



The SENATE

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Win for Senate as Mediation Committee settles for Sh400 billion for counties

The Senate figures were arrived at through a study. They were not random and cannot be randomly varied. Let the counties have their cake. What they do with the cake is the work of the Senate. We will go down there to ensure that the money is used according to the law - Senator Okiya Omtatah



Senator Okiya Omtatah



Senator Enoch Wambua



Senator Dan Maanzo



Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi

Pressure by the Senate has ensured that County Governments receive Sh400.1 billion in equitable shareable revenue for the 2024/25 financial year.

Initially allocated Sh391 billion, the Senate amended the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 and pushed the allocation to the unprecedented figure of Sh415 billion.

However, the National Assembly hit back and rejected the amendment saying that the Sh24 billion extra will be drawn from the NG-CDF, forcing the Bill to be subjected to the mediation process.

However, The Senate emerged as the biggest winner after it forced members of the National Assembly to accede to Sh400.1 billion.

Although the new figure is a Sh15 billion less from what the House had allocated, it is a major plus to devolution as counties will get Sh9 billion more.

The figure is Sh15 billion above what the counties received in the 2023/24 financial year.

"This is an unprecedented figure," said Senator Agnes Muthama after members of the committee agreed.

"It is our role as the Senate to protect devolution and we believe that County Governors will reciprocate by putting the money to good use."

In recommending the Sh415 billion as

county equitable share, the Senate based its arguments on an adjustment by 6.4 per cent of annual growth factor.

It also based on adjustment of repurposing the scrapped Managed Equipment Scheme (MES) programme allocation, which amounted to about Sh5.86 billion.

The adjustments take into account the non-discretionary financial obligations resulting out of Housing levy, increased contribution to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and contribution to the Social Health Insurance Fund's wage drift and the need for counties to provide matching allocation for the County Aggregation Industrial Parks (CAIPs).

While considering the Bill, the Committee considered payroll impact the housing levy and the new NSSF deductions will have to county governments. On housing levy, the committee estimates that total deductions will come to about Sh4 billion in terms of the upwards growth of the payroll.

The same applies to enhanced contribution to NSSF which amounted to about Sh3 billion, which it argues will adversely impact the overall payroll of the county governments. The Committee also looked at the impact of county aggregation and industrial parks.

On Tuesday last week, Senators had vowed to dig in as they defend the de-

cision to allocate Sh415 billion arguing that counties must take their rightful place of delivering development to the people.

"As we release the team to go and mediate, the expectation of this House is that they should go with a firm position. Not an inch more or less because the amount of money that this Senate has passed to go to the counties has been arrived at scientifically. It was not guesswork," said Senator Enoch Wambua soon after deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi communicated the names of the Mediation Committee to the House.

Senator Dan Maanzo said the Senate exists to defend devolution adding that many county functions have stuck to the national Government, citing the case of health and agriculture.

"The moment the Senate makes a proposal for monies to go to the counties, it is not upon the National Assembly to say the money will be scooped from the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG CDF).

Senator Okiya Omtatah said irrespective of how the money is being used, counties are underfunded and services cannot be provided.

"The calculation of the revenue has been manipulated to leave out a very big chunk of national Government revenue. The "at least 15 per cent" we are talking

of is not even pegged on the true picture of the revenue raised nationally. It is the revenue that the National Assembly decided should go to the counties," said Senator Omtatah.

"The Senate figures were arrived at through a study. They were not random and cannot be randomly varied. Let the counties have their cake. What they do with the cake is the work of the Senate. We will go down there to ensure that the money is used according to the law."

Senator William Cheptumo admitted that corruption is rife in counties but argued that the solution is not to deny the county governments resources, but to put in place measures to deal with the corruption.

"My colleagues who will represent us in the committee should make leaders from the other side to understand that our push for more resources to counties is not about reducing NG-CDF money. It is a constitutional requirement," he said.

Those who represented the Senate in the negotiation were Senator Kathuri Murungi, (co chair) who is also the Deputy Speaker, Senator Boni Khalwale, Senator Fatuma Dullo, Senator Jackson Mandago, Senator Mohamed Chute, Senator Edwin Sifuna, Senator Moses Kajwang, Senator Agnes Kavindu Muthama and Senator Eddy Oketch.

Adhoc Committee pushing for amendment to US law for 1998 blast victims

An Adhoc Committee of the Senate has directed the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to push and secure an appointment with the US Government that will discuss the fate of thousands of Kenyans who were affected by the 1998 bomb blast that targeted the US Embassy in Nairobi.

The Adhoc Committee on the Compensation of the Kenyan victims of the blast says part of the meeting will be to push for changes to the American law that will allow Kenyans who fall victims of terror attacks that target the US government to be compensated.

The Committee wants the Justice of United States Victims of the States sponsored Terrorists Act amended to include Kenya as a beneficiary state, and only a high level meeting with top US officials will help.

The Act provides for the establishment and administration of the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorist Funds. The American Government set up the Fund for the whole world where American institutions are targeted by terrorists but Kenyan victims was excluded.

The Fund was set up by the Ministry of Justice in the US and has monies collected from defeated Al Qaeda networks, including frozen accounts in America.

“What is needed is for an amendment to be made in the USA law to include Kenya as one of the states that can be compensated from the Victims Fund,”



Senator Agnes Kavindu

said Senator Dan Maanzo, a member of the Committee.

The Senator spoke during the debate on the motion to adopt the progress report of the Adhoc Committee which was established in June 2023 to push for the compensation of Kenyan victims of the 1998 bomb blast.

Moving the motion, Senator Agnes Muthama, who chairs the committee, said the aim of the meeting will be discuss proposals of amending the Act.

