilivyotokana na ajali za barabarani kutoka elfu nne, mia tano hamsini na tisa mwaka 2022 hadi visa elfu nne, mia sita tisini mwaka 2023,” alifichua Seneta Faki.

Visa vingi vya vifo hivyo ni vya wanaume hasa wenye umri wa kati ya mi-

aka thelathini na thelathini na minne ikiashiria asilimia kubwa ya kudhoofika kwa uwezo wa nchi ya Kenya.

Alisema takwimu hizo zinaashiria kuwa nyingi ya ajali hutokea wikendi na siku za likizo kitaifa kati ya saa mbili za usiku na saa mbili asubuhi akiangazia kisa cha ajali ya wanafunzi wa Chuo Kikuu cha Kenyatta.

Seneta huyo alifichua kuwa ajali nyingi za barabarani zinachangiwa pakubwa na tabia ya ulevi na uendeshaji mbaya wa magari miongoni mwa madereva huku watumizi wa barabara wanaotembea, wenye baiskeli na pikipiki wakiathirika pakubwa.

Takwimu zilizotolewa mwezi Februari zinaonesha kuwa kati ya vifo mia sita hamsini na tisa vilivyoripotiwa barabarani, mia mbili hamsini na tisa vilikuwa vya watumizi wa barabara wanaotembea kwa miguu.

Kiongozi huyo aidha alitumia fursa hiyo kuupongeza ushirikiano uliopo kati ya serikali na shirika la St. John's Ambulance kuanzisha vituo vya kuwashughulikia waathiriwa kwenye barabara kuu



Seneta Mohamed Faki na Seneta Betty Montet.

ya Mombasa hadi Malaba.

“Hivi vituo kumi na tisa ambavyo vinahudumu ni muhimu pakubwa katika kutoa huduma ya hima kwa waathiriwa wa ajali, hivyo kupunguza vifo na majereha mabaya. Viwili ambayo vimekita ni cha Emali na Kinungi, hata hivyo juhudi hizi zinapaswa kupanuliwa,” alikariri Seneta Faki.

“Barabara kuu ambazo zinapita kwenye Kaunti zetu bado hazijanufaika kikamilifu na juhudi hizi muhimu, hivyo serikali za kaunti ni lazima ziunge mkono na kushirikiana kwenye juhudi za kuyaokoa maisha,” alitoa wito Seneta Faki.

Vile vile Seneta Faki alihimiza ku-

wepo kwa ushirikiano kati ya Kamati ya Afya kwenye Seneti na Baraza la Magavana kufanikisha mradi huo akisema juhudi za kupunguza ajali za barabarani na kuendeleza mbinu za kuitikia wakati wa dharura hazitasaidia tu katika kuyaokoa maisha bali zitamaliza pia madhara ya kijamii na kiuchumi yanayosababishwa na matukio hayo nchini Kenya.

Kadhalika Seneta huyo wa Kaunti ya Mombasa alitoa wito kwa washikadau wote kuungana kulishughulikia suala hilo la dharura wakihakikisha mikakati ya usalama barabarani inayotekelezwa ni kabambe na bora katika kuyalinda maisha ya Wakenya.

It is exciting time for Senate, Clerk Nyegenye says of launch of Bunge Tower



Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye (left) with Clerk of the National Assembly Samuel Njoroge (centre) and Mr Clement Nyandiere, the Director General of the Parliamentary Joint Services at the official launch of the Bunge Tower.

Thursday's official unveiling of Bunge Tower will greatly help in addressing challenges that have affected smooth operations of Parliament as an institution.

The Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye revealed that Parliament has in the past experienced office space challenges that have affected business of the two Houses, singling out inadequate committee rooms as one of the bottlenecks.

The completion of the Tower, and the eventual commissioning of the Building on Thursday by President William Ruto, will help ease pressure that was emanating from Senators, Staff due

to inadequate space.

"It is a very exciting time for the Senate, the completion of Bunge Towers was long awaited. It responds timely to the existing need," explained Clerk Nyegenye, adding that inadequate office space had caused delays in the Senate business.

