



The SENATE

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

Issue No. 0024

Weekly

Senators want Kenya Power monopoly upended due to high cost of electricity

There is no more thinking in Kenya Power because whether they are efficient or not, they will still sell electricity; they determine the tariffs, they will increase the rates as and when they wish. They will make us pay for loans for projects that have not succeeded,” Senator Jackson Mandago



Senators Jackson Mandago, Tabitha Mutinda, Richard Onyonka, Wahome Wamatinga and Gloria Orwoba.

Senators have expressed their dissatisfaction with the management of Kenya Power and called for its reorganisation to make it efficient and competitive.

In particular, the lawmakers say the only way to boost efficiency in the national power distribution space is by ending the monopoly enjoyed by the utility company which has made it inefficient.

In a debate this week, Senators argued that in its current set up, Kenya Power management cannot innovate arguing the monopoly has led to the deeply entrenched inefficiency.

“There is no more thinking in Kenya Power because whether they are efficient or not, they will still sell electricity, they determine the tariffs. They will increase the rates as and when they wish. They will make us pay for loans for projects that have not succeeded,” said Senator Jackson Mandago, as he called for the opening up of the sector for competition.

The lawmakers poured out their frus-

trations on the matter during debate on the Report of the Committee on Energy on its inquiry into the high cost of electricity in the country.

The House adopted the report.

While undertaking the inquiry, the Committee looked at the distribution, generation and consumption of electricity in Kenya.

The report was tabled in the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2023.

“We cannot have a nation that is not certain of its power simply because we have an institution that is a monopoly and has used this opportunity to be inefficient. Experience in this country has shown that there will be innovation if you open up to competition,” added Senator Mandago.

Data at the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KeBS) and Economic Survey of 2023, indicate that about 87.5 per cent of all electricity generated in Kenya country is from a renewable source.

The Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) generates about 70 per cent of the energy consumed in Kenya, whereas the private power producers produce about 30 per cent.

However, the 30 per cent takes about 70 per cent of the cost that Kenyans pay for power production, the reason being that most of independent power producers were conceived at a time when the country needed to breach the gap between demand and supply.

Engaging Independent Power Producers (IPPs) was done to the disadvantage of the consumers. The Committee established that they were engaged through an arrangement that is famously known as the take or pay, which leaves Kenyans in a disadvantaged because even in the absence of generation or consumption, Kenyans still end up paying.

The Committee observed that the country lacks redundant power lines, a lapse that has contributed to the chal-

lenges related to ever present blackouts.

The Report proposes that the Government should invest in multiple distribution lines so that power can be dispatched. Overreliance on one substation in Suswa has become a major impediment and the Committee is proposing that the distribution of power should be relooked into.

The Committee further recommends that Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO) and Kenya Power must be disengaged so that one will have the responsibility of supplying power while the other one will have the responsibility of having administrative control.

On the question of the existing licences entered with the independent power producers’ the committee established that some of the agreements cannot be changed, hence disadvantaging the consumers.

It proposes that the agreements

should be renegotiated so that they can reduce the cost of power.

The report questions the management, accountability, transparency and governance of most of the state departments that are responsible for the distribution and generation of power, pointing out that they are wanting.

The report says there is need to start looking at how the procurement of these institutions is undertaken because it is imperative to put systems in place to increase transparency and accountability.

“This is one of the major impediments to the cost of power. We lose a lot of money through transmission losses and forex adjustments. Most of these are things that can be associated with accountability and governance issues,” said Senator Wahome Wamatinga, the chair of the Committee on Energy, while moving the motion on the report.

Senator Mandago argued the only way to ensure that every Kenyan has access to power is by ending the Kenya Power monopoly.

“In the northern part of Kenya where we have no dams, we shall have people willing to invest in solar energy and supply electricity to citizens. Those in Moyale and Marsabit, where we have a lot of wind, will get energy through wind power,” he submitted.

Senator Richard Onyonka said there is a cartel capture between KenGen, Kenya Power and Geothermal Development Company (GDC) and called for thorough investigation on the affairs of the Kenya Power.

“I plead with this House to disband Kenya Power and allow private companies to supply power. Let us test set the operational structures of these companies so that we can reduce the cost of

power,” argued the Senator.

While arguing that all Kenyans are tied to Kenya Power, whether in the office or at home, Senator Gloria Orwoba said it was time to discuss how to bring healthy competition in the industry.

“We can audit the IPPs and the operations, but the question remains, do we want to be held hostage? Do we want to stay in this situation where if KP wakes up today and they decide they want to play some shoddy business, we will all be stuck to it? No,” she argued.

The Senator urged the House to go further and develop mechanisms to open up the sector for competition market.

“Competition is what we need when it comes to power producers and distributors. As much as we are contributing to this Report, it would be imperative that one of us actually comes up with a Bill. We need to perhaps legislate and ensure

that we have competition in that space.”

Senator Tabitha Mutinda also raised concern over KP’s continued monopoly. “Any moment there is a monopoly, there is more disadvantage to the beneficiaries or the end user of the commodity,” she told the House.

