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Bill to empower PwDs introduced in House

The proposed law compels the State to implement mechanisms that will ensure that at least 5 per cent of all elected and appointive bodies are occupied by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).



Senator Crystal Asige

The Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has been introduced in the House through the First Reading.

The Bill compels the State to implement all the mechanisms that will ensure that at least 5 per cent of all elected and appointive bodies are occupied by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Sponsored by Senator Crystal Asige, the Bill was read for the first time on Wednesday and committed to the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights which will conduct public participation.

Being a proposal to amend the

Constitution, the Bill will only come back for the Second Reading after 90 days from the date of the First Reading.

Article 54 of the Constitution obligates the State to ensure the progressive implementation of the principle that at least five percent of the members of the public in elective and appointive bodies are persons with disabilities.

Senator Asige wants the provision related to “progressive implementation” of deleted and a new one inserted that mandates the State to implement strategies to empower PwDs.

Should the law be enacted, the 349-member National Assembly will have a total 18 Members representing

PwDs, while the Senate will have three members.

Currently, the 67-member Senate has two members representing PwDs.

They will be elected by parliamentary political parties according to their proportion of members in both Houses.

The Bill amends Articles 90(1) and 101(1) of the Constitution which provides for allocation of party list seats and vacancies in such seats, respectively, as a consequence of the amendment in Article 97 of the Constitution.

In the Bill, Senator Asige is proposing to amend Articles 97 and 98 of the Constitution so that the composition of both the National Assembly and the

Senate consist of representatives of persons with disabilities.

Both the Senate and National Assembly have representatives for PwDs. In the case of the Senate, they are two, being one man and one woman, picked by political parties as provided for under Article 98 (1) (d).

In the National Assembly, the situation is not clear cut. Article 97 (1) (d) establishes 12 special seats in which parliamentary political parties nominate members to represent special interests, including the youth, persons with disabilities and workers.

In her proposal, Senator wants Article 98 (1) (d) amended and instead substituted with a new proviso that will ensure three members are picked to represent interests of persons with disabilities.

If the Bill is enacted, the PwDs will no longer be nominated among the 12 special members as has been the tradition. She wants a stand-alone paragraph inserted in the constitution in which parliamentary political parties will nominate PwDs to National Assembly.

In which eighteen members nominated by parliamentary political parties according to their proportion of members of the National Assembly to represent persons with disabilities.

“This is intended to increase representation of persons with disability in the National Assembly and Senate so as to address their historical exclusion from decision-making processes,” says Senator Asige in the memorandum of objects to the Bill.

“This has resulted in laws and policies that do not reflect their unique challenges and needs. By ensuring the adequate representation of persons with disability in government, the Bill aims to ensure that their voices are heard, and the interests and needs are taken into account indecision-making.”

Senators approve amendments to House rules



Senator Danson Mungatana



Senator Fatuma Dullo



Senator Wakili Sigei

Members of the public who raise concerns over national issues through Petitions filed in the Senate, will henceforth have the right to be supplied with official responses to their concerns.

The House has mandated the Office of the Clerk to communicate within 14 days of the resolution of the House in writing so that the petitioner or the institution is informed of the decision.

In a move that aims at enhancing responsiveness to the public, the House has approved amendments to the Standing Orders so that the House Committees will have an obligation to file reports of findings on Petitions submitted to the House for consideration.

“I like this amendment,” said Senator Danson Mungatana during the debate on the motion to adopt the amendments on Tuesday last week.

The debate for the approval of the Second Report of the Procedure and Rules Committee on the review of the

Standing Orders was adopted and the new rules will come into effect on June 25, 2024, when the House returns from recess that started on May 30, 2024.

The practice has been that once petitions are filed in the Senate, they are usually committed to the relevant committees. The committee makes a report, tables it, and the matter ends there.

The new amendment provides that whenever a Petition is committed to a committee, the committee shall table its reports to the Senate for consideration within 60 days.

The House also approved amendments to the rules so that Senators will have 14 sitting days to approve reports of the Committees after tabling.

“This is aimed at ensuring that we do not leave out recommendations of various committees on reports to gather dust in the shelves,” said Senator Wakili Sigei, when moving the debate on the motion.

“Committee should file reports to the House on whatever it finds. That is

a beautiful and superior amendment on how to deal with petitions because when the reports come we shall have the opportunity to debate it,” observed Senator Mungatana.

Senator Godfrey Osotsi described the amendments as important because the House will have an opportunity to debate the report of the committee on Petitions and approve the resolutions.

“This is important because some petitions contain very weighty matters that should be made as a House collectively,” Senator Osotsi Observed.

Several requests to amend the rules were made by a number of Senators and the proposals were committed to the Procedure and Rules Committee, which is chaired by Speaker Amason Kingi.