"With Bunge Tower in place a lot will be delivered by the Senate."

In his message on the commissioning of the Building, the Clerk urged staff to make good use of the facilities while discharge their mandate.

"It took a while but it has been worth the wait. Let us make good use of the Building."

tution which expanded the size of parliament to nearly double.

The Constitution created a bicameral Parliament that hosts a total of 416 members; out of which 349 are in the National Assembly and 67 members in the Senate.

With the new numbers, the design was revised; increasing the number of offices to 330 and those of committee rooms to 26.

The contract was signed with M/S China Jiangxi International (K) Ltd in September 2013 and the site was handed over to the Contractor in January 2014. But it took another year, January 2015, for the actual construction works for the project to commence.

The main Contractor completing building the structure/ shell at the end of 2017.

The first, second, third and fifth floors of the Tower will host a total of 26 committee rooms all fitted with audio visual and conference management systems.

Four committee rooms are fitted with video conference facilities to facilitate remote presentation of evidence to committees.

The ground floor comprises security and reception areas, Members' entrance, library for members and VIPs, public entrance and lounge areas.

The Senate has been allocated 10 committee rooms while the National Assembly will have 16.

The Building encompasses four basements, twenty-seven floors, vehicular and pedestrian tunnels and an access to the main Parliament Building.

The first, second and third basements have the car parking, stores and offices. The Tower will provide a total of 350 parking slots with vehicles accessing the basement parking from the main Parliament Building and entering the building at basement 2.

The pedestrian tunnel links the Towers to the main Parliament Buildings from the second basement.

The fourth basement hosts fire pumps, water storage tanks, borehole, rain water treatment, booster and drainage pumps and parking.

Nineteen floors of the building are hosting a total of 330 offices for Members of Parliament. The Tower has one restaurant floor, one and a half health club floor and one service floor.

The project was conceived in 2009 during the 10th Parliament with the aim of addressing challenges of office space in the face of increased number of Members of Parliament.

The Parliamentary Service Commission's initial plan was to modernise the working environment and conditions in committee rooms and other facilities of Parliament for the then National Assembly.

In this plan, Bunge Towers was to accommodate all the Members of Parliament at that time, totalling 222 and 11 committee rooms.

But the design was altered following the promulgation of the 2010 Consti-

State has no plan to construct public libraries in counties, CS Jumwa tells House

Gender, Culture, the Arts and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Aisha Jumwa has said the National Government has no plans to establish public libraries in the 47 counties since the function was devolved as per the 2010 Constitution.

She added that her ministry handed over public libraries to 33 counties pointing out on the need to upgrade the existing services to fit into the envisaged county government status and people's expectations.

"Since library is a devolved function, the Ministry did submit a proposal to the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) to submit to the Summit for consideration of allocation of a ringfenced conditional grant to facilitate establishment of libraries in the 14 counties without public libraries," the Cabinet Secretary told the House during the Question Time on Wednesday.

CS Jumwa was responding to a question from Senator James Murango who wanted to know whether there are plans by the National Government to establish a public library in Kirinyaga County and whether budgetary allocations for the same will be made in the 2024/2025 financial year.

The lawmaker also wanted to know whether action is taken by the national Government to ensure establishment

of public libraries in all counties where there are none.

She however told the House that the National Government had disbursed Sh435 million to 33 counties which the Ministry handed over public libraries to because money follows function.

"Money follows functions. According to my Ministry, monies were transferred to the fullest to all the 33 counties because library services are devolved. That is the whole truth. We do not hold any monies for the 33 libraries."

However, the response did not satisfy the House with lawmakers describing it shallow.

Senator Tabitha Mutinda, who is the vice chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, said the committee has embarked on the issue of libraries, especially the 33 counties where Sh425 million is yet to be released to the 33 counties.

She said employees and staff in the 33 counties working in the libraries have not received their remunerations because of the delay in disbursement of the funds.

"When you indicate that it is not the function of your Ministry, it leaves a lot to be desired. It is not a fulfilling question from where I sit. We request for a detailed answer because it is a bit shallow," said Senator Mutinda.