“With different power suppliers, there will be innovation there will be more job opportunities that will be created. Where we are with KP is like a status quo. Nothing is new or exciting. There is nothing more in the market that is different.”

PARTNERSHIPS

Senate booth major attraction at Homa Bay Investment Conference



Governor Anyang Nyongo lifts the Mace when he toured the Senate booth at the Homa Bay Investments Conference. In Parliamentary tradition, the Mace is the symbol of the authority of the House.

The Senate was the major attraction during the 2nd Homa Bay International Investment Conference that took place last week.

Under the theme: Unlocking the Bay of Endless Potential, the conference was held between February 26 to 29, 2024 with President William Ruto delivering

the key address.

The Senate is the guardian angel of the Counties and their governments as provided for under Article 96 of the constitution.

The Parliamentary Service Commission Strategic plan 2019-2030, mandates the Senate to engage with all devolved



Governor Kenneth Lusaka, who is the Speaker of the 3rd Senate, Governor Anyang Nyong’o and Governor James Orengo, join PSC staff at the Senate booth at the Homa Bay International Investment Conference in Homa Bay town.

structures while managing intergovernmental relations. This is meant to achieve the vision of a democratic and people centered Parliament.

The County Government of Homa Bay invited the Senate to participate in the Conference by offering technical support in the conference.

The Senate also had an exhibition booth through which it showcased its mandate to thousands of people who flocked in to have glimpse on how the House discharges its constitutional mandate.

Speaker Kingi hosts Senators for a one-day retreat

Speaker Amason Kingi this week hosted Senators for a one-day retreat in which the lawmakers reflected on the performance and output of the Senate this far.

The retreat focused on the First and Second Sessions of the 13th Parliament, both in plenary and the Committees, going to the extent of discussing the oppor-

tunities and best practices for service delivery.

The meeting identified challenges that have hindered the effective discharge of the mandate of the Senate as contemplated under Article 96 of the Constitution.

The lawmakers were also provided with updates, and discussed, on welfare matters, including the administrative as-

pects relating to the facilitation of Senators and the county offices, operation of the Senate Oversight Fund and the medical cover for Senators.

The members deliberated on mechanisms that will strengthen teamwork and collegiality among Senators in the discharge of their legislative work as enumerated under Article 96 of the con-

stitution.

Speaker Kingi told the Senators that the event will also be used to align on the priority agenda for the Senate during the Third and subsequent sessions of the 13th Parliament.

Speaker Kingi roots for tough action to stem drug abuse at the Coast



Speaker Kingi addresses the consultative Conference that discussed issues of drugs and illicit brews in the Coast region.

Speaker Amason Kingi was among national leaders who participated in the groundbreaking forum that discussed the proliferation of illicit brews, drugs and substance abuse in the Coast region.

Drugs and substance abuse present significant challenges in the country. Consumption of drinks laced with chemicals has led to loss of lives and addiction that undermines productive work and exposes consumers to reckless lifestyles.

Coast region has particularly been greatly affected by the vices and the meeting, convened by the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, sought to trace the root causes and explore avenues for eradicating the vice.

Speaker Kingi assured the meeting of the region's political leadership's commitment to fully support the interventions that would be proposed in these engagements.



Speaker Kingi welcomes Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua for the Conference held in Mombasa



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Speaker Kingi follow the proceedings during the anti drugs conference in Mombasa

Kamati ya Usalama kuchunguza Kifo cha mtoto mwenye umri wa miaka 9



Seneta Sifuna

Seneta Edwin Sifuna amewasilisha ombi la kauli akiitaka Kamati ya Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Uhusiano wa nchi za Kigeni kueleza sababu zinazokizunguka kifo cha kusikitisha cha mtoto Jollyben Iboshe mwenye umri wa miaka tisa aliyezama kufuatia mafuriko katika sehemu ya Mashimoni, eneo Bunge la Kibra mnamo Januari 5, 2024 ambaye kufikia sasa mwili wake bado haujapatikana baada ya kubebwa hadi kwenye bwawa la maji la Nairobi.

Katibu huyo mkuu wa chama cha ODM anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuorodhesha hatua ambazo zimechukuliwa na mamlaka ya kuangazia mikasa na wahudumu wa usalama kitaifa katika sehemu hiyo kushughulikia upatikanaji wa



Seneta Kibwana

mwili wa marehemu na kuupokeza kwa familia yake kwa maziko ya taadhima.

Kadhalika Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta William Cheptumo imetakiwa kuweka wazi mikakati ya muda mrefu na hatua ambazo zitatekelezwa kuzuia majanga kama hayo katika siku za halafu.

Huku hayo yakijiri, Kamati ya Afya imetakiwa kuchunguza na kutoa ripoti kuhusu sababu zilizosababisha kukatwa kwa mkono wa mtoto Jennifer Mwasi kwenye hospitali ya Wesu Kaunti ya Taita Taveta.

Seneta Hamida Kibwana amewasilisha ombi kwenye Seneti akitaka kauli kutoka kwa Kamati hiyo.