“The Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs should push the matter of compensation at the Cabinet level and pro-

vide a bi-monthly update on the progress made in securing the appointment,” said Senator Muthama.

More than 6,000 Kenyans have suffered since a bomb was detonated at the US Embassy in Nairobi in August 1998 and over the years, they have undergone horror and pain because of medication and trauma.

While the American Government compensated its citizens and those of other western nations, Kenyans victims are the only people who have not been compensated are the innocent Kenyans who were not in the Embassy.

Senator Maanzo said the Committee had come to the conclusion that the American Government was the target in the attack.

“Kenya became collateral damage and it is only fair they come up with this fund and compensate victims as the American Government.”

The Committee was formed to coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in the engagement of victims to pursue compensation of Kenyan nationals.

However, the Committee was unable to secure an appointment with the US Embassy in Kenya and the US Congress.

Senator Maanzo and Senator Muthama have met with Senator Chris Coons, who chairs the US Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on African Affairs.

“He agreed to the meeting of the two committees to discuss compensation for the Kenyan victims,” said Senator Maanzo.

There was a big challenge as to whether a Kenyan national could sue Al Qaeda on the USA soil.

It took 10 years and their prayers were rejected.

The matter ended up in the Supreme Court which allowed Kenyans to sue Al Qaeda, but on the Kenyan soil.

Over 3,000 suits have gone through Kenyan courts but the non-inclusion of the country in the Compensation Act has meant little success.

Roads Committee plans retreat over Road Levy Fund

The Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing has resolved to hold a retreat with the State Department for Roads in order to be appraised on the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF).

As part of the reforms, the Fund is allocated to counties as a conditional grant and will be rolled out in 2024/2025 financial years and the Committee wants an explanation on how it will be done.

During the retreat, the committee wants to be appraised on the conditions of the grant and the responsibilities of the

actors implementing the grant, the legislative proposals required to anchor and streamline the implementation of the grant by counties and the Policy direction on completion of the many stalled road projects in the country.

The National Assembly adopted the Report of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure on the proposed reduction of projected Ceilings for the Kenya Rural Roads Authority for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years

The House resolved that the ceil-

ings for the RMLF under Kenya Rural Roads Authority for the Financial Years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 be maintained as per the formula setting out in section 6 of the Kenya Roads Board Act, 1999.

However, after deliberation with the Committee, Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen affirmed the role of the Ministry is to implement laws and policies adopted by Parliament.

“I am ready to enforce any policy instructed by Parliament and which is within the law,” said the Cabinet Secretary when he appeared before the Committee.

Legislators resolved to sponsor a Motion seeking for a Resolution of the House that will ensure Sh10.5 billion from the RMLF share to counties is included in the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 and the County Governments Additional Allocation Bill, 2024.

Lawmakers further resolved to sponsor amendment to the Kenya Roads Board Act, 1999 and the Kenya Roads Act to provide that Counties be listed as a Roads Agency with specified percentages of allocation from the RMLF.

Speaker Kingi leads Kenya delegation to global water forum

Speaker Kingi has shared Kenya's experiences in its relentless quest to boost water access for all Kenyans.

The Speaker led the delegation to an international meeting of parliamentarians that sought to escalate the role of legislators in addressing water needs across the globe, in the face of mounting challenges, among them Climate Change.

The event titled "Parliamentary Meeting on the Occasion of the 10th World Water Forum" was held in Bali, Indonesia between May 19 – 22, 2024.

The platform fostered discussions and collaborations among legislatures around

the world on critical water-related issues and the role of parliamentarians in facilitating attainment of national and global water goals.

Speaker Kingi also highlighted the role Parliament has played in formulation of national mechanisms and domestication of international protocols for addressing global water needs.

Parliamentarians who accompanied the Speaker were Senator John Methu, Senator Beatrice Oyomo, Hon Eric Mwangi Kahugu, Hon Martha Wanjira, Hon Nebert Bernard Muriuki and Hon Betty Njeri Maina.



Speaker Amason Kingi and Senator Beatrice Ogola and other delegates follow proceedings at the Parliamentary Meeting on the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia.



Panel discussion during the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia.

No tea stocks in warehouses, CS Linturi



Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi speaks on the floor of the House last week

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi has denied claims that 236 million kilogrammes worth of unsold tea stock are lying in

warehouses in Mombasa County.

The Cabinet Secretary told the House that the stock is slightly below 10 million kilogrammes.

“We have been able to push the sales of tea and ensure that the tea whose stock had accumulated in Mombasa County has been reduced substantially,” he said during Question Time.

“The reason why there was huge accumulation was because the quality of tea from a number of factories was not good. Tea being sold at the auction had a reserve price of a certain amount of dollars. Any tea that would not fetch such good price would be put back, removed from the auction and presented again. This is what caused a lot of backlog and huge stock of unsold tea.”

The Cabinet Secretary was responding to concern raised by Senator Wakili Hillary Sigei who had wanted the Government to deal with the unresolved tea stocks currently in Mombasa County,

which dates back to late 2023.

Senator Sigei said that 236 million kilogrammes of tea are lying in the warehouses in Mombasa, which he said over 50 per cent is from the Western Rift region.

“The reports we are getting from the Tea Board of Kenya and Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) is that this has led to a reduction in the price by around 40 per cent. In as much as we appreciate the efforts in the reforms that the Ministry is doing this aspect of unsold tea is something that most of our farmers are suffering a great deal from,” observed the Senator.

The Senator said with the ongoing rains tea production will go up.

“The more the rains the more the production. In as much as we cannot deal with this unsold stock, this will be a bigger problem and it will lie heavily on the farmers of the West Rift region.”