"Your office has a responsibility to ensure that the money reaches 33 counties. Even if there are no plans by the



Cabinet Secretary Aisha Jumwa speaks in the House on Wednesday, April 24.

Government to expand, it is good. As the Kenya Kwanza Government, we are honest by agreeing so that we do not give false hopes. As far as those 33 are concerned, what is the status of Sh425 million?"

Senator Godfrey Osotsi concurred with Senator Mutinda that the Cabinet Secretary response were not sufficient information regarding the question.

"Though devolved, library services are one of the functions which have not been fully transferred to the counties. The only attempt that was done was to

release over Sh400 million as conditional grants, but it is largely not transferred," he said.

Senator Jackson Mandago said libraries were not constructed in all the counties and proposed that every county should have a public library.

"The only remedy to that is to ask for conditional allocation for development of public libraries, just the way some counties were given funds to develop county assemblies and county headquarters," he said.

This Week in History



"The 2010 Constitution established two levels of government. It requires that all national revenues be shared between the two levels of government. Articles 203 and 218 of the Constitution provides for equitable sharing of revenue raised nationally between the national and county governments. The Division of Revenue Bill provides for the allocation for Financial Year 2019/2020. It details the proposed sharable revenue, national Government share of revenue, county equitable share of revenue and conditional grants and the equalization fund."

Senator (Eng.) Mahamud Mohamed moving debate on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2019 on April 30, 2019.



"There is hue and cry in every corner of this House yet the provisions of Article 96 are very clear in terms of protecting the interests of the county governments. The National Assembly has gone against that and reduced the budget allocation to the county governments. For example, if we go by this proposed formula, Isiolo County will lose Sh362 million. That is a lot of money. That is why I am wondering whether we are really doing what we are required to do or whether we are just being used to rubberstamp. What recourse does this House has or are we just debating here for the sake of it?"

Senator Fatuma Dullo contributing to debate on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2019 on April 30, 2019.



"I am happy that the mood of this House from all the Senators that have spoken is so clear that we cannot and shall not allow the variation or deduction of the money that goes to counties. These people ceded the authority to us. Therefore, we cannot participate in a matter that reduces the amount of money that goes to them when there is a constitutional provision that protects the reduction of emoluments of commissioners of other certain public officers from varying their benefits at the time they are in office. Similarly, we cannot vary amounts of money that goes to counties by virtue of a mere assumption that the national Government has failed in its responsibility to collect more taxes and for that matter enhance and boost the sharable revenue."

Senator Mithika Linturi contributing to debate on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2019 on April 30, 2019.



"We are now speaking about referendum and the need to change the Constitution to accommodate more people at the national level. We are missing the point because money going to the counties is doing much better than the amount of money that is retained at the national Government. Therefore, we should increase the allocation for counties to 50 per cent. Whatever function that we devolve, there should be no remnant in the national Government."

Senator Farhiya Ali contributing to debate on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2019 on April 30, 2019.

Committee directs Ministry of Defence to pay injured KDF officer's dues

The Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations has recommended compensation of a former Kenya Defence Forces officer who sustained injuries while on duty.

The Committee has directed the Ministry of Defence to pay Mr. Isaiah Ochanda his dues within 6 months of the adoption of the report on its investigation on the matter.

Mr Ochanda sustained injuries while on duty at the Embakasi Garrison and appeared before the Committee in March 2024 on a hospital stretcher accusing the Ministry of failing to comply with court orders and non-payment of disability pension.

His appearance before the committee drew deep emotions among the lawmakers and staff pleaded with Senators to intervene and push for his dues as pronounced by the court.

He sustained the spinal cord injuries in the cause of his duties in 1987, leaving him paraplegic and was discharged from duty in 1995 on medical grounds.

Despite completing the necessary clearance documents, he is yet to be paid his dues attributing the failure to the Ministry of Defence and the Office of the Attorney General.

Ochanda had earlier on filed a case in the High Court in 1996 and a judgment was made in March 2011 in which the court awarded him Sh22.9 million.