Kwenye ombi hilo, Seneta Hamida

anaitaka Kamati ya Afya kufanya uchunguzi wa kina kuhusu mazingira yanayouzunguka ukataji wa mkono wa mtoto Jennifer, uchunguzi huo ukihusisha utathmini wa rekodi za kimatibabu, taarifa za mashahidi na ushahidi mwingine muhimu.

Kamati hiyo itahitajika kuwaita wafanyakazi kutoka kwenye kitengo cha matibabu na wasimamizi waliohusika kutoa ushuhuda na ufafanuzi kuhusiana na hatua zao au kukosekana kwazo kulikosababisha tukio hilo la kusikitisha.

Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Jackson Mandago imepewa jukumu la kuutathmini utaratibu wa shughuli za matibabu uliopo kwenye taasisi za utoaji huduma za afya katika Kaunti ya Taita Taveta ili kubaini upungufu uliopo na vitengo vinavyopaswa kuimarishwa.

Kadhalika, Seneta huyo wa chama cha ODM ameitaka Kamati hiyo kuwahusisha washikadau wakiwemo idara ya afya kwenye Kaunti, miungano ya sekta ya matibabu, mashirika ya kuwapigania wanaougua na mashirika mengine ya kijamii kupata maoni na mapendekezo yao yatakayosaidia kuimarisha mikakati ya kuwalinda wanaougua kando na kuhakikisha uwajibikaji katika utoaji wa huduma za afya.

Wakati uo huo Seneta Hamida ameitaka Kamati iyo hiyo ya Afya kutoa taarifa kuhusiana na kukosekana kwa takwimu za miili ya marehemu ambayo haina wenyewe.

Kamati hiyo imetakiwa kuweka wazi idadi ya miili hiyo, sehemu ambayo imehifadhiwa na mikakati iliopo kuishughulikia na kuizika ikibaini endapo kuna takwimu zozote kitaifa za miili hiyo.

Kiongozi huyo aidha anaitaka Kamati hiyo kutathmini mbinu bora zinazotumika kimataifa kushughulikia miili ambayo haijadaiwa na mtu yeyote kwa nia ya kubuni sera ya kuweka takwimu za miili kama hiyo kitaifa.

Vitengo vya serikali za Kaunti, watoaji wa huduma za afya, mamlaka ya utekelezaji wa sheria na mashirika ya kijamii vitahusishwa na Kamati ya Afya kutoa maoni na ujuzi utakaosaidia katika kuangazia mianya kwenye mfumo wa sasa wa kushughulikia miili ambayo haijatiwa, Maseneta wakipendekeza kwenye ripoti yao mbinu za kisheria na sera zitakazosaidia kuweka mpanzilio wa kitaifa wa kutatua changamoto zilizopo.

Seneta Mundigi ataka ripoti kuhusu fidia kwa wakulima kufuatia uvamizi wa nzige



Seneta Mundigi

Seneta Munyi Mundigi ameitaka Kamati ya Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi kutoa taarifa kuhusu kushindwa kwa serikali kuwalipa fidia wakulima wa Kaunti ya Embu kutokana na hasara waliopata kufuatia uvamizi wa nzige ulioshuhudiwa mnamo mwaka 2020.

Seneta Mundigi kwenye ombi lake anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuorodhesha thamani ya hasara kwa wakulima kwenye Kaunti ya Embu wakati nzige hao waliyavamia mashamba yao mnamo mwaka 2020 ikifafanua mikakati iliyowekwa na serikali kulikabili janga la kihistoria la uvamizi wa nzige alilolitaja kuwa kubwa zaidi katika muda wa miaka sabini na kutoa kiwango kamili cha fedha zilizo-tumiwa kwenye mikakati hiyo.

Vile vile Kiongozi huyo ameitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta James Murango kufichua kiasi cha pesa ambazo zilizolekezwa moja kwa moja kwa wakulima wa Kaunti ya Embu ikiwaorodhesha wakulima walionufaika na

mipango inayowekwa na serikali kuangazia vilio vya wakulima wanaodai kutolipwa fidia licha ya ahadi za mara kwa mara kutoka kwa maafisa wakuu serikalini.

Yakijiri hayo Kamati ya Kudumu ya Kawi imetakiwa kuchunguza na kutoa ripoti kuhusu uunganishwaji wa umeme katika hospitali na shule mbali mbali za umma kwenye Kaunti ya Narok.

Seneta Ledama Olekina akiwasilisha ombi la kutaka kufanywa kwa uchunguzi huo ameitaka Kamati hiyo kufichua sababu za kutounganishwa kwa umeme wenye safu tatu katika hospitali ya Kaunti ndogo ya Emurua Dikirr kufanisha kufanya kazi kwa idara ya radiojolia kwenye hospitali hiyo.

Seneta huyo wa chama cha ODM anaitaka Kamati hiyo kubaini sababu za kutounganishwa kwa umeme kwenye shule zaidi ya ishirini na saba zilizoko katika wadi za Ilkerin, Kapsasian na

Mogondo kwenye Kaunti ndogo ya Emurua Dikirr huku ikiweka wazi ripoti ya ilikofika shughuli ya kuwekwa kwa mitambo mbadala ya transfoma katika Kaunti ya Narok baada ya iliyoko kukumbwa na dosari.