The Members who submitted proposals for amendment include Senator Oketch Gicheru, Senator Miraj Abdullahi and Senator Fatuma Dullo.

Some of the amendments were moved on the Motion by the Liaison

Committee touching on the structure of Statements of Members, particularly on oversight committees, which sought to introduce the Committee on Implementation and the designation of a position of vice Chairperson.

The Committee rejected a proposal by Senator Miraj for the establishment of an implementation Committee. In its report the Committee noted that House Committees are best suited to understand the subject matter and thus follow up on implementation.

“The Committees interrogate the issues and comprehend the subject. They should ensure that their recommendations on those questions are followed up so that the relevant government agency, Cabinet Secretary or government institution implements them,” said Senator Sigei.

Speaker Kingi: Regional Parliaments key in DRC peace



Speaker Amason Kingi has said parliamentary diplomacy is critical in restoring peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“We must continue to deploy Parliamentary Diplomacy as one of the tools in our quest to restore normalcy in DRC,” the Speaker said.

He made the remarks last week during the 17th Meeting of the Bureau of East African Community (EAC) Speakers convened in Nairobi in pursuit of integration, cooperation, and shared prosperity.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula told the gathering that Kenya is proud in being part of the EAC; a union that stands as a beacon of regional integration.

Speaker Wetang'ula commended the success of the 13th Edition of the

Inter-Parliamentary Games held December 20223, in Rwanda, quoting noting that it has promoted a progressive, peaceful, and All-Inclusive EAC.

The regional Speakers called for a united and forward-looking East Africa while advocating for modalities of implementing borderless engagements within the region.

Other Speakers who attended were Hon Joseph Ntakirutimana (Speaker of EALA), Dr Emmanuel Sinzohagera, Speaker of the Parliament of Burundi, Hon. Mussa Harelimana, Deputy Speaker the Parliament of Rwanda, Hon Asuman Basalirwa, MP, representing the Rt. Hon. Anita Among, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda; and the Rt. Hon. Adan Nur (Madobe), MP, Speaker of the Federal Parliament of Somalia.



1. Speaker Amason Kingi (seated, second right) and his National Assembly counterpart Moses Wetangula (centre) pose for a picture after the 17th Meeting of the Bureau of East African Community (EAC) Speakers in Nairobi.
2. Speaker Kingi makes his remarks during the opening ceremony of the 17th meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers in Nairobi.
3. Speaker Kingi talks to the Deputy Speaker of Tanzania Parliament Mussa Azzan Zungu during the meeting of EAC Speakers' Bureau in Nairobi.

Speaker Kingi attends 61st Madaraka Day celebrations



Speaker Amason Kingi and other national leaders welcome President William Ruto to the podium at Masinde Muliro Stadium, Bungoma County, during the 2024 Madaraka Day celebrations.

Speaker Amason Kingi was among national leaders who attended the 61st Madaraka Day celebrations – the day Kenya attained internal self-rule in 1963.

The event, presided over by President William Ruto at Masinde Muliro Stadium in Bungoma County, was characterised by reflections on the country's journey and the sacrifices made by founding fathers for a united, peaceful and stable country.

The President used the occasion to outline his administration's policy interventions in a number of sectors, specifically agriculture, that add impetus to the implementation of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The head of state further restated the government's commitment to continue

lowering the cost of living, eradication of hunger, job creation and expansion of tax base.

Besides Speaker Kingi, other national leaders present were Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua; National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula; Members of Parliament and Cabinet Secretaries as well as members of Diplomatic Corps.

Under the leadership of Governor Kenneth Lusaka, Bungoma County has won accolades for successfully hosting this year's Madaraka Day and exploiting the opportunity to showcase development that has taken place in the region in fulfilment of the objectives of devolution.

First Lady Rachel Ruto leads Women`s convocation



First Lady Rachel Ruto has welcomed the Parliamentary Christian Women Caucus and urged the promoters of the idea to strengthen the initiative.

The First Lady appealed to Kenyans to incorporate a prayer in their daily activities noting that praying for God's grace among leaders even as they govern the country.

Second Lady Pastor Dorcas Rigathi reminded women of their key role in the success of the nation, encouraging them to come out and play their role effectively.

"The woman is at the centre of the agenda of God, without a woman many things would not have happened," explained Pastor Rigathi during the 2024 Women's convocation.

The First Daughter of the Republic of Uganda Pastor Patience Museveni Rwabogo who was the keynote speaker

er appealed to Kenyans to stay hopeful embracing repentance and prayer for God's intervention in challenging situations.

She noted that many of the challenges facing most African countries were inherited from the forefathers and therefore need redemption.