However, the Cabinet Secretary as-

sured the House that the issue has been addressed.

“The question is not properly backed with the correct figures on which factory has which stock and when it is dated,” said the CS Linturi, maintaining that the Ministry has substantially reduced the amount of tea that was lying in the warehouses at Mombasa.

“We are progressing this way because there are a number of reforms that we are bringing into the tea sector. We had sales at the tea auction, including direct sales from our own factories.”

The Cabinet Secretary said Kenya sold Sh196 billion of tea, a sum of Sh180 billion from export and Sh16 billion from local sales.

“Mechanisms have been put in place, including roadshows, to sensitise Kenyans on the need to be a source of market for our own tea since we have a very big market that we have not utilised.

Deputy Speaker drums support for Miraa Bill

Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi has urged stakeholders to look at Miraa holistically by considering all the opportunities it presents.

The Deputy Speaker said the commercial and cultural significance of the crop is uncontroverted pointing out that as a matter of both fact and law, Miraa is a scheduled crop under the Crops Act of 2013.

“Miraa as a crop is recognised under the Laws of Kenya in its entirety, and so, are its components,” said the Senator.

He spoke on Friday when he appeared before the Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Affairs during a stakeholders’ forum on the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic (Control) Amendment Bill, 2024.

The Senator is the sponsor of the Bill that is already before the House.

“The intent of my Bill is to only remove cathine and cathinone, as naturally found in Miraa, from the list of psychotropic substances,” he told the forum.

He told the committee that synthetically produced cathine and cathinone will still be under the ambits of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic (Control) Act.

The Senator questioned why the two substances found in Miraa should continue to be classified as psychotropic substances in our national laws while

Miraa in both local statutes and international instruments is legally recognized.

He made a plea to NACADA and other agencies opposed to the Bill to reconsider their position and support it for the benefit of the regions that grow the crop.

He also dismissed those claiming Miraa has negative effects on human life terming their arguments baseless.

“Miraa has no negative effects on human life, I chew it and the decisions I make are very rational,” he said, “I want to appeal to those opposed to the Bill to give us facts, let them submit research findings revealing cases where Miraa has negatively affected any human being.”

The Committee received submissions from various stakeholders among them the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, the Ministry of Health, Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC), Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Organization, Maendeleo ya Wanawake, Meru University and the Directorate of Pyrethrum and Industrial crops.

The Committee also received submissions from religious institutions among them SUPKEM, Kenya Association of Muslim Medical Professionals and Igembe Pastor’s Network.



Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi talks to Senator Tabitha Mutinda and Senator Samson Cherarkey

County Assemblies seek more funds



Senator Ali Roba, the chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, with other members of the committee from left, Senator Shakila Abdalla, Senator Mohamed Faki and Senator Tabitha Mutinda, who is also the vice chair.

A number of County Assemblies are asking the Senate to consider allocating them additional funds in recurrent expenditure in the next financial year.

Kiambu, Nyeri, Nandi and Machakos County Assemblies have a passionate appeal for more cash arguing that they have needs that have necessitated requests for additional allocation.

The County Assembly of Nyeri requested for an additional Sh156 million. According to their submission, the cash will cater for acquisition of motor vehicles to facilitate operations of the Assembly.

“The County Assembly has 8 vehicles, 4 of them were inherited from the

defunct local authority, the motor vehicles that are currently operational are not sufficient to cater for the day-to-day Assembly operations,” said the Assembly in their memorandum.

They also plan to equip the Speaker’s official residence, upgrade and equip the Staff Canteen, Automation of the County Assembly, acquisition of ICT and Hansard equipment and purchase of furniture.

Kiambu County Assembly requested for additional allocation of Sh241 million that among other things they will use to acquire computers and laptops, customise application systems, documentation and printing, salaries and wages for members of the County Assembly and

acquisition of 3 motor vehicles for the Assembly.

The Assembly will also recruit security guards, Hansard system and broadcasting Unit, chamber Overhaul, acquisition and installation of Electronic Documents and Records Management System and Upgrading of Intercom Telephone System, Local Area Network and increasing of the internet bandwidth.

Machakos County Assembly request is meant to cater for staff promotion, security for Ward offices, motor vehicles and pending bills. Other areas that require funding are public participation, fringe benefit tax, training and capacity building and legal costs.

There has been an issue of security of the offices in the Wards, and the Assembly requests for additional funding so as to engage security guards in the 40 wards. The annual amount required is approximately Sh8 million.

In Nandi County, the Assembly is seeking Sh93,922,000 to equip the new Hansard Chambers and Committee rooms, equip the speaker and Clerk’s office respectively, and other offices within the assembly including the members’ lounge.

Members of the committee noted submissions from the 4 County Assemblies promising to engage further before coming to a conclusion.

Devolution Committee to reconcile Governor Orengo and deputy in Siaya

The Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations has resolved to visit Siaya County to try to reconcile Governor James Orengo and his deputy, William Oduol.

The Committee made the resolution after a meeting with the two leaders in Parliament Buildings on Thursday last week.

The Deputy Governor had complained to the Committee following the refusal of the Governor to accept him back to office.

After the unsuccessful impeachment, said the Deputy Governor said his boss blocked him from county activities, refused to delegate duties to him and instructed executive members not to deal with him.

He also claimed Governor Orengo refused to invite him to cabinet meetings as was the practice before and continues

to withhold his allowances and benefits including fuel for his official vehicle.

The Committee, chaired by Senator Abbas Mohamed had invited the two leaders to attempt a mediation on the woes bedeviling them.

The Governor refuted the allegations stating that his deputy is facing difficulties due to his political affiliation.