Vile vile Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Wahome Wamatinga imetakiwa kutoa taarifa kuhusu ulikofikia mpango wa kuunganisha maili ya mwisho ya umeme kwenye shule zote na hospitali katika Kaunti ya Narok.

Kadhalika Seneta Olekina anaitaka Kamati ya Kawi iwasilishe sababu za kutounganishwa kwa umeme kwenye hospitali za kitengo cha 3 kwenye Kaunti ya Narok zikiwemo, Sakutiek iliyoko Narok Kaskazini na Loita, Narok Kusini.

Anasema hatua hiyo imesababisha changamoto katika utendakazi huku vifaa muhimu kwenye idara ya radiojolia vikikosa kufanya kazi.



Seneta Olekina

Trade Committee wants funding for County Integrated and Industrial Parks Programme

The Committee on Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism has resolved to push the Government to avail funds for the County Integrated and Industrial Parks Programme which will provide the business community traders with the perfect environment to do business.

The National Government through the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry and County Governments in partnership with private sector, development partners have agreed to establish County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) in each County.

The development and implementation of the project is to be jointly accomplished between the National Government, Council of Governors and County Governments

“We have developed the Industrial Park Bill which are pushing as a committee. The Bill will go a long way in facilitating the management of the County Integrated and Industrial Park Programme,” said Senator Crystal Asige

after the Committee adopted the report on its consideration of the 2024/25 Budget Policy Statement (BPS).

The committee vowed to follow up on the operations of the Hustler, Uwezo and Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Programme (KYEOP) Funds to ensure they work efficiently for the benefit of the intended groups.

The Committee, which is chaired by Senator Seki ole Kanar, has been engaging state departments under its jurisdiction as it considered the 2024 Budget Policy Statement.

The state departments include the State Department of Cooperatives, the State Department of Trade, the State Department for Industry, the State Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, the State Department of Investment Promotion and the State Department for Tourism.

In its report, which was submitted to the Committee on Finance and Budget, the Committee urged the Ministry of Trade, Investments and Industry and



Senator Seki Lenku ole Kanar, the Chairman of Trade Committee and Senator Crystal Asige during the BPS hearings.

the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife to prioritise its recommendations to ensure Kenyans benefit from the Government programmes.

“Over the years, we have been making good recommendations but min-

istries do not take them into account. The ministries involved should implement the recommendations so that we can help our people,” said Senator Steve Lelegwe, a member of the committee.

Western Kenya Cane farmers support Sugar Bill

The Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee has started public participation to gather views on the Sugar Bill, 2022 currently before the House.

The Committee was in the Sugarcane growing areas of Kakamega and Bungoma where it engaged cane farmers on their views on the Bill.

Sponsored by Navakholo MP Emmanuel Wangwe, the Bill seeks to reinstate the Sugar Act which was repealed through the enactment of the Crops Act, 2013.

Among other proposals, the Bill seeks to restore the roles of the Kenya Sugar Board currently undertaken by the Sugar Directorate of the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA).

The Bill further provides for the development, regulation and promotion of the sugar industry, to provide for the establishment, powers and functions of the Kenya Sugar Board.

Cane farmers from Western Kenya have supported the reinstatement of the Kenya Sugar Board to regulate the sector directly instead of operating through AFA.

Stakeholders in the sugar sector said

the Sugar Directorate lacks the autonomy to address challenges in the industry. The farmers also want the Kenya Sugar Board head office moved from Nairobi to western Kenya region in order to serve farmers better.

Speaking at the forum, the Secretary-General of Kenya National Federation of Sugar Cane Farmers Kilion Osur Anyango said farmers should be free to supply their cane to whichever mill they preferred, as long as they did not have a contract with another mill.

“Independent farmers should have 3-4 sugar mills within a region from which they will have freedom to supply their cane instead of being zoned to a particular mill,” he explained.

The stakeholders told the Committee that sugar reforms should include strict guidelines on importation of sugar into the country.

His sentiments were supported by farmers who said the same has been left to cartels who have flooded the local market with cheap sugar.

The chair of the committee Senator Murango, Senator David Wakoli and Nominated Senator Beth Syengo resolved to consider the farmers’ views.



Senators James Murango and Beth Syengo address sugarcane farmers in Kakamega during public participation on the Sugar Bill, 2023.



Senators Murango, David Wakoli and Boni Khalwale listen to submissions from the farmers who attended the event.

Housing Committee directs Governor Sakaja to submit details of rent collected in County houses



Senator Thang'wa and Governor Sakaja during which discussed the issue of Nairobi urban regeneration and renewal programme

Governor Johnson Sakaja has told a Committee of the Senate that the County Government of Nairobi is not in possession of agreement between the Israel Government and the Government of Kenya for the construction of the estates through a Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Tenants of Jericho Estate in Nairobi have claimed that they were to take ownership of the Houses after 25 years of tenancy.

The tenants have not availed the said agreements.

"Nairobi City County Government has earmarked all the estates for rede-

velopment to provide additional housing for rental purpose and home ownership. This is in line with the Government's affordable housing agenda," said the Governor.

