

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 20th March, 2025

Afternoon Sitting

*The House met at the Senate Chamber,
Parliament Buildings, at 2.33 p.m.*

[The Speaker (Hon. Kingi) in the Chair]

PRAYER

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
AT COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Clerk, do we have quorum.

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted with the Speaker)

Serjeant-at-Arms, kindly ring the Quorum Bell for 10 minutes.

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

(Several Senators walked into the Chamber)

Order, Hon. Senators, we now have quorum.

Clerk, you may proceed to call the first Order.

MESSAGES FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PASSAGE BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUBLIC
AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL (NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY BILLS No.4 OF 2024)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, I wish to report to the Senate that, pursuant to Standing Order No.46(3), I received the following Message from the Speaker of the National Assembly regarding the passage by the National Assembly, of The Public Audit (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No.4 of 2024). The Message dated

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Wednesday, 19th March, 2025 was received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate on Thursday, 20th March, 2025.

Pursuant to Standing Order No.46(4), I now report the Message. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No.41(1) and 142 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, I hereby convey the following Message from the National Assembly-

“WHEREAS the Public Audit (Amendment) Bill, (National Assembly Bills No.4 of 2024) was vide *Kenya Gazette* Supplement No.28 on the 2nd April, 2024 to align the Act with the Constitution following a declaration issued by the High Court and clarify provisions on the recruitment of the Auditor-General;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly considered the said Bill and passed it with amendments on Tuesday, 11th March, 2025 in the form attached hereto;

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the provisions of Article 110(4) of the Constitution and Standing Orders No.41 and 142 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, I hereby refer the Bill to the Senate for consideration.

Hon. Senators, pursuant to Standing Order No.163, which requires that a Bill which originates in the National Assembly be proceeded with by the Senate in the same manner as a Bill introduced in the Senate by way of First Reading in accordance with Standing Order No.144, I will at the appropriate time direct the Clerk to read the said Bill a First Time.

I thank you.

PASSAGE BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUBLIC
FINANCE MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT NO.2) BILL
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.26 OF 2024)

Also, I wish to report to the Senate that, pursuant to Standing Order No.46(3), I received the following Message from the Speaker of the National Assembly regarding the passage by the National Assembly of The Public Finance Management (Amendment No.2) Bill (National Assembly Bills No.26 of 2024). The Message dated Wednesday, 19th March, 2025 was received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate on Thursday, 20th March, 2025. Now, pursuant to Standing Order No.46(4), I now report the Message.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No.41(1) and 142 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, I hereby convey the following Message from the National Assembly-

“WHEREAS the Public Finance Management (Amendment No.2) Bill (National Assembly Bills No.26 of 2024) was published by *Kenya Gazette* Supplement No.90 on the 16th of April to align the timelines for the passing and consideration of the Finance Bill by the county assemblies and the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly considered this aid Bill and passed it with amendments on Friday, 14th March, 2025 in the form attached hereto;

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the provisions of Article 110(4) of the Constitution and Standing Orders No.41 and 142 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, I hereby refer the Bill to the Senate for consideration.”

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Hon. Senators, pursuant to Standing Order No.163, which requires that a Bill which originates in the National Assembly be proceeded with by the Senate in the same manner as a Bill introduced in the Senate by way of First Reading in accordance with Standing Order No.144, I will, at appropriate time, direct the Clerk to read the said Bill a First Time.

PASSAGE BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUBLIC AUDIT
(AMENDMENT) BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS No.4 OF 2024)

Also, Hon. Senators, I wish to report to the Senate that pursuant to Standing Order No.463, I received the following Message from the Speaker of the National Assembly regarding the passage by the National Assembly of The Public Audit Amendment Bill (National Assembly Bills No.4 of 2024).

The Message dated Wednesday, 19th March 2025, was received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate on Thursday, 20th March, 2025.

Now, pursuant to Standing Order 46(4), I now report the Message.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order Nos.41(1) and 142 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, I hereby convey the following Message from the National Assembly.

“WHEREAS the Public Audit Amendment Bill (National Assembly Bills No.4 of 2024), was published by Kenya Gazette Supplement No.28 on 2nd April ,2024 to align the Act with the Constitution following a declaration issued by the High Court and clarify provisions on the recruitment of Auditor-General;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly considered the Senate Bill and passed it with amendments on Tuesday 11th March, 2025 in the form attached hereto.

Clerk, can you help me. Am I reading this Message for the second time?