Senator Karen Nyamu, Senator Abdul Haji, Senator Tom Ojienda.



Members of the Committee on National Security, Senator Karen Nyamu (vice chair), Joseph Guthuku and Tom Ojienda during a retreat in Mombasa.

Push for more allocation to counties, CoG pleads with Senators

The Council of Governors (CoG) has pleaded with the Senate to push for allocation of more funds to counties.

The Council stated that it has become difficult for counties to run their operations due to the challenges of funding even as they regretted that funds meant for devolved functions are still being held at the National level.

“When functions are devolved, they must be accompanied by funds otherwise we shall be doing zero work,” said Governor Anne Waiguru, the CoG Chairperson, citing the health, water, and agriculture sectors as areas where the national government still clings on funds meant for counties.

The committee also held a meeting with the Commission on Revenue Allo-

cation (CRA) to deliberate on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024.

The Bill was introduced in the Senate on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 and was committed to the Committee on Finance and Budget for consideration and facilitation of public participation.

The National Assembly passed the Bill without amendments in March 2024 before being referred to the Senate for consideration as stipulated by Article 110(4) of the Constitution.

In its submission to the committee, which is chaired by Senator Ali Roba, the Council of Governors proposed a minimum allocation of Sh439.5 billion for 2024/25 financial year as equitable shareable revenue.



Top: Governor Ahmed Abdillahi, the vice chair, Council of Governors, Governor Fernandes Barasa, Governor Mutahi Kahiga and Governor Muthomi Njuki when they appeared before the Finance committee.



Left: Senator Ali Roba, chair Finance and Budget Committee.

Joint Committee summon four Cabinet Secretaries over doctors' strike

A joint sitting of Health Committees of both Houses has summoned four cabinet secretaries and the Council of Governors (COG) to shed light on the doctor's strike that has lasted more than 40 days.

The summon comes after they failed to appear before the joint sitting of the National Assembly Committee on Health and the Senate Committee on Health last Friday.

The Cabinet Secretaries skipped the invite while officials from the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU), the Kenya Union of Clinical Officers (KUCO), and the Kenya National Union of Medical Laboratory Officers (KNUMLO) honored the invitation.

The joint Committee had convened the meeting in an attempt to resolve the strike, now entering its seventh week and crippled healthcare services in almost all public hospitals.

The joint committee has summoned Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha (Health), Florence Bore (Labour and Social Services), Moses Kuria (Public Service and Performance) and Prof.

Njuguna Ndung'u (National Treasury).

Others are the Council of Governors (COG) Chairperson Anne Waiguru and the COG chairperson of the Committee on Health, Governor Muthomi Njuki as well as the Chair of the Public Service Commission (PSC) Anthony Mwaniki Muchiri and the Chair of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) Lyn Cherop Mengich.

The officials are expected to appear before the joint committee on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Senator Jackson Mandago, who chairs the Senate Health Committee, expressed disappointment at the failure by the officials to honour the invites, especially that of the CoG.

"Out of the entire Council of governors, not a single representative, not even members of their health committee, deemed it necessary to appear before this joint sitting," he lamented.

"This is not a meeting that is meant to entertain any party. This was a meeting that was meant to bring everybody into a sitting and find a lasting solution to this problem," he said, adding that it is not excusable for Cabinet Secretaries



Hon Robert Pukose addresses the media after four Cabinet Secretaries and Council of Governors failed to show for the meeting that would have discussed the ongoing doctors' strike.



Senator Jackson Mandago, the chair, Senate Health Committee.

not to honour invites by Parliament.

"Doctors' strike touches on human life and we ask the governors to take seriously the management of Health as a devolved function."

"I don't think there would be any other meeting that was so crucial than the one that is meant to solve the crisis that we have been held as a country."

Dr Robert Pukose, who chairs the Health Committee of National Assembly, expressed regret over the postponement of the meeting.

BILLS

Four NADCO Bills introduced in House

Four Bills related to the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) have been introduced in the House.

The Bills are Election Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Statutory Instruments (Amendments) Bill, 2024, Political Parties (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The Bills, which are part of the political settlement between the government and opposition, went through first reading on Tuesday.