The governor made the comments when he appeared before the Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing to discuss the issue of Nairobi urban regeneration and renewal programme.

He told the committee, chaired by Senator Karungo Thang'wa that the original plan for the estates were for the development of the social housing to cater for the low income earners.

But the new proposed redevelopment comprises 70 per cent affordable housing for low income earners and 30 per cent for high income earners due to the shortfall experienced in the high and

middle income bracket as well.

The County Government of Nairobi has awarded seven contracts for regeneration and renewal of old estates, however the titles deeds of the estates estimated to be 4000 acres are still under processing.

The Governor said the City County is not giving free houses but the rent paid since occupation of the housing units will be used to get the tenants houses.

"All concerns should be dispensed with before the regeneration projects are launched." Said Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna.

The Governor was given two weeks to furnish the committee with statement of rent collected by the County Government of Nairobi since 1985 for Ofafa Jericho, 1988 for Jericho Lumumba and 1990 for Ofafa Maringo Estates.

PSC satisfied with academic progress at CPST, promises to raise the bar higher

The Board of the Centre of Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) has expressed satisfaction with the success the institution has achieved in the 13 years of its existence, promising to raise the bar higher, sustain the achievements and make the institution a centre of global excellence.

Encouraged by the potential for growth, commitment of the management and the high value Staff, the Board has resolved to commit itself on ensuring academic excellence at the Centre and offer support for greater success.

"Our aim is to make the CPST an international institution with staff that have the capacity to deliver to a global audience," said Commissioner Rachel Ameso, the Chair of the Board of CPST.

The Commissioner Ameso made the remarks when she presided over the graduation ceremony of the 40 members of staff of the second cohort of PSC Mandatory promotional course II.

In September 2018, the PSC approved curriculum for four mandatory promotional courses to be offered and examined by the CPST. This was the culmination of a process that began in 2016 when PSC directed the Centre to create the curricula.

Hon Ameso told the graduands that training is an expensive yet a crucial element for the success of any organisation and challenged PSC staff to constantly upgrade their skills for personal

and career growth.

"This should not be the end for you," she told the graduands drawn from the different departments of the three services of the PSC – Senate, National Assembly and Parliamentary Joint Services.

"Open up your mind so that your brain can function. Be like a parachute which functions well when it is unfurled."

The event was attended by other Commissioners Joyce Korir (Vice chair), who represented PSC chairman, Dr Moses Wetangula, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Patrick Makau and Mishi Mboko.

Commissioner Korir reminded the graduands though they have acquired the new skills, there is room for them to continue advancing themselves through regular trainings

"Let me commend you all for stepping up to take this course," she said, even as she acknowledged the sacrifice they had made to go back to acquire the skills.

"It is all about commitment. Take the initiative and increase your knowledge. Knowledge acquisition is a continuous process and it should not end here."

Mr Makau said the current PSC has lined up grand ideas to elevate the status of the CPST and encouraged the graduands to take advantage and expand their skills.

"An institution is as good as its staff,"



1. PSC Commissioners Patrick Makau (left), Mishi Mboko and Rachel Ameso follow the proceedings during the graduation ceremony.
2. Commissioners Joyce Korir, Mishi Mboko and Rachel Ameso during the event.
3. Commissioner Rachel Ameso, the chairperson of the CPST Board, congratulates one of the graduands during the ceremony.

said Hon Makau, who also chairs the Staff Welfare Committee at the Commission.

"Staff who are properly capacitated give a good account of their institution. After this training we expect you to add value in the delivery of service of the PSC," he said, adding that if well harnessed, CPST has the capacity to generate revenue for Parliament.

While calling for increased funding for training, Commissioner Mboko said the PSC has set the target on when the

construction works of the CPST will end to open the door for enhanced training programmes for staff from PSC, County Assemblies and students from foreign parliaments.

"Training is key in personal development and that of an organisation," she said, while insisting that staff in all departments of PSC should be involved in training.

EALA in Nairobi for two-week plenary sittings

The leadership of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) has said it is looking forward to a busy schedule as they start their plenary sittings in Nairobi as part of the Assembly's rotational policy.

"We have different reports and Bills that we will be considering in our sessions here in the country which mainly involve oversight of different partner states," said Speaker Joseph Ntakirutimana when he addressed journalists at Parliament Buildings, Nairobi.

The Assembly has lined up six Bills and will also consider five reports aimed at addressing several challenges affecting the member states.

The session marks the Assembly's return to Nairobi following its last sitting more than five years ago, in 2018.

Apart from five bills, there are motions, oversight reports to be considered, petitions and questions to be responded to by the EAC Council of Ministers.

The five Bills lined up for debate besides seven oversight reports and six motions that are slated for resolutions.

The Bills are East African Statistics Bureau Bill, 2017, The East African

Community Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission Bill, 2022 and The East African Community Financial Services Commission Bill, 2022 which are sponsored by the EAC Council of Ministers.

There is also the EAC Creative and Cultural Industries Bill, 2015 and East African Community Pharmaceuticals Bill, 2019, both which are sponsored by.....