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted the Speaker)

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the provisions of Article 110(4), of the Constitution and Standing Orders Nos.41 and 142 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, I hereby refer the Bill to the Senate for consideration.

Pursuant to Standing Order No.163, which requires that a Bill which originates in the National Assembly be proceeded with by the Senate in the same manner as a Bill introduced in the Senate by way of First Reading, in accordance with Standing Order No.144, I will at the appropriate time direct the Clerk to read the said Bill a First Time.

(Several Senators stood at the Bar)

Hon. Senators, you may take your seats before I read the third Message.

(Senators proceeded to take their seats)

Hon. Senators, I have another Message to pass.

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PASSAGE BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNTY
GOVERNMENTS ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS BILL (NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY BILLS No.2 OF 2025)

I wish to report to the Senate that pursuant to Standing Order No.46(3), I have received the following Message from the Speaker of the National Assembly regarding the passage by the National Assembly of The County Governments Additional Allocations Bill, (National Assembly Bill No.2 of 2025).

The Message dated Wednesday 19th March, 2025, was received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate on Thursday, 20th March, 2025. Pursuant to Standing Order No.464, I now report the Message.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No.41(1) and 142 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, I hereby convey the following Message from the National Assembly-

“WHEREAS the County Governments Additional Allocations Bill, (National Assembly Bill No.2 of 2025), was published by the *Kenya Gazette* Supplement No.12 on 6th February, 2025 as a Bill proposing to provide for additional allocations to county governments for the Financial Year 2024/2025, the responsibilities of the national Government and county governments pursuant to such allocations and for connected purposes;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly considered the said Bill and passed it with amendments on Friday, 14th March, 2025 in the form attached hereto;

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the provisions of Article 110(4) of the Constitution and Standing Orders Nos.41 and 142 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, I hereby refer the Bill to the Senate for consideration.

Hon. Senators, pursuant to Standing Order No.163, which requires that a Bill which originates in the National Assembly be proceeded with by the Senate in the manner as the Bill introduced in the Senate by way of First Reading in accordance with Standing Order No.144, I will, at the appropriate time, direct the Clerk to read the said Bill a First Time.

I thank you.

Next Order, Clerk.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Statements pursuant to Standing Order No.52(1).
The Senator for Nyandarua County, please proceed.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HON. J.M. KARIUKI
ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

Is Sen. Methu not in the House? The Statement is dropped.

(Statement dropped)

Proceed, Sen. Mariam Omar.

ABDUCTION OF CHIEFS, ASSISTANT CHIEF
AND A CIVILIAN IN MANDERA COUNTY

Sen. Mariam Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.52(1) to make a Statement on a matter of national concern, namely, the Abduction of four Chiefs, an Assistant Chief and a Civilian in Mandela County.

Mr. Mohamed Adawa, Chief Wargadud East, together with his daughter, eight years; Mr. Abdi Hassan Suraw, Chief, Qurahmudow, Mr. Abdi Hassan Kulumia, Chief Wargadud Town; Mr. Mohamednur Hache, Chief Chachabole Location; and, Mr. Ibrahim Gabow, Assistant Chief Wargadud Town, were abducted in Wargadud Town, in Wargadud area, in Mandela County on 3rd February, 2025, and have been missing for the past 44 days.

The chiefs and assistant chief were on official duty traveling to Elwak Town to join the Deputy County Commissioner for the security meeting in preparation for His Excellency President William Ruto's week-long development tour of the North and Eastern Region.

Such abduction has prolonged profound impacts---

(Several Senators consulted while on their feet)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Order, hon. Senators. There is a lot of movement in the Chamber. Kindly, take your seats.

*(Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, SC consulted
the Clerk-at-the-Table)*

The good Professor, kindly.

Proceed, Sen. Mariam.

Sen. Mariam Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Such abduction has a prolonged profound impact on the emotional, psychological and financial well-being of affected families. Children, in particular, may end up suffering from depression and behavioural changes due to the sudden disappearance of their parents.