“I am willing to work with the Deputy Governor. He is in a hostile territory that is why he has some difficulties to work in Siaya,” Governor Orengo said, adding that his deputy has made no attempt to resolve issues he has raised in his complaint.

The Governor told the committee that his Deputy is in possession of one official car which was allocated to him at the point of assumption of office together with an official driver.



Senator Abbas Sheikh, the chair, Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Fafanua kuhusu usalama barabarani, Seneta Karen Nyamu auliza



Seneta Crystal Asige



Seneta Karen Nyamu

Kamati ya Barabara, Uchukuzi na Makazi inatakiwa kutoa taarifa kuhusu hali ya usalama barabarani na uimarishaji wa miundomsingi ya barabara.

Seneta Karen Nyamu, katika ombi la taarifa kwa Kamati hiyo anataka kueleza kuhusu mipango ya Serikali, ikiwa ipo, kutoa mafunzo ya huduma ya kwanza na vifaa vya utoaji huduma ya kwanza

kwa watu wanaojitolea kuwasaidia majeruhi kwenye matukio ya ajali ili kupunguza majeraha yanayotokana na watoaji misaada kukosa maarifa hitajika.

Nyamu pia anataka kueleza hatua ambazo zimechukuliwa na Mamlaka ya Uchukuzi na Usalama barabarani NTSA kufanya vipimo vya ulevi barabarani ili kupunguza ajali zinazotokana na madereva walevi.

Katika ombi hilo la taarifa, Kamati hiyo inatakiwa kueleza mikakati ambayo imewekwa kuhakikisha waendeshaji wa pikipiki na baiskeli, na wanaotembea kwa miguu wanavalia mavazi yanayowafanya kutambuliwa haraka usiku. Aidha Kamati hiyo inawajibisha kueleza kibayana mikakati ambayo serikali imeweka kutoa uhamasisho kwa umma kuhusu haja ya kuvukia barabara maeneo yanayostahili.

Seneta huyo anataka vilevile aeleezwe kuhusu mikakati yoyote ya Idara ya Barabara kuimarisha miundomsingi barabarani kama kuweka alama za barabarani na taa za kutosha na zinazofanya kazi na kufahamishwa ni lini hayo yatafanywa.

Kwingineko, Seneta Crystal Asige amewasilisha ombi la taarifa kwa Spika Amason Kingi akitaka Kamati ya Bishara, Viwanda na Utalii kutoa maelezo kuhusu Mkataba wa Ushirikiano Kibiashara kati ya Kenya na Marekani wa Strategic Trade and Investment Partner-

ship (STIP).

Seneta Asige anaitaka kamati hiyo kueleza manufaa ya Ushirikiano huo na yaliyomo kwenye mapatano hayo ya Ushirikiano hasa kuhusiana na matozo mapya kwa Bidhaa za Kilimo, hasa uagizaji wa kuku kutoka Marekani na kwa njia gani hilo litawaathiri wafugaji wa kuku nchini Kenya.

Kamati husika pia itatakiwa kuchunguza na kutoa taarifa kuhusu fursa za Kibiashara na uekezaji ambazo zimetolewa na Wizara kwa wafugaji wa kuku kuwasaidia kukidhi hitaji la bidhaa hiyo nchini na ughaibuni.

Seneta huyo aidha anataka maelezo kuhusu ni vipi serikali za Kaunti zimehusishwa katika utekelezaji wa STIP kutokana na kuwa mwingi wa Ushirikiano huu unagusia Kilimo ambayo ni sekta iliyogatuliwa na kwa jinsi gani serikali itahakikisha kuwa mapatano ya STIP hayaathiri mapatano mengine ya Kibiashara katika ukanda huu ambayo Kenya tayari imetia sahihi.

Seneta Mutinda ataka ufafanuzi kuhusu ufadhili wa wanafunzi kutoka jamii zisizojiweza

Kamati ya Elimu imetakiwa kutoa taarifa kuhusu ufadhili kwa wanafunzi kutoka jamii zisizojiweza kiuchumi na wanaoishi katika mazingira yenye hatari.

Katika ombi la taarifa kwa kamati hiyo, Seneta Tabitha Mutinda anataka kufahamishwa kuhusu viwango mbalimbali vya ufadhili unaotolewa chini ya utaratibu wa utoaji ufadhili kwa wanafunzi wa vyuo vikuu na vinavyotumiwa kutoa ufadhili, mikopo na fedha za msaada wa masomo kwa wanafunzi kutoka familia zisizojiweza kiuchumi na wanaokumbwa na changamoto kadha wa kadha kuwasaidia kujiunga na Vyuo Vikuu, Vyuo vya Kadri na Vyuo vya Kiufundi.

Aidha katika ombi hilo la taarifa liliowasilishwa na kwa niaba yake na Seneta Hamida Kibwana, Seneta Mutinda anataka kujua vigezo vilivyotumiwa na Wizara ya Elimu katika kuwaweka wanafunzi kutoka familia zisizojiweza kiuchumi na wanaokumbwa na changamoto mbalimbali katika kategoria za ufadhili walizowekwa ndani.

Kamati hiyo ya Elimu pia imetwikwa jukumu la kutoa maelezo bayana kuhusu ufadhili ambao tayari umetolewa kwa wanafunzi katika kila kategoria, ikio-



Seneta Tabitha Mutinda

nesha kiasi hasa cha pesa zilizotolewa na jumla ya pesa wanazohitaji wanafunzi husika. Vilevile taarifa anayotaka Mutinda itajumuisha mikakati yoyote iliyowekwa ya kuhakikisha wanafunzi wamewekwa katika kategoria inayofaa na inayooana na mahitaji yao.