"The modern face of corruption is an old sin and as you know, demons don't die, they just rebrand, we therefore need to repent and denounce the old sin," said Pastor Patience.

She commended the organisers of the event encouraging them to maintain the noble idea.

Dagoretti North MP Beatrice Elachi, Marsabit County MP Naomi Waqo who are the Co-Chairpersons of the Caucus and their Vihiga County counterpart Beatrice Adagala assured the nation that women will continue playing their role ensuring the Country excels in all the



1. The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association choir entertain First Lady Rachel Ruto and Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's wife Dorcas during the meeting of the women convocation.
2. Senator Agnes Muthama and Senator Beth Syengo deep in prayers during the women convocation presided over by First Lady Rachel Ruto.
3. Senator Mariam Omar and Senator Hamida Kibwana during the Women convocation in Nairobi.

aspects.

They noted the great contribution made by women in Kenya appealing to all the women across the country to continue stepping in front in building the nation.

"Women of this nation play a very

important role, we are the pillars of this nation and we shall continue taking part in the transformation of this nation and by extension the whole world," declared Hon. Waqo.

COMMITTEES ROUND-UP

Senator Muthama questions irregular payment of land rates in Machakos County

Senator Agnes Muthama has expressed concern over irregular payment of land rates in Nairobi land registry for parcels of land located in Machakos County.

The Senator wants the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources to explain the circumstances under which the land rates for certain properties in Machakos County are currently being paid to the Nairobi Land Registry instead of the Registry in Machakos.

The lawmaker is also seeking the Committee's help to evaluate the legal and procedural reasons for the matter, including the implications of the financial administration of Machakos County.

Senator Muthama wants the Committee to investigate and identify the properties, particularly those along the Machakos-Nairobi border and report on how this has been happening and the financial impact on Machakos County's revenue.

Senator Muhammad Chute wants the

Senate to probe alleged delay of salaries in Marsabit County Government.

The lawmaker wants the Committee on Labor and Social Welfare to issue a statement on the matter that has caused the delay in salary payments to the employees and interns serving the County Government.

He wants the Committee to state reasons for the non-payment of salaries, the reasons for the long-standing delay in the disbursement of stipends to interns across all the departments within the county government and establish the period they have not been paid as well as the total amount owed to them.

Senator William Kisang' is seeking answers on the shortage of wheat seeds in the country. He wants the

Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to explain the shortage that is being experienced in most retail and wholesale stores across the country.

He wants the Committee to state any government interventions aimed at ad-

ressing the shortage immediately to ensure farmers can plant according to their schedules.

Senator David Wakoli is concerned about the alleged unfairness in recruitment and payment of casual workers by the administration of Bungoma County.

He wants the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare to investigate the claims and explain the status of casual workers employed by the County from 2013 and furnish the Senate with a comprehensive report on their departments, their wages and whether the payments made to them, as casual employees, are up to date.

"In the Statement, the Committee should provide a list of all insured farmers, including their locations, the respective insurance companies providing crop insurance under the scheme, signed contracts between farmers and the insurance companies, and the terms of the insurance cover including the benefits and the variety of crops covered," he said.



Senator Mohamed Chute and Senator Mwenda Gataya Mofire



Senator Agnes Muthama and Senator Dan Maanzo

Roads Committee meets with KeNHA boss

The Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing has resolved to invite National Land Commission (NLC) to shed light on the Compensation of all affected persons by the Roads Construction.

The Committee, which is chaired by Senator Karungo Thang'wa, made the resolution after meeting with Eng Kundu Ndung'u in which they discussed the construction of six interchanges on the Nairobi Western Bypass.

Eng Ndungu had appraised the Committee on the progress made in securing budgetary allocation for the compensation of the affected persons in the Mombasa Gate Bridge (MGB) Project.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 2019 entered into an agreement to loan the Government of Kenya to cover 100 per cent of the eligible cost in the construction of MGB.

The cost was inclusive of both construction costs, consulting services and price escalation and physical contingencies for works and consulting services.

The Concern was raised by Senator Samson Cherarkey.

The Senator wanted to know why KeNHA had disbursed Sh21.5 billion to the contractor despite failure to complete the interchanges as initially intended.

The project consists of the Nairobi

Western Bypass Road which is one of the major trunk road links in the Nairobi Road Network Master Plan. It starts from Gitaru Interchange and follows the Gitaru Road towards the northeast and finally turns to the southeast near Ndenderu Town (Limuru Road) before ending at Ruaka Town.

Eng Ndungu said the original project scope entailed construction of six interchanges at Lower Kabete, Wangige, Kihara, Ndenderu, Rumenye and Ruaka and the number of interchanges was later appraised to 4 (Lower Kabete, Wangige, Kihara and Rumenye) with at-grade intersection provided at Ndenderu while Ruaka Interchange was rescoped.