The Election Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has been introduced in the House through the first reading.

The Bill seeks to sanction Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) officials who delay in publishing the results of a general election.

Jointly sponsored by Majority leader Aaron Cheruiyot and Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo, the Bill provides that such officials should face a 5-year jail term for the delay.

"The Bill creates offences for members and staff of the Commission who unreasonably delay in declaring elections results or knowingly alter declared election results," the Bill reads in part.

The Bill makes it an offence for IEBC staff to permit any person whom they know is able to read or write to vote in the manner provided for persons unable to read or write.

The Bill makes it an offence for electoral officials to permit any person whom they know or have reasonable cause to believe is visually well to vote in the manner provided for persons who are visually impaired or persons with disability as the case may be.

The Bill further seeks to introduce new offences for election officials as a measure to promote integrity in the exercise.

One of the proposals is to criminalise any voting that will be done in polling stations that will not be gazetted by the IEBC.

The Bills are part of the Nation-

al Dialogue Committee agreement and which contain sweeping amendments to the Constitution, in a bid to implement recommendations of the committee.

The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2024 proposes new procedures for auditing a voters' register.

It proposes to amend section 6 of the Act which provides for inspection of register of voters by members of the public and rectification of particulars of voters.

Parliament will have the power to appoint an independent firm to carry out an evaluation of the electoral process after a general election.

"The evaluation shall include a review of the legal framework, processes and costs associated with the electoral process," say the two Senators, adding that the proposed new provisions require the preparation of a report for submission to Parliament within ninety days of the appointment of the independent firm.

The Elections Bill proposes that the decision of the High Court on an appeal



Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot



Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo

on the validity of election of a member of a county assembly shall be final

After first reading, the Speaker Kingi committed to the Bill to the Committee on Justice, legal Affairs and Human Rights to conduct public participation.



1. President William Ruto shares a light moment with PSC commissioners Rachel Ameso and Okongo Omogeni when he toured the Bunge Tower after the official opening.
2. Speaker Amason Kingi speaks to Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua before president William Ruto's arrival for the official opening of Bunge Tower.
3. President Ruto poses for a picture with Senator Lematian and Senator Okongo Omogeni, who is also a PSC Commissioner. The President had toured Senator Lematian's office in the Tower.
4. Former Speakers of Parliament were also at hand to witness history is unfold as the legislature transitions into a spacious future. From right, Speaker Kenneth Marende, Speaker Justin Muturi and Francis ole Kaparo. They are joined in the photo by MPs John Muchangi (left) and Oku Kaunya.
5. Speaker Kingi makes a point to President Ruto during a tour of the Bunge Tower after the official opening of the building.
6. Speaker Kingi speaks to Defence Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale before President Ruto's arrival to inaugurate Bunge Tower.
7. President Ruto is shown how to digitally access reading materials at the Parliamentary library during his tour of the Tower.



8. Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) pose for group picture outside the Bunge Tower before the official opening of the building.
9. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Defence Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale arrive at Parliament Square for the official opening of Bunge Tower. Both are former members of Parliament.
10. Senator Tabitha Mutinda (right) and Senator Miraj Abdulrahman escort Cabinet Secretary Aisha Jumwa out of the Chamber after Question Time on Wednesday.
11. Senate Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi talks to Commissioner Rachel Ameso looked on by Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Gladys Shollei.
12. President Ruto, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with members of Parliamentary Service Commission.
13. President Ruto jokes with Senator Okiya Omtatah, Senator Karen Nyamu and Tharaka MP George Murugara (right) during the official opening of Bunge Tower.
14. President Ruto, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and the leadership of the two houses.
15. The fitness center at the Bunge Tower is part of the many facilities that are available to members
16. Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo receives a gift from Dr Kondwani Nankhumwe, the Leader of Minority in the Malawi National Assembly who was in Kenya for an official visit. Dr Nankhumwe had paid a courtesy call to Senator Madzayo's office and the two leaders had the opportunity to share ideas about the role each of them play, the challenge of state capture and the threat of democracy in Africa.



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