Katika ombi jingine la taarifa, Sene-

ta Faki Mohamed Mwinyihaji anaitaka Kamati iyo hiyo ya Elimu kueleza hali ya Shule ya Kitaifa ya Shimo la Tewa, iliyoko katika Kaunti yake. Seneta Faki ananung'ukia hali ya sasa ya shule hiyo ambako baadhi ya viongozi nchini wakiwemo aliyekuwa Spika Francis Ole Kaparo na aliyekuwa Mkuu wa Majes-

hi Joseph Kibwana walisomea, alisema viwango vya masomo vimeshuka mno katika shule hiyo miongoni mwa masuala mengine.

Faki anaitaka kamati hiyo inayongozwa na Seneta wa Murang'a Joe Nyutu kuchunguza sababu zinazochangia kudorora kwa viwango vya elimu shuleni humo ambapo alama ya wastani imeshuka kutoka 7.6 mwaka wa 2020 hadi 6.1 mwaka wa 2023, pakiwepo uwezekano wa alama hizo kudorora hata zaidi baada ya shule hiyo kusajili alama ya 5.0 katika Mthani wa Mwingi.

Kamati hiyo ya Elimu inahitajika pia kutoa taarifa kuhusu kiasi cha pesa zilizokusanywa kupitia uuzaji wa vyuma vikuukuu shuleni humo, na kufafanua nani alipatiwa idhini ya kuuza vyuma hivyo na iwapo mchakato mufaka ulifuatwa kulingana na sheria husika.

Ombi hilo la taarifa kwa Spika linamtaka Seneta Nyutu na Kamati yake kueleza msingi wa sera ya sasa ya shule hiyo kuwazuia wanafunzi kushiriki michezo.

Kadhaika Seneta huyo anataka kueleza kuhusu sera ya shule hii kuhusiana na ajira ya wafanyakazi wasiokuwa walimu, ikiwemo idadi ya wafanyakazi hao kwa kurejelea kila jamii.

Senator Mungatana concern over mental health awareness



Senator Danson Mungatana

Senator Danson Mungatana has raised concern over the low awareness on mental health matters in the country.

The Senator regretted that the Government has not offered sufficient awareness on the issues surrounding mental health.

He raised the concern through a per-

sonal statement on the floor of the House to commemorate the Mental Health Awareness Month which is observed worldwide in the month of May and was first recognised in 1949.

“We are only beginning to embrace, appreciate and accept mental health as an important aspect of our well-being,” he told the House in his statement.

“We are not as schooled in these mental health matters as we should be. Some reasons that make people not seek care for mental illness include stigma and lack of awareness.”

The Senator pointed out that signs of mental health conditions and even lack of resources have contributed to a situation where Kenyans do not seek mental health treatment.

Hospitals and health systems, he said, are grappling with a serious shortage of doctors in the Department of Mental Health.

“This defeats the role of the facilities to play an important role in the conversations around mental health care, includ-

ing creating partnerships that address mental health issues in non-traditional ways.

The mental awareness week ran from May 13 to 19, 2024 with the theme “Movement: Moving more for our mental health”.

“Simple but most neglected things such as going for a walk in your neighborhood, putting on your favourite music and dancing around the living room, chair exercises while watching television, count,” said Senator Mungatana.

He noted that movement is one of the most important things “we can do to help protect our mental health”.

He urged people to look after their physical fitness as part of the plan to prevent problems of mental health.

“Movement is a great way to enhance well-being,” he said and added, “Life gets busy and it can feel like we do not have time to spend on activities to improve our wellbeing.”

Most people sit for long periods during the day because of the kind of du-

ties they are involved in.

He however advised people to choose movement over sitting “because this is the best option that we can most practically do on a day-to-day basis”.

Research that was done in old people’s homes reveal the greatest regret that most did not embrace family enjoyment moments, fun and laughter as they ought to with their children.

“Movement, as we have fun and laughter within the family, increases our motivation and the psychological benefits that accompany them. I encourage us to create time to play games with our children and friends,” said Senator Mungatana.

Mental Health Awareness Month began in the United States of America as an initiative to educate the public about mental health, raise awareness surrounding research and treatments, reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and celebrate recovery from mental illness.

Senator Veronica Maina wants the House furnished with details of the recent landslides that occurred in Kigumo, Murang’a County.

The Senator says the environmental disasters experienced across the country are not just natural occurrences, but consequences of pollution, climate change and environmental degradation, which has disrupted the planet’s balance leading to extreme weather patterns.

The Senator said the recent landslides in Mairi and Marura in Kangari Ward and Gituamba in Kinyona Ward both in Kigumo resulted in displacement of a substantial number of residents, some of whom have sought temporary refuge at Mairi Primary School.

“The affected people have lost their livelihoods, homes and other properties due to the landslides and are facing a difficult future,” she told the House, while seeking a Statement on the issue from the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources.

In the Statement, the Senator wants the Committee to assess and report on the devastation caused by the floods arising from the intense rains currently experienced in the country and provide details of the number of people affected and estimates of the losses incurred.

Senator Karen Nyamu is seeking a



Senator Veronicah Maina

statement concerning the improvement of road infrastructure and enhancement of road safety.

The Senator wants the Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing to provide details of Government plans to equip first respondents at scenes of road accidents with first aid training to rescue victims and prevent further injuries caused by mishandling.

She wants the Committee to provide initiatives taken by the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to implement breathalysers and drug tests on major highways to reduce incidents of drunk driving, which result in accidents and loss of lives.