Affected families may face financial hardships and find it hard to navigate lives and afford daily household needs, medical care and other essential items, where those

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abducted were the primary breadwinners. The impact is even more devastating in this Holy Month of Ramadhan, where the affected families have to fully engage in prayers and fasting in the midst of the uncertainty of the whereabouts and wellbeing of their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the abducted leaders play an important role in administration and local governance, maintaining peace and security, upholding the rule of law in Mandera County. The abduction has deeply affected the local community, distracted local governance and also threatened fragile security situation in Mandera County, which is likely to terrorize the region generally. The abduction is indication of the growing risk faced by the local leaders, especially in Mandera County.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we condemn these tragic incidents, I call for thorough investigation to identify and bring to justice those responsible for abductions. The Government, through the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, must urgently take measures to ensure that all the available resources are deployed to secure an immediate and safe release of the chiefs, assistant chiefs and civilians. The Kenya Defence Forces and National Police Service must intensify operation in the area to locate and rescue these leaders and neutralize the threats posed by the abductors.

More specifically, I urge the Government to-

(1) Prioritize the immediate and safe returns of these abducted leaders and civilians.

(2) Strengthen security forces and intelligence by enhancing border security and civilians.

(3) Strengthen local infrastructure, education and create economic opportunities to reduce the number of the persons likely to be coerced by militant groups.

(4) Provide physical support, financial assistance, community engagement programme to help the affected families cope with their trauma and uncertainty of their well-being and whereabouts of their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I also call upon the Ministry of Interior and the National Administration to provide regular and comprehensive reports on the efforts being made to rescue the abducted leaders to restore the security in Mandera County.

Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Methu, your Statement is reinstated.

You may proceed now to read the same.

Sen. Methu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, Sir.

This is a Statement on an issue of national concern.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HON. J.M. KARIUKI
ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise, pursuant to Standing Order No.52(1), to make a statement on a matter of national concern, namely, to pay tribute to the late Hon. Josiah Mwangi Kariuki, known as J.M. Kariuki, a fearless patriot, a visionary leader and a champion of social justice. As we mark 50 years since his assassination on 2nd of March, 1975, his life, legacy and the values he stood for remain deeply relevant to our nation today.

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Hon. Speaker, Sir, J.M. Kariuki's advocacy for the common Mwananchi shook the very foundations of power. He was a man who spoke truth to authority, unafraid to expose the widening gap between the wealthy elite and the struggling masses. His famous words, "Kenya is a country of 10 millionaires and 10 million beggars," still ring true even five decades later.

Today, despite Kenya's independence and economic progress, we find ourselves in a situation where a small elite controls the vast majority of wealth, while millions of citizens continue to struggle under the weight of poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

Born in 1929 in Kabati, Nyandarua County, J.M. Kariuki came from humble beginnings. Despite financial hardships, he pursued education, attending King's College Budo in Uganda, an opportunity that broadened his political awareness. Inspired by Jomo Kenyatta's speeches, he became an ardent critic of colonial rule. J.M. Kariuki played an active role in the Mau Mau movement, serving as a liaison officer, organizing logistics for freedom fighters. This commitment led to his arrest in 1953, and he spent seven years in detention camps under the British rule.

Upon his release in 1960, he remained steadfast in his advocacy for justice, land reform and economic equality. After Kenya's independence in 1963, he served as President Jomo Kenyatta's private secretary, before becoming a Member of Parliament for Nyandarua North Constituency. His legacy was defined by his outspoken critique of corruption, economic exploitation and social injustice.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, J.M. Kariuki's courage made him a target. On 2nd March, 1975, he was last seen at Hilton Hotel in Nairobi in the company of state security officials. Days later, his mutilated body was discovered in Ngong Forest, sparking a national outrage. A Parliamentary Committee implicated senior police and Government officers, yet no one has been held accountable, making his assassination one of Kenya's darkest political injustices.

As we commemorate 50 years since his passing, we must ask ourselves, how have we upheld the ideals that he fought for? How have we made Kenya a land where all can thrive, not just survive? Sadly, his warnings remain a reality. While we may no longer speak of 10 million beggars, today 50 million Kenyans still face economic hardship, struggling to afford basic needs, access to health care, and secure decent employment.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, J.M. Kariuki stood for universal and accessible healthcare, yet today, millions of Kenyans are trapped in a failing Social Health Authority system, unable to get medical treatment when they need it most. He spoke against economic oppression, yet today, the cost of living is suffocating Kenyans, with unfulfilled promises of relief and rising unemployment.

This anniversary should not just be another ceremonial remembrance. It must be a moment of reflection and rededication to J.M. Kariuki's vision. We must demand greater accountability from ourselves, fellow leaders, champions of economic policies that uplift the poor, and work towards a Kenya that truly serves all its people, not just the privileged few. We cannot afford to let his sacrifice be in vain.

May his soul continue resting in peace. May we never forget the lessons he left us.