Senator Karungo Thang'wa, Chair, Roads Committee.

Narok County to standardise lease agreements with operators of tourist facilities

Narok Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu has assured the Senate that his administration will standardise all the lease agreements it had entered into with the tourist facilities operating in the Greater Mara Triangle.

The Governor made the promise after members of the Committee on Trade expressed interest in the type of lease agreements the county government had entered into with the tourist facilities in the area.

Governor Ntutu informed the Senator Lenku Seki-led Committee that his gov-

ernment resolved to issue standardised lease agreements since only 7 out of the 49 tourist facilities had proper legal documents with the Narok County Government.

He revealed that the county and the operators had already agreed to the terms of the standardised leases, which spells out that the proprietors would source 70 per cent of their employees from the local community.

"The draft Lease Agreement sets out the obligations that the proprietors of the tourist facilities have towards the

County Government and the local community. The proprietors will provide business opportunities to the local arts and craftsmen and pay royalties which the county government will utilize for development projects," stated Governor Ntutu.

Senators urged the Governor to ensure that the standardized lease agreements have the backing of the law by ensuring the Narok County Assembly pass the requisite by law to protect the county from future litigation.

They advised Governor Ntutu to put measures in place to ensure that all the monies collected from the tourist facilities are accounted for to ensure Narok residents get value for their money.

The Governor had appeared before the Committee to respond to a request for a Statement by Narok Senator Ledama Ole Kina regarding the status of tourism and lease agreements entered into by proprietors in the greater Mara Triangle and the County Government of Narok.



Narok Governor Patrick ole Ntutu when he appeared before the Committee on Trade which was chaired by Senator Lenku Seki ole Kanar (right). Senator Steven Lelegwe looks on.

Seneta Omar ataka majibu kuhusu simba wanaowatishia Wakenya kwenye kaunti ya Kajiado

Seneta Mariam Omar ameitaka Kamati ya Ardhi, Mazingira na Maliasili kwenye kuchunguza na kutoa taarifa kuhusu simba ambao wameripotiwa kuzurura kwenye makazi ya binadamu katika sehemu ya Ongata Rongai kwenye Kaunti ya Kajiado.

Akiwasilisha ombi la kauli hiyo, Seneta Omar aliitaka Kamati hiyo kuweka wazi idadi ya simba ambao walitoroka kutoka kwenye mbuga ya Wanyama ya Nairobi katika sehemu ya Ongata Rongai, Kaunti ya Kajiado ikifafanua kuhusu hali ya wanyama hao hatari kwa usalama.

Anaitaka Kamati kueleza hatua ambazo Huduma ya Wanyama Pori (KWS), mamlaka ya nyanjani na viongozi wa jamii wamechukua kuwezesha kunaswa salama kwa wanyama hao na kurudishwa mbugani.



Seneta Mariam Omar

Seneta huyo ameitaka Kamati hiyo kubaini hatua ambazo serikali imechukua kuimarisha doria katika sehemu ya Ongata Rongai na viunga vyake ikizingatiwa hatari inayoashiriwa na simba ili kuepusha mzozo kati ya wanyama na binadamu.

Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta John Methu imetakiwa aidha kukariri mipango iliyowekwa na Huduma ya Wanyama Pori kuimarisha ulinzi kwenye mbuga za Kitaifa na kuweka mifumo ya kufuatilia na kuhakikisha Wanyama wanasalia mbugani.

Huku hayo yakijiri Seneta William Kisang' ameeleza wasi wasi kuhusu kucheleweshwa kwa malipo ya maziwa kwa wafugaji wa ng'ombe wa maziwa kunakoshuhudiwa.

Seneta Kisang' tayari amewasilisha ombi kwenye Kamati ya Kilimo, Ufugaji na Uvuvi akitaka kampuni ya maziwa ya New KCC kutoka majibu muafaka.

Kiongozi huyo anataka ufafanuzi wa sababu za kucheleweshwa kwa malipo kwa wafugaji wa ng'ombe wa maziwa ambao wamekuwa wakiwasilisha maziwa kwenye kampuni ya New KCC tan-

gu mwezi Februari 2024.

Aidha Seneta huyo anataka ripoti ya kina ya malipo ambayo bado hayajafanywa kwa wakulima kufuatia agizo la Rais kwamba kampuni ya New KCC iwalipe wakulima kila mwezi badala ya baada ya miezi miwili kama ilivyokuwa mbeleni.

Kamati ya Kilimo chini ya Uenyekiti wa Seneta James Murango itahitajika kwenye ripoti yake kukariri iwapo malipo yatafanywa kwa wakulima ikibaini mikakati ambayo idara ya vyama vya ushirika imechukua kutekeleza amri ya Rais inayohitaji wafugaji wa ng'ombe wa maziwa kulipwa baada ya siku kumi na tano baada ya kuwasilisha maziwa kwenye kampuni ya New KCC kuanzia Juni 2024.