“The Committee should state measures taken to ensure motor cyclists, cyclists and pedestrians wear reflect-



Senator Karen Nyamu

tive clothing when travelling during night hours considering these times are deemed as peak accident hours,

Outline initiatives put in place by the Government to educate and raise public awareness on the importance of crossing streets only in designated spots.

Senator Crystal Asige wants the Committee on Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism to give details relating to the United States to Kenya Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (STIP).

The Senator wants an explanation on the direct benefits of the United States to Kenya STIP Agreement, the contents of the US to Kenya STIP with respect to tariffs on agricultural products and particularly poultry importation in Kenya from the USA and to the extent it will affect poultry farmers in Kenya.



Senator Crystal Asige

She wants the committee to explain the trade and investment opportunities that the ministry has provided to poultry farmers to enable them to meet the market demand in Kenya and abroad and how county governments have been involved in implementation of STIP. This is because most of these partnerships touch on devolved functions such as agriculture.

“The Committee should state how the Government will ensure that the STIP agreement does not undermine trade agreements signed under regional bodies for which Kenya is a member such as the African Continental Free Trade Area Customs Union (AfCFTA) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Agreement amongst others.”

House seeks update on sports facilities, recent internet interruption as Kewosa hail Major General Fatuma Ahmed appointment



Senator Hamida Kibwana,



Senator William Kisang



Senator George Mbugua

With the World Cup qualifier matches and Africa Cup of Nations competitions on the cards, a Senator has moved to the House to seek information on the level of the Country's preparedness.

Senator George Mbugua has tasked the Committee on Labor and Social Welfare to update the House on the status of sporting facilities in the country.

The Senator wants the Committee to table a report on the status of completion of both new and old sports stadia that have undergone renovation from 2019, a move he says is in line with the various programmes being carried out by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy, and Sports.

In the statement, the Senator wants the Committee

Senator Mbugua wants the statement to outline the counties that have benefited from the Talanta Hela Programme, detailing the amount spent per pro-

gramme in addition to explaining the criteria used by the Sports, Arts, and Social Development Fund to allocate money to the various sports federations and independence adverts.

"The Committee should state the social development programmes carried out by the Sports, Arts and Social Development Fund and the extent to which this fund has benefited persons with disability," said Senator Mbugua.

The Kenya Women Senators Association (Kewosa) has welcomed the appointment of Major General Fatuma Ahmed as the Kenya Air Force Service Commander.

She becomes the first ever woman Service commander since Kenya attained independence.

In a Statement in the Senate, Kewosa Chairperson Hamida Kibwana expressed joy at the move.

"This is a milestone achievement, marking a significant moment in the an-

nals of our military history and a standing beacon of inspiration for women across our nation," she told the House.

She added: "As the Chairperson of Kewosa I take immense pride in Major General Fatuma Ahmed's accomplishment."

The Association said her appointment was a reflection of the growing recognition of women's capabilities in traditionally male-dominated sectors, but also underscores the strides being made towards gender equality and women's empowerment in our country.

Kewosa has been a leader in advocating for women's empowerment and gender equality and championing the rights of marginalised groups.

Major General Ahmed's ascent to the position aligns perfectly with Kewosa's core values and serves as a testament to the talent, dedication, and capabilities of Kenyan women.

The recent internet disruption is now

the subject of debate in the House after a Senator sought answers on the matter that caused slowed connectivity in the country.

Senator William Kisang' wants the Committee on Information, Communication and Technology to offer a statement on the disruption.

The disruption was caused by submarine cable cuts and folds.

Senator Kisang' wants the Committee to elaborate on the extent of damages to the undersea cables, the damages affected by the internet connectivity in Kenya and the broader East African region.

The senator wants the committee to state the measures being taken to expedite the repair process and restore full internet access.

"The Committee should disclose measures taken by regulators and relevant authorities to address the potential national security implications arising from submarine cable cuts and folds disrupting internet connectivity in Kenya," he said, adding measures being implemented to safeguard critical digital infrastructure against such security concerns should be explained.

Senator Kisang' said the Committee should explain how the disruptions impact Kenya's competitiveness in the global digital economy and outline any strategies being considered to mitigate any potential long-term effect.

State of Shimo la Tewa School attracts the attention of lawmakers

Shimo la Tewa High School, Mombasa, has attracted the interest of two lawmakers in the House, Senator Mohamed Faki and Senator Miraj Abdullahi.

The two legislators separately raised concern about the academic performance of the School and are demanding answers on what became of an institution that was known for academic excellence.

Senator Faki says the School is the only national boys' school in Mombasa County that has nurtured many prominent national leaders, including the former National Assembly Speaker Francis ole Kaparo and retired General Joseph Kibwana, the former Chief of Defense Forces, among others.

However, the Senator regrets the School has in the recent past experienced a downward trend in performance among other issues.

"If not addressed, it may never produce the calibre of leaders it has pro-



Senator Miraj Abdullahi

duced before," said Senator Faki, who wants the Committee on Education to investigate the causes of the downward spiral of performance in the School.

According to the figures he presented, the School has descended from a mean score of 7.6 in 2020 to 6.1 in 2023, with the likelihood of a further downward trend going by the recent mock results of a mean score of 5.0.

He wants the Committee to confirm the amount of money realised from the disposal of all scrap metals from the school with an explanation on who authorised the disposal and whether due



Senator Mohamed Faki

process was followed.

He claimed that students have been barred from participating in co-curricular activities such as sports and demanded an explanation on policy.

"The Committee should explain the vandalism of sports facilities in the school, a report on the school policy on employment and deployment of the non-teaching staff, giving the ethnic composition of non-teaching staff."