I thank you.

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The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Statement pursuant to Standing Order 53(1).

Sen. Beatrice Ogola, please, proceed.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand the import of the Statement by the Hon. Sen. Methu and the difficulty you would have if you were to accept my request, being that, given who J.M. was, and given that this is 50 years later, and given that J.M. spoke in this House, could you please allow us to say one word to comfort the family and encourage them that J.M. will never die?

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): I will, at the appropriate time, give guidance on that.

Sen. Beatrice Ogola, please, proceed.

POOR LIVING CONDITIONS OF POLICE
OFFICERS AT NDHIWA POLICE STATION

Sen. Ogola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. This is a request for a statement on the poor living conditions of police officers living quarters in Ndhiwa Police Station in Homa Bay County.

I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on National Security, Défence and Foreign Relations regarding the poor living conditions of police officers in Ndhiwa Police Station in Homa Bay County.

In the statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The state of living quarters for police officers at Ndhiwa Police Station in Homa Bay County, including the availability and condition of basic amenities such as water, as well as sanitation facilities.

(2) The framework of the provision of housing and basic amenities to police officers by the Government, including the measures put in place to ensure the facilities are regularly renovated and upgraded.

(3) The plans and timelines for the construction of decent living quarters for police officers at Ndhiwa Police Station, indicating the budgetary requirements for the same.

(4) The actions being taken by the Government to enhance the overall welfare of police officers, particularly with respect to their remuneration and support for their mental and physical well-being.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. John Methu.

Sen. Methu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your indulgence because I have four statements. I would like to read them at a go.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Yes, you may proceed.

INEQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZER BY NCPB

Sen. Methu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a request for a statement on inequitable distribution of fertilizer by the National Cereals and Produce Board.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries regarding the inequitable distribution of fertilizer in the highland regions of Kenya, as reflected in the latest report

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from the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) on fertilizer dispatch as of 11th March, 2025.

The highland regions of Kenya, known for their high agricultural productivity, rely heavily on fertilizer to sustain food security and economic growth. However, a review of the fertilizer distribution data reveals significant disparities, with some counties receiving disproportionately large quantities while others, equally dependent on agriculture, receiving far less.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for instance, Uasin Gishu County received 413,103 bags, accounting for 20.99 per cent of the total fertilizer distribution, whereas counties such as Murang'a received 7,650 bags, Nyeri received 8,760 bags, and Kirinyaga received 280 bags, which is significantly lower allocations despite their agricultural potential.

Nakuru County received 204,764 bags, nearly 10 per cent of the total allocation, while counties like Meru received 12,910 bags and Tharaka-Nithi got 5,940 bags, which are significantly less. Some agricultural counties such as Marsabit and Samburu did not receive any fertilizer allocation, raising questions about regional balance in the distribution.

In the Statement, therefore, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The methodology and criteria used by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Cereals and Produce Board, NCPB, in determining the fertilizer allocations to various counties.

(2) Justification for the significantly lower allocation to certain highland agricultural counties despite their critical role in national food production.

(3) The Government's strategy to ensure fair and equitable distribution of fertilizer subsidies and to prevent the marginalization of key farming regions.

(4) Evidence on whether farmer registration data and actual county level demand were considered in the allocation process, and clarification on any inconsistencies identified.

(5) Corrective measures being implemented to address these disparities and ensure that all farmers have fair access to fertilizers.

I thank you.

DELAYED DISBURSEMENT OF HELB FUNDS

Sen. Methu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Education regarding the continued delay in the disbursement of Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) funds, which has left thousands of university students stranded and unable to meet their basic needs. Despite assurances from the Government that HELB funds would be disbursed by Friday 15th March, 2025, many students are yet to receive their financial aid.

Students require immediate and tangible action, not verbal commitments that do not translate into actual disbursements. The failure to release funds in a timely manner has exposed thousands of young Kenyans to evictions, hunger, mental distress and inability to attend classes due to unpaid fees.

In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

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(1) The concrete measures being taken by the Government to ensure the immediate disbursement of HELB funds, including a clear and accountable timeline for payment.

(2) The total number of students affected by the delay with a county-based breakdown to assess the scale of the crisis, specifying the interventions in place to prevent future delays and guarantee timely and predictable disbursement to all students going forward.

(3) The financial position of HELB, including the amount allocated for the current academic year, to the total disbursement disbursed so far and the outstanding balances.