The Council of Ministers is expected to respond to questions regarding the implementation of the East African Community (EAC) Treaty.

The highlight of the session will be the official address to the Assembly by President William Ruto on Tuesday, March 5, 2023.

As a member of the EAC Summit of Heads of State, a President's address are influential in providing policy direction to the Assembly and its committees.

Rotational sittings offer a unique chance for the Assembly to be addressed by Heads of State of a member country and provides valuable insights and direction from the Summit, a key EAC decision-making organ.



Speaker Joseph Ntakirutimana accompanied by Members of the Regional Assembly at a press conference in Parliament Buildings, Nairobi, on Monday March 4.

The session will foster collaboration between the Assembly and Kenya Parliament in line with Article 65 of the EAC Treaty. Members of Kenya's National Assembly and Senate, along with members of diplomatic corps from other EAC Partner States have been invited to attend.

The session will provide EALA the platform to directly connect with the Kenyan public, raise awareness about its work and increase its visibility.

A dispatch from the Assembly notes that Nairobi serves as a strategic anchor

for the East African Community (EAC) and the session is not merely a procedural matter; it holds symbolic and practical importance to the EAC integration.

"The EALA's plenary session in Nairobi serves as a timely reminder of the city's pivotal role in driving East African integration forward. It provides an opportunity to increase visibility, strengthen bonds with Kenyan institutions, and receive direct guidance from regional leaders," reads the dispatch from the Assembly which sits in Arusha, Tanzania.

This Week in History



"Although Africa has been slow in embracing women leaders in politics, there is an exclusive group of female presidents who have laid the foundation for future female leadership in Africa. I take this opportunity to celebrate this group of women. Just to mention some of them, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the Liberian politician who served as the President of Liberia from 2006 to 2018. She was the first elected female Head of State in Africa. Next, there is Joyce Banda, who was President of Malawi from April 7, 2012 to May 31, 2014, becoming the second female to be elected president in Africa. She founded the People's Party in 2011, and had previously served as the country's first female Vice President between 2009 and 2012. Sahle-Work Zewde of Ethiopia is among 54 Presidents in Africa."

Senator (Dr.) Gertrude Musuruve making a personal Statement to celebrate International Women's Day on the floor of the House on March 4, 2021.



"We always know that because of our healthcare system and the status that it is in, many families are just a cheque leaf away from real poverty lines. Cancer is one of those that is so expensive for the people who are suffering and for their families. It causes a lot of distress and the burden is not just physical and financial. We know it is very emotional and it adds to the statistics of mental illnesses because of the emotional trauma that the families have to endure when somebody is diagnosed, has to walk that path and finally succumbs. The pain is left with the family who have to deal with picking up the pieces of that trauma. There is no doubt that the statistics that are given here are a cause of worry for us here in the Senate. Rightfully, Article 43(1) (a) states that everyone has a right to the highest attainable standards of health. We are in the advent of the rollout of the Universal Health Care (UHC), and yet, we have this conversation here today; that our cancer patients are not getting adequate support."

Senator Silvia Kassanga during debate on the motion pushing for the provision of monthly stipend to cancer patients in hospitals on March 4, 2021



"There are quite a number of grants that we receive from international communities, the World Bank, and several other sponsors to our counties. However, when you look at how they are spent on the projects that are supposed to be supported by these grants, you rarely get the information on how much these monies were."

Senator Mary Seneta contributing to the debate on the Statement on Climate Smart Agriculture in Lamu County on March 4, 2021



"These grants which go to the counties are mostly misused. In many cases, you will see that they have a problem and the project stays for so long because the county is supposed to bring a certain amount, but they do not usually do it. Sometimes when they bring the World Bank team to look at that project somewhere, they find that something else have been done. The project was changed. In Wajir, I know it is not only the climate, there is the problem of water which has been there for the last seven or eight years. The dams which were supposed to be done two years ago have not been done."

Senator Ali Abdulahi Ibrahim contributing to the debate on the Statement on Climate Smart Agriculture in Lamu County on March 4, 2021

Government to construct 100 dams under PPP, CS Njeru tells Senate



Water CS Zacharia Njeru speaks on the floor

The Government has promised to construct 100 dams in the next five years under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) programme.

The Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Zachariah Njeru told the Senate on Wednesday that aim of the project is ensure stability in the supply of safe drinking water.

“We are still receiving proposals. We will go through all the proposals. I want to assure this House that something is happening as far as the 100 dams are concerned,” said CS Njeru on the floor of the House.

The CS revealed that his Ministry has submitted a proposal concerning Kamu-Dam to the United Kingdom Accreditation Forum (UKAF) for review.

“We are hopeful that these dams will be implemented after they go through the initial stage of the proposal. We have 100 dams that are on course and which we will implement. We are looking for

people who we can partner with to make sure that we realise the implementation.”

The CS was responding to Questions raised by Senator James Murango who wanted the Ministry to provide details of all water projects budgeted for by the National Government in Kirinyaga County in the 2023/24 financial year.

The lawmaker also wanted to know whether the government has plans to supply water to residents of Muratiri area in Gichugu Constituency through the Kerugoya-Kutus Water Supply Project by installing additional water distribution pipes.