In the case of Senator Miraj, she wants the Committee to outline the measures implemented by the Director of Schools Audit Services within the Min-

istry of Education to ensure compliance with Section 29(2)(a) of the Basic Education Act that states that no child shall be refused to attend school because of failure to pay such charges.

She wants an investigation carried out to determine the whereabouts of the Sh5 million fundraised by parents for the purchase of a school bus, as no such acquisition materialised.

The lawmaker wants investigations carried out on all other projects that the school has involved parents to initiate in the last five years, stating the amount the parents contributed and if they were issued receipts.

"The Committee should carry out any inquiry into the condition of dormitories at Shimo La Tewa High School, particularly to address reports of students sleeping on the floor, despite fundraising for the construction of a dormitory in which parents contribute Sh10,000 each."

House starts process to regulate boda boda industry

Senators are supporting plans to regulate the boda boda sector arguing that it is necessary because it will help in creating the rights and responsibilities of players in the industry.

Statistics from the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), which is charged with looking at the road safety, indicates that there are 1.5 million boda boda riders in Kenya, a number the lawmakers say cannot be ignored.

The members made the comments during debate on the Public Transport (Motorcycle Regulation) Bill, 2023. The Bill, sponsored by Majority Whip Boni Khalwale, seeks to pave the way for the regulation of the boda boda industry.

“This Act shall apply to all motorcycles used for commercial purposes, including transport services,” said Senator Khalwale when moving the Bill.

Despite operating without a law, the industry employs 1.5 million people and contributes Sh202 billion to the economy every year.

NTSA data further indicate that 10,000 boda boda riders were reported to have crashed in 2023 and Senator Khalwale says this is the justification for the House to provide the relevant legislation to make it safe and profitable and

ensure that the industry is not abused.

Clauses 4 and 5 in the Bill are seeking to establish the County Motorcycle Transport and Safety Board. If enacted, every county will have a transport and safety board that will ensure issues of concern to the industry are implemented at the county level.

Senator Khalwale is proposing that the County board should comprise of a chairperson, appointed by the County Governor, the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) responsible for matters relating to transport, the CECM responsible for matters relating to finance, the County Attorney, the county police commander or a representative designated in writing; four persons appointed by the CECM responsible for matters relating to transport; and, two persons appointed by the CECM responsible for matters relating to transport to represent groups with special interests in the motorcycle transportation industry.

The Board shall be responsible for the regulation, management and coordination of all matters relating to the motorcycle transport sector within the county.

The functions of the Board shall include developing policies, regulations,



Senator Boni Khalwale, the sponsor of the Public Transport (Motorcycle Regulation) Bill, 2023.

and guidelines on motorcycle transport and safety matters within the county, managing and controlling motorcycle transport services within the county; including registration and licensing of motorcycle riders, designate parking and routes.

It will ensure compliance with the

provisions of the Act and any other laws related to the transport sector within the county, conducting research and collecting data on transport and safety matters within the county, and develop and implement programmes to promote road safety, including training and education of riders and passengers.

This Week in History



“The nation must be told in no uncertain terms that when we voted for the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, we created a Bicameral Legislature. By virtue of Article 6, there is emphasis on consultation and cooperation that runs through the Constitution. What we are running in this nation is what is called “negotiated democracy.” It will never be possible in the present and future or at any other moment in this country for one institution, one individual and one entity to dictate to another entity of governance. It must be a situation of give and take. We must sit down as a people to negotiate and agree as to how best we can fund national and county functions

Senator Kipchumba Murkomen contributing to debate on the motion to approve a report of the Mediation Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill of 2015 on May 27, 2015.



“As our democracy grows, we will come to understand and appreciate why the drafters of this Constitution put mediation so that one House cannot lord over the other and neither can one House run away dejected because the other House feels it is superior. At the end of the day when we go to mediation, it is 50 to 50 and resolutions of which ever House is by a vote.”

Senator Moses Wetangula contributing to debate on the motion to approve a report of the Mediation Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill of 2015 on May 27, 2015.



“It would be a great mistake if a mediation exercise is mistaken to be a theatre of conflict between the National Assembly and the Senate. Members of the National Assembly and Senators are all servants of the people. We are in these Houses to represent the people who are in the counties. The winner or the loser of a mediation exercise will be the people themselves. It will not be the Senate and not the National Assembly. Our team did a great job in arriving at this Solomonian decision today to give and let others take so that instead of the Kshs7 billion that we had proposed for the counties, we accommodated other interests and allowed the amount to be reduced to Kshs3 billion.”

Senator Kiraitu Murungi contributing to debate on the motion to approve a report of the Mediation Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill of 2015 on May 27, 2015.



“It is time that we also reflected and asked ourselves what clear recommendations we, as a House, would wish to have as we move forward. It would be important for the Senate to be involved in the consultation stages of amending or drafting the Bill, so that we do not have such a scenario in the future.”