Seneta Wafula Wakoli atilia shaka shughuli ya uajiri kwenye Kaunti ya Bungoma



Seneta Wafula Wakoli

Seneta Wafula Wakoli anataka taarifa kutoka kwa Kamati ya Kudumu ya Leba na Masuala ya Jamii kuhusu madai ya ukosefu wa haki katika uajiri na kulipwa kwa wafanyakazi vibarua na serikali ya Kaunti ya Bungoma.

Seneta Wakoli anadai kuwepo na tuhuma za ubaguzi na kutozingatia haki masuala yanayomfanya kushinikiza kuwepo kwa majibu muafaka.

Kwenye ombi lake, Seneta huyo anaitaka Kamati ya Leba na Masuala ya Jamii kueleza hali ya wafanyakazi viba-

rua walioajiriwa na serikali ya Kaunti ya Bungoma kuanzia mwaka 2013 hadi sasa akiitaka Kamati hiyo kuwasilisha kwenye Seneti ripoti pana kuhusu idara ambazo vibarua hao wamekuwa wakihudumu ikibainisha kiwango cha mshahara ambao wamekuwa wakilipwa kando a kubaini iwapo kuna malimbikizi yoyote.

Kamati hiyo imetakiwa kufafanua mikakati, masharti na mahitaji ambayo yametumiwa hivi maajuzi katika uajiri na kuwajumuisha baadhi ya vibarua

kwenye mpango wa ajira ya kudumu ikikariri kigezo kilichotumika kuwadumisha kazini baadhi ya wafanyakazi vibarua huku wengine wakitimuliwa licha ya kuhudumu kwa muda mrefu.

Seneta huyo aidha ameitaka Kamati ya Leba kuweka wazi iwapo mikakati hitajika ilifuatwa katika kuwaingiza kwenye mpango wa kudumu baadhi ya vibarua ikitoa ushahidi wa ni lini mahojiano yalifanywa kando na kuweka wazi majina ya wafanyakazi walioteuliwa kwenye nyadhifa mbali mbali.

Kadhalika Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Julius Murgor itahitajika kuwasilisha ushahidi wa malipo yaliyotolewa na serikali ya Kaunti ya Bungoma kuanzia mwaka wa kifedha wa 2022/2023 hadi sasa ikibainisha mikakati yoyote iliyowekwa kuhakikisha vibarua wote wamelipwa malipo yao kwa wakati unaofaa yakijumuisha malimbikizi ya mishahara yao.

Kwingineko Seneta Wakoli ametaka ufafanuzi kuhusu kutolewa kwa zabuni ya bima ya matibabu kwa wafanyakazi wa Kaunti ya Bungoma kwa Kampuni moja akitilia shaka utaratibu uliotumika.

Kiongozi huyo anataka Seneti iilezwe namna kampuni hiyo ya bima ilipewa zabuni kwenye mwaka wa kifedha wa 2022/2023 na 2023/2024.

Kamati ya Seneti ya Afya imetakiwa na Seneta Wakoli kuwasilisha taarifa

kuhusu utaratibu uliotumika kuipatia kampuni ya bima ya Britam zabuni ya kutoa bima ya matibabu kwa wafanyakazi wa serikali ya Kaunti ya Bungoma ikifichua endapo wafanyakazi hao walishirikishwa kwenye vikao vya kushirikisha umma kutoa maoni kama inavyohitaji katiba kabla ya kufikia uamuzi.

Vile vile Seneta huyo anataka Seneti ifahamishwe endapo zoezi hilo lilifanywa kwa ushindani ripoti ikibaini orodha ya wasambazaji huduma ya bima wengine ambao walionesha nia na sababu za maombi yao kufeli.

Kadhalika Kiongozi huyo anataka Bunge la Seneti lifahamishwe na kupeleleza stakabadhi za bima ya matibabu na makubaliano kati ya kampuni ya Britam na serikali ya Kaunti ya Bungoma ikiweka wazi kiwango cha pesa, idadi ya wafanyakazi na wote watakaonufaika kwa bima na manufaa halisi ikikariri endapo kampuni ya Britam imeyaheshimu makubaliano au la.

Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Jackson Mandago itahitajika kuweka wazi idadi ya wafanyakazi walionufaika na wale wanaonufaika na mpango wa bima ya matibabu wa mwaka 2022/2023 na 2023/2024 ikifichua kiwango cha pesa kilicholipwa kwa kampuni ya Britam kila mwaka kwa huduma ya bima.