CS Njeru told the House the national Government has allocated Sh135 million for the construction of Ngariama-Njukiini water supply in the 2023/24 financial year.

The project is being implemented by the Tana Water Works Development Agency (TWWDA).

The Project is located in Ngariama

and Njukiini wards of Gichugu Constituency and upon completion, it will benefit the same wards with clean and portable water.

The targeted beneficiaries are approximately 14,000 households including major learning institutions in the supply area.

The project commenced in March 2023, with a contract duration of 18 months and will be completed in September, 2024.

“Works are currently ongoing. However, the project has experienced challenges which has contributed to the slow progress of work.”

The Ministry has already received an allocation for the first quota, amounting to Sh4 billion to be disbursed to the Water Works Development Agencies (WWDAs) to help improve water supply across the country.

Agriculture Ministry developing rules to streamline management of sugar weighbridges, CS Linturi tells House

The Ministry of Agriculture is in the process of making regulations to provide for the management of weighbridges, Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi has said.

This, he said, will ensure fairness and efficiency in the sugarcane production.

The CS told the Senate that his Ministry is not aware of the existence of syndicates engaged in theft of cane at weighbridges and buying centers.

“If issues of theft have been detected, it is prudent to report to the relevant authorities for necessary actions to be taken,” the CS told the House.

The CS was responding to questions by Senator Tom Ojienda who wanted to know what the Ministry is doing to deal with the syndicates involved in the theft of cane at weighbridges while in transit to sugar factories.

Senator Ojienda says the theft has a huge impact on sugarcane farmers.

He challenged the CS to explain if there are plans by the Cabinet Secretary to compensate sugarcane farmers and hold accountable the persons involved.

Mr Linturi told the House that he had directed the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) and specifically the Sugar Directorate, to investigate the allegation of cane theft and make recommendations for implementation if malpractices are detected.



CS Mithika Linturi

“I ask farmers whose cane has been stolen to report to the various law enforcement agencies because theft is criminal. The culprits will be dealt with properly within the criminal justice system for the farmers to get justice,” said the CS.

Deputy Minority Leader Enoch Wambua challenged the CS to explain the progress the government had made in securing and protecting farmers from predatory cartels.

“We are getting crops out of our farms now but we have been invaded by cartels. What protection are we getting from the Government? What is the Government doing to ensure that farmers do not continue to suffer at the hands of



Senator Enoch Wambua

these cartels?” asked Senator Wambua.

Citing the Presidential directive, which mandates government agencies do what is practically possible to ensure the interests of farmers are safeguarded from exploitation, the CS told the Ministry is addressing the issue.

“There is no quick fix. We are progressively getting there,” he said even as enumerated areas where the state has moved into kick out cartels.

Through the Strategic Food Reserve Regulations, the Ministry has classified food crops that are to be identified as strategic food reserves. Besides cereals like maize, beans and pulses, milk has also been included.

“We were doing this because we want



Senator Tom Ojienda

to make sure that as we prepare or maintain our food balance sheet and stocks, we can off-take from farmers what is produced in excess. That way, we can easily provide the budgets to buy them as food strategic reserves for a rainy day.

The Ministry is also implementing the warehouse receipt system. Under this system, when farmers harvest and they do not want to sell immediately, the government intervenes by ensuring that the harvest is properly stored.

Farmers can deposit their harvest for storage in NCPB and get a receipt which will allow them to sell at the appropriate time.

“These are some of the immediate measures we have put in place to ensure that our farmers are not exploited.”

Representation: Senators raise concern on issues concerning their constituents



Senators Kavindu, Olekina, Dullo and Mwaruma

As part of their representative role, a number of Senators took to the floor of the House this week to request for answers from the government Ministries on weighty issues affecting their constituents and the country at large.

The issues of concern to the legislators range from health care, education, land and the environment.

Senator Joe Nyutu has sought a statement from the Committee on Health regarding the status of medical equipment supplied by Mega Scope to Level Five Hospitals across the country.

Specifically, the Senators wants the Committee on Health to provide details on the CT-Scan and X-Ray machines.

The lawmaker wants the Committee to clarify the reasons behind the breakdown of the machines and the status of their repair.

He wants the Committee to explain plan laid out to address the breakdown of this critical diagnostic equipment which have severely hampered healthcare services and the measures taken to expedite the repair and ensure that they are operational.

The Senator further wants the State Department for Medical Services to explain how it will ensure that such incidents affecting service delivery in hospitals do not reoccur.

Senator Fatuma Dullo wants information related to the state of the morgue at the Isiolo County Referral Hospital.

The legislator says in the last one year, four machines in the morgue have broken down, leaving 32 bodies unrefrigerated which has caused severe health hazard.

The Senator says there is a crisis at the Hospital and wants the Health Committee, which is chaired by Senator Jackson Mandago, to explain the action being taken to resolve the crisis at the morgue.

She wants to know why the morgue has not been operational for the last one year despite Isiolo County Health Department receiving the highest budget allocation.

“The Committee should outline steps the county is taking to ensure the

facility is efficient in service delivery and its capacity improved,” said Senator Dullo when she sought the statement on the floor of the House.