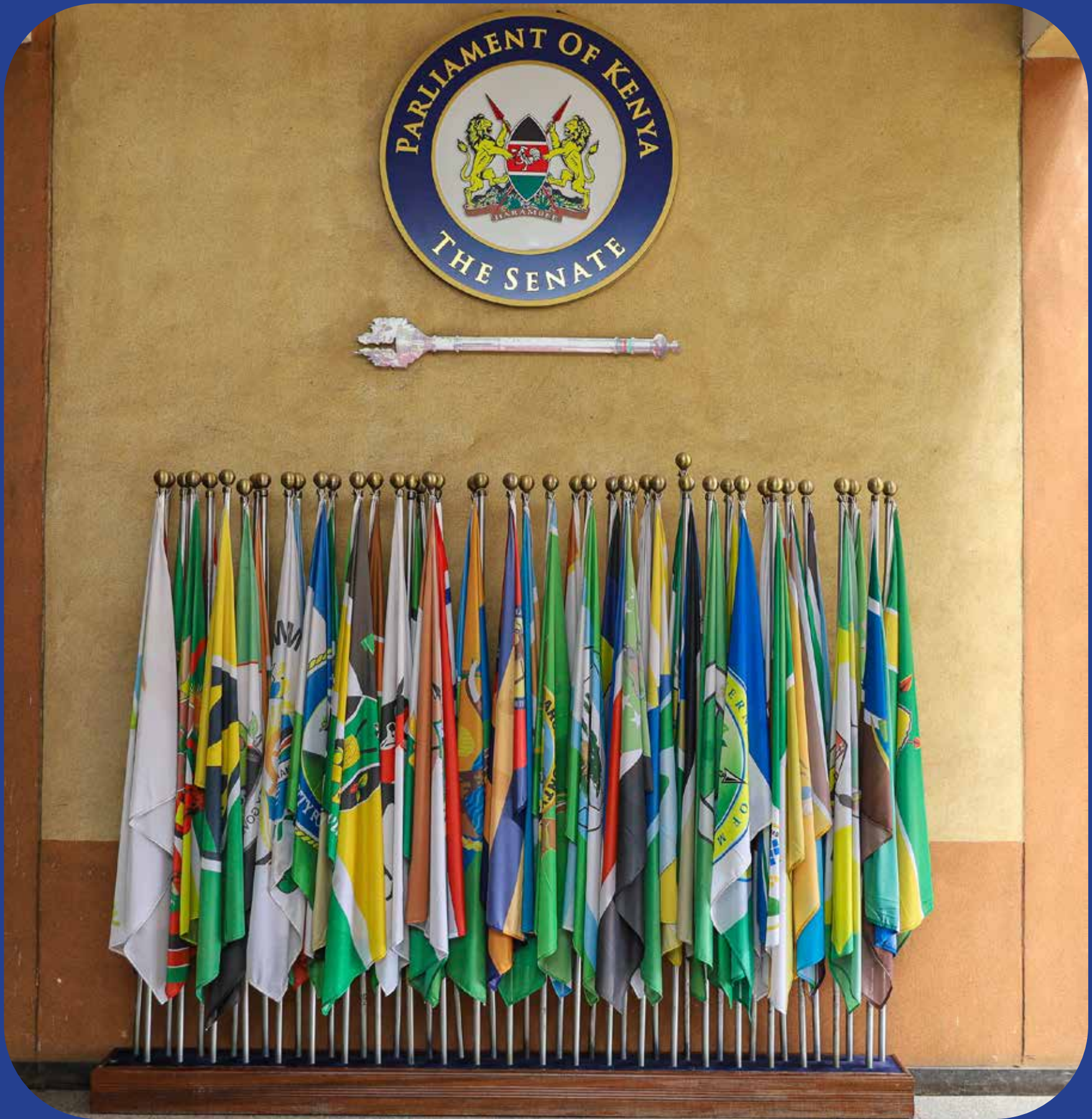
Senator Beatrice Elachi contributing to debate on the motion to approve a report of the Mediation Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill of 2015 on May 27, 2015.



1. Student leaders drawn from various Universities in Nairobi follow proceedings in the Senate during their academic tour of Parliament Buildings.
2. Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi is escorted out of the Chamber by Parliamentary orderlies after the Question Time last week. CS Linturi served as Meru Senator between 2017 and 2022.
3. Students and teachers from Kituro High School, Baringo County follow proceedings in the Senate Chamber during their tour of Parliament of Kenya.
4. Mr Ben Furaha, the Director in the Senate Speaker's Office chairs a meeting between Senate staff and officials of the Kenya Private Sector Association (KEPSA) Secretariat ahead of the upcoming annual KEPSA roundtable meeting with Senate Leadership.
5. Senator Okiya Omtatah and Senator Beth Syengo address demonstrating JSS teachers who are demanding Teachers Service Commission employs them on permanent and pensionable terms. The teachers presented petition containing their grievances to the two lawmakers.
6. Students and teachers of Moi Girls' High School, Eldoret, pose for a picture after their tour academic tour of Parliament Buildings. They were welcomed by Baringo North MP Joseph Makilap.
7. Roads Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen speaks to Senator Moses Kajwang, Senator Karungo Thang'wa and Senator Peris Tobiko at the sideline of the retreat between the Ministry and the Committee in Mombasa over the Road Maintenance Levy Fund.
8. Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi poses (centre) for a picture with the Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations and other stakeholders after the retreat on the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic (Control) Amendment Bill, 2024.



9. Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi presides over the meeting of the Liaison Committee at parliament Buildings. The Committee brings together chairpersons of all Committees of the House.
10. Senator Eddy Oketch ushers Senator Edwin Sifuna into the Office of the Minority Leader where Senators had organised a surprise birthday for the Nairobi Senator.
11. Senator Sifuna prepares to cut the cake commemorating his 42nd birthday. He is flanked by (from left) Senator Peris Tobiko, Senator Miraj Abdullahi, Senator Hamida Kibwana, Senator Betty Montett, Senator James Murango and Senator Joseph Githuku.
12. Senator Sifuna shares the cake with Senator Mundigi Munyi watched on by Senator Joseph Githuku.
13. Roads Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen with members of the Roads, Transport and Housing during the retreat over the Road Maintenance Levy Fund. The meeting was held in Mombasa
14. Senators present at the birthday party toast to Senator Sifuna birthday.
15. Senator Sifuna shares a light moment with Senate staff who attended his birthday party.



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