Senator Orwoba hails State on menstrual hygiene access

Senator Gloria Orwoba has hailed the Government for the strides made in ensuring that every girl in Kenya has access to menstrual hygiene products.

The lawmaker acknowledged that many girls face significant barriers in managing their menstrual health citing lack of access to affordable sanitary products, inadequate sanitation facilities in schools and pervasive cultural taboos.

This, she said, has led to high rates of absenteeism in schools, school dropouts and compromised dignity.

The State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action received Sh876 million in the supplementary estimates towards the supply of sanitary towels to school girls in all public primary and junior secondary schools in 2023/24 financial year.

The budget has gone up from Sh265 million after the Government put in the intervention to ensure that period poverty is eliminated.



Senator Gloria Orwoba

“I congratulate the Kenya Kwanza Government for this initiative and being on the forefront heading the menstrual

hygiene campaign to end period poverty and shaming on this day,” said the Senator when she made a personal statement to commemorate the World Menstrual Hygiene Day.

The day was celebrated on Tuesday last week under the theme: ‘Together for a Period-Friendly World.’

The day is celebrated as a global platform of raising awareness about the challenges that women and girls face regarding menstrual hygiene and advocating for the necessary changes to ensure their dignity, health and well-being are well catered for.

Nearly one in 10 African girls miss school during menstruation, with some dropping out entirely due to the challenges they face.

“On this Menstrual Hygiene Day 2024, we celebrate the strides made by the Kenyan Government in ensuring that every girl in Kenya has access to menstrual hygiene products,” she told

the House.

So far, 27 counties have been supplied with sanitary towels, while the remaining 20 are either awaiting the scheduled delivery dates.

The suppliers have been advised that the delivery points will be at the sub-county level. Each supplier upon pre-inspection exercise and clearance is expected to share the distribution schedule for seamless delivery to the counties to the counties, up to the sub-county level

“The sanitary towels are being distributed as we speak by our county Women Reps,” she added even as she applaud the efforts of the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture, the Arts and Heritage Aisha Jumwa.

“She has seen this exercise to fruition. I applaud every champion that is out there, including our male Senators who have been out there ensuring that we end the stigma.”

Education Committee in Machakos County for oversight visit

The Committee on Education has toured various schools in Machakos County as part of its oversight mandate.

The committee, which is chaired by Senator Joe Nyutu, visited Muusini Early Childhood Development (ECDE) Centre, Mwala Sub-County, Kyamutwii Polytechnic, Mwala Vocational Training Center (VTC) and Liani Special School during a long day tour.

The Committee commenced with a courtesy call to the Governor’s office. Both Governor and Deputy were out of office and the delegation was received by the Speaker of County Assembly.

During the site visits the Committee was accompanied by CECM in charge of Education and the County Assembly Education Committee accompanied the Senators during the tour.

The Senate Committee was led by Senator Peris Tobiko (Vice Chair), Senator Margaret Kamar, the Area Senator Agnes Kavindu and Senator Johnnes Mwaruma.

Senator Nyutu was present but left midway through the tour.



1. Members of the Education Committee, led by Senator Peris Tobiko (centre), with MCAs at the Machakos County Assembly.

2. Senator Agnes Muthama and Senator Margaret Kamar during the meeting with stakeholders at Mwala Vocational Training Center (VTC).

3. Senator Agnes Muthama and Senator Johnnes Mwaruma

Three toasts for Dr Okello, the DLS

For Africa, for Kenya and for Parliament of Kenya



1. Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi and Director Hansard and Audio Services Gladys Ndeda join Dr Johnson Okello for the toast to celebrate his election as the President of the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsels (CALC).
2. Senior Senate Staff led by Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi assist Dr Okello in cutting the cake during the cocktail party.
3. Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye toasts with other Parliamentary staff during the party in honour of Dr Johnson Okello.
4. Dr Johnson Okello gives his speech during the party.

The Senate Board of Management (SBoM) has honoured Dr Johnson Okello with a lavish party after he was elected to lead the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsels (CALC).

Dr Okello, the Director of Legal Services in the Senate, was elected the President of CALC at an election held in Jamaica, last April, becoming the first ever

African to rise to the top of the body in its 40-year history.

Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye hailed Dr Okello as an astute officer who aimed at the stars and broke the glass ceiling, called on the parliamentary staff to emulate him.

“Dr Okello had a snowball’s chance in hell of getting someone from Ken-

ya and Africa to win the Presidency of CALC but he did it. Congratulations, and thank you for bringing pride and honour to our Parliament,” said Clerk Nyegenye, who is also the Secretary of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC).

“Believe in your abilities and offer yourself to serve,” Clerk Nyegenye ad-

vised staff, adding that Dr Okello’s election had given Africa, the Parliament of Kenya, and more specifically the Senate, prominence globally.