She wants morgue closed immediately as the county seeks a lasting solution to the challenges it is facing.

The renewed wave of banditry attacks along the Meru-Isiolo Border has caught the attention of **Senator Kathuri Murungi**, who is also the Deputy Speaker.

At least 50 people lost their lives in the latest attacks that happened earlier in the week, a total of 6,000 heads of cattle were stolen besides destruction of property and disruption of normal activities for the people living in the areas.

Senator Murungi is now calling upon the Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations to explain the security lapses that may have led to the attacks.

The Committee is also expected to outline interventions the Government has made to compensate families that have lost their loved ones, livestock and property, giving timelines within which compensation shall be granted.

The committee will also state measures being taken to reinforce security, restore sanity and peace in the affected areas and the long-term plans being taken to end the attacks in the affected areas.

Senator Johnes Mwaruma is seeking a statement on the boundary dispute between residents of Marungu Village and Oza Group Ranch, in Taita-Taveta County.

The lawmaker wants the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources to provide the House with requisite ownership documents for all parcels of land owned by Oza Group Ranch, in Wundanyi Subcounty, stating the total acreage of the land.

Other documents he wants tabled in the House include survey maps of parcels of land owned by residents of Marungu Village in the subcounty and Oza Group Ranch, indicating the geographical boundaries of each parcel.

He also wants the committee to pro-

vide steps taken by the government to resolve the land boundary dispute between the residents of Marungu Village and Oza Group Ranch.

Senator Agnes Muthama is seeking information on the release of capitation funds to universities in the country.

The Senator wants the Committee on Education to explain circumstances that led to the delay in the release of the funds to universities countrywide, providing remedial interventions aimed at addressing the delays.

She wants a detailed report on capitation funds received by each university since 2019/20 financial year submitted to the House, detailing the total outstanding capitation and pending bills covering the said financial year for all the universities nationally.

“The Committee should indicate the number of government-sponsored students admitted by the Scott Christian University and capitation fund grant received by the university since 2019/20 financial year,” said the Senator in her request for the statement.

The committee should show any balance owed to the University by the Government and the strategies and measures taken by the Ministry of Education to ensure that both public and private universities admitting Government sponsored students, receive capitation funds and grants to ensure uninterrupted learning.

Senator Tabitha Mutinda wants the House to be furnished with details of infrastructure at Mwiki primary School in Githurai, Nairobi, which holds over 4,000 learners.

She wants details of the total number of learners relative to the land on which the school stands.

The Senator wants the Committee on Education to outline any protocols implemented by the Ministry of Education to address the safety and health risks associated with overcrowding at the school, stating government intervention meant to step up the construction of classrooms and other essential infrastructure such as boarding and sanitation facilities to match the increasing number

of learners.

In particular, the Senator wants the Committee to explain measures put in place by the Government to mitigate against over enrollment in public schools which strains existing facilities and exposes learners to safety and health risks.

She also wants the committee to highlight measures put in place to ensure strict enforcement of the Ministry of Education’s safety and health guidelines in all schools.

Senator Ledama ole Kina wants the House furnished with details of the status of tourism and the lease agreements entered into by proprietors in the greater Maasai Mara, the Mara Triangle and the County Government of Narok.

The Minority Whip wants the Committee on Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism to provide a list of all lodges and camps operating within the Triangle, their locations and accommodation capacity.

He also wants the House given the lease agreements between the County Government of Narok and the proprietors of the lodges and camps within the area, detailing specific obligation placed on the proprietors to Narok residents who reside within the environs of the park.

“The Committee should provide details of the lease agreement between the County Government of Narok and MGM Methu Hotels to manage and operate Keekorok Lodge,” he said.

He also wants the Committee to provide details of the shareholders and shareholding structures of the company, stating whether there are any loans guaranteed by the County Government and indicate whether the company is registered in Kenya.

The Senator also wants the ownership documents for Keekorok Lodge in Maasai Mara provided. This should include the title deed and the list of all the revenue streams and the value generated from the lodges and the camps for the past two years. This should include bed night fees, royalties and lease ground fees.



1. *Minority Leader Ledama ole Kina (centre) and Senator Tom Ojienda welcome Agriculture CS Mithika Linturi in Parliament when he appeared to respond to Questions raised by members.*
2. *Senator Hezema Lemeletian with students of Kisima Girls High School, Samburu County, who were on an education tour of Parliament Buildings.*
3. *Students of Gangara Mixed Secondary School, Mbeere North, Embu County, follow proceedings in the Senate during their educational tour of Parliament Buildings.*
4. *Sugarcane farmers in Kakamega County follow proceedings during public participation on the Sugar Bill, 2023 presided by the Committee on Agriculture.*
5. *Members of the Turkana County Assembly Service Board and their Secretariat in the Speaker's Gallery during their benchmarking tour of Senate.*
6. *Members of Agriculture committee led by chairman James Murango pose for a picture with the Busia County Commissioner Chaungamwachaunga when the Committee visited the county to conduct public participation on the Sugar Bill, 2023*



A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

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