Dr Okello thanked the SBoM for organising the event, promising to facilitate the drafting of good laws during his tenure to enhance good governance and rule of law in the Commonwealth

Health Committee wants investigation on theft of KTRH equipment expedited



Governor Simba Arati before the Health Committee



Senator Jackson Mandago, Chair, Committee of Health



Senator Esther Okenyuri, Senator Hamida Kibwana and Senator Joe Nyutu

Governor Simba Arati has told a committee of the Senate that investigations are under way to determine how medical equipment supplied by the Global Fund to the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH) disappeared, despite the Hospital having round the clock security, backed up by CCTV.

The Governor told the Committee on Health, chaired by Senator Jackson Mandago, that the theft was reported at the Kisii Central Police Station last April and investigations are ongoing.

“Once the investigations are complete then the findings will be conveyed to the Senate,” said Governor Arati.

The County Chief had appeared before the Committee to respond to issues touching on circumstances leading to

the theft.

But Senators were not satisfied with the response as they could not comprehend as to the reason the CCTV footage could not have been initially retrieved by the Hospital Management to indeed confirm the theft.

“For purposes of integrity for the Hospital ensure the guards at the gate take note and have a robust record system on what is received at the Hospital and what leaves” said Senator Hamida Kibwana.

The lawmakers were also interested in knowing the reason KTRH has pending bill amounting to Sh60 million for Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA).

Senator Richard Onyonka said the Bill is the reason there is lack of medicines in the Hospital.

“We are dealing with a crisis that ex-

ists in KTRH and there are no medicines in the Hospital right now,” stated Senator Onyonka.

The Governor said the County has started processing payments to offset the debt. “In fact Sh23 million in favour of Kemsas was issued this week,” explained Governor Arati.

Senator Joe Nyutu wanted to know whether KTRH purchases all medication from KEMSA.

“Our first point of purchase is from KEMSA and in the event the medicine required are unavailable, our second point of purchase is from other pharmaceuticals,” he explained.

Governor Arati revealed that upon taking office, his administration has increased revenue at KTRH from Sh47 million to Sh200 million.

Kisii County procured the services of M/S Trident Insurance Company to provide medical insurance cover to all employees. The total contract sum was Sh202 million and the insurance scope includes inpatient, outpatient, dental, optical and maternity covers.

However, Senator Onyonka told the Committee that he had received complaints from County staff claiming that their medical scheme is not functional.

Senator Mandago directed the Senator to provide evidence for further consideration and investigation.

Other Members present at the meeting were Senator Omar Marriam Sheikh (vice chair), Senator Esther Okenyuri, Senator Hamida Kibwana, Senator Raphael Chimera, Senator Ledama ole Kina.

This Week in History



“I remember in one of the sessions, we had passed a similar Motion besides this that was passed in November, 2004 in the National Assembly then. Honestly, this is a reality and it is not something we can shy away from bringing it out because school heads keep on withholding certificates of very poor children, either orphaned or generally from poor backgrounds. I attribute this to the fact that the Ministry of Education has failed to give proper policy guidelines. As much as the National Examinations Council Act explicitly puts it that no school principal can withhold a school certificate, heads of schools have time and again kept on withholding these certificates. Worse of, of late, the fact that in the Ministry of Education, the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has started managing the teacher management portfolio.”

Senator Abdirahman Hassan Ali contributing to the debate on the motion on release of KCSE certificates withheld by Schools on account of fee balance on June 5, 2014.



“What surprises me is that the law is very clear and I am sure all of you in this House must have seen the law. The KNEC legal regime is the Act establishing it where the functions of the Council are, among other things, to award certificates and diplomas to candidates in such examinations, such certificates or diplomas shall not be withheld from the candidate by any person or institution. How then does a head of an institution go ahead to withhold a certificate when the body that examines has the law establishing it stating very clearly that the end result of sitting an examination is to get a certificate and whatever the condition, those certificates must be given to the students?”

– Sen. (Prof.) Anyang' Nyong'o contributing to the debate on the motion on release of KCSE certificates withheld by Schools on account of fee balance on June 5, 2014.



“We need to take this matter very seriously. It is not always good when you hear somebody wanting to talk about the eradication of poverty and he is taken for granted. Can you imagine how many people are poor in this country, living below the poverty line and yet, you expect them to compete with Senator Musila and Senator. G.G. Kariuki for that matter? Can we say that we believe in God? Why do we deceive ourselves? I think time has come when this Senate needs to take the bull by the horns; let us know exactly what we can do and what we cannot do. If the officers who are withholding these certificates cannot even say why they are doing so, it is just a matter of issuing a circular from the Ministry of Education to release all these certificates. Even if they keep them for how many years, those guys will never be able to pay. Let us decide where we are, because this is a very serious matter.”

- Senator G.G. Kariuki contributing to the debate on the motion on release of KCSE certificates withheld by Schools on account of fee balance on June 5, 2014.



“The Government is paying a lot of money for education of the children and the money is public money; it is from our taxes. So, when these children get their education and then their certificates are held in some drawer somewhere maybe because the parent has failed to pay because he or she does not have the money to pay, or because the child is an orphan or for whatever reasons, this means that taxpayers money has not been put to good use because this child cannot access further training, employment or even go beyond that class.”

Senator Beth Mugo contributing to the debate on the motion on release of KCSE certificates withheld by Schools on account of fee balance on June 5, 2014.



1. Senator William Cheptumo is joined by Senator Mohamed Chute and Senator Munyi Mundigi for a photo opportunity with teachers and students of Sacho High School during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
2. Senator William Cheptumo, Senator Mohamed Chute and Senator Munyi Mundigi with teachers and students from Baringo High School during their academic tour of Parliament Buildings.
3. Leader of Majority Aaron Cheruiyot with teachers and students of Kericho Day School during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
4. Senate staff share a cake with Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye during a surprise party to celebrate The Clerk's birthday.
5. Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye cuts the birthday cake to celebrate his birthday.
6. Senator Alexander Mundigi addresses teachers and students of All Saints Karambari Secondary School, Embu County, during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
7. Senator Hamida Kibwana (centre) and Hon Beatrice Adagala and Hon Dorothy Ikiara follow proceedings during the women Convocation meeting presided by First Lady Rachel Ruto.



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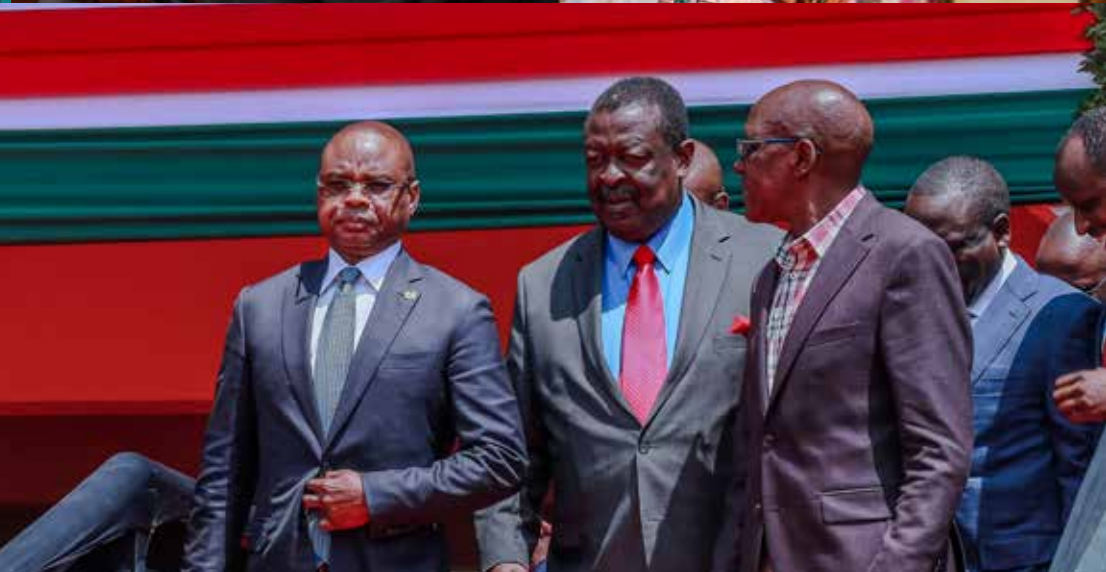
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8. *The Parliamentary Choir entertain guests during the National Prayer Breakfast in Nairobi.*
9. *President William Ruto, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Speakers Amason Kingi and Moses Wetangula and Prime Cabinet Secretaries Musalia Mudavadi give a standing ovation to the Parliamentary choir after their performance at the National Prayer Breakfast.*
10. *Major (rtd) Sorobit welcomes President William Ruto to the National Prayer Breakfast.*
11. *Senator Miriam Omar and First Lady Rachel Ruto at the Women Convocation'*
12. *Senator Catherine Mumma toasts with guests during the cocktail dinner organised for the EAC Speakers Bureau in Nairobi. Senator Mumma, a member of the Speaker's Panel, represented Speaker Amason Kingi.*
13. *Speaker Amason Kingi and Majority Whip Boni Khalwale in the company of Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi walk out of Masinde Muliro Stadium after the Madaraka Day fete.*
14. *Speaker Amason Kingi and Speaker Moses Wetangula at the National Prayer Breakfast.*



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