(4) The Government's plan to enhance HELB allocation and to align with the rising cost of living, ensuring students receive adequate financial support.

(5) The accountability mechanisms in place to prevent the recurrence of such delays, including clarity on whether the National Treasury has released the required funds to HELB.

MISMANAGEMENT OF SACCO FUNDS BY KUSCCO

Sen. Methu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise, pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism regarding the culpability of the management of the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (KUSCCO) following financial losses suffered by Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs) in Kenya.

This matter is of national concern and it has shaken the confidence of many Kenyans in the SACCO sector, which for a long time has been a safe haven for members' hard-earned savings. Therefore, this management must be queried and those responsible must face the full force of the law.

In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The extent of financial loss incurred by SACCOs across the country, and particularly, Tower SACCO and Muki SACCO, both SACCOs in Nyandarua County due to investment linked to KUSCCO.

(2) The culpability of KUSCCO directors and senior management in the mismanagement of SACCO funds, including whether they acted negligently or fraudulently in handling investments.

(3) The specific steps being undertaken to hold KUSCCO directors accountable, including criminal investigation, potential asset seizures, and legal actions to recover lost funds.

(Loud consultations)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Order, hon. Senators. May the Senator for Nyandarua be heard in silence.

RAPID INCREASE OF KENYA'S PUBLIC DEBT

Sen. Methu: Thank you for your protection, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I see my colleagues are excited that I am now very busy. I am no longer a Chairman, so I have a lot of time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget regarding the rapid increase in Kenya's public debt and its implications for the economic stability, financial sustainability and service delivery.

Kenya's total public and publicly guaranteed debt has surged to Kshs11.02 trillion as of January, 2025, accounting for 65.7 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This level of indebtedness exceeds the 55 per cent GDP threshold recommended under the Public Finance Management (PFM) framework. The rapid accumulation of debt is compounded by ballooning debt servicing costs, persistent fiscal deficit and reliance on external borrowing.

Of particular concern is that bilateral debt stands at Kshs1.09 trillion, of which China holds 62.6 per cent. The country now faces the risk of being trapped in a debt cycle that threatens national sovereignty, economic growth and service delivery.

In the Statement, therefore, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The measures being taken by the Government to ensure that Kenya's public debt remains within sustainable levels or safeguarding national development priorities.

(2) The strategies in place to balance borrowing and revenue collection, particularly in light of Kenya's continued dependence on external financing for key infrastructure projects.

(3) The status of physical consolidation measures aimed at reducing wasteful Government expenditure and enhancing domestic revenue mobilisation.

(4) The Government's plan to manage debt servicing obligations, including the steps being taken to renegotiate payment terms with major creditors such as China and multilateral lenders.

(5) The impact of rising public debt on critical Government services, including education, healthcare and infrastructure, and whether there are plans to mitigate the economic burden of debt repayment on citizens.

(6) The accountability mechanisms in place to curb reckless borrowing and ensure that all borrowed funds are utilised transparently, efficiently and in line with national development priorities.

(Loud consultations)

(Interruption of debate on Statements)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Order, hon. Senators. For the convenience of the House, allow me to rearrange today's Order Paper.

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We will come back to the remaining Statements. However, we will now proceed straight to handle Order No.11, all the way to Order No.19. Thereafter, we will resume the normal flow of today's Order Paper.

Clerk, you may proceed.

(Several Senators consulted loudly while standing)

Order hon. Senators, kindly take your seats.

MOTION

NOTING OF REPORTS ON THE 63RD AND 64TH OACPS
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND THE 43RD AND 1ST ACP-EU
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

THAT, the Senate notes the Reports of the-

(i) 63rd Session of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Parliamentary Assembly and the 43rd Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific -European Union (ACP-EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly meetings in held Brussels, Belgium from 19th to 28th June, 2023; and

(ii) 64th Session of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Parliamentary Assembly and the 1st Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific -European Union (ACP-EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly meetings in held in Luanda, Angola from 17th to 21st February, 2024-

Laid on the table of Senate on Wednesday, 6th December, 2023 and Wednesday, 2nd October, 2024 respectively.

(Sen. Kathuri on 19.3.2025)

(Resumption of debate interrupted on 19.3.2025)

(Several Senators stood in their places)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, kindly take your seats. Debate was concluded for Order No.11. What was pending was for the Chair to put the question, which I will proceed to put.

(Question put and agreed to)

Next Order.

MOTIONADOPTION OF REPORT ON THE 2025
BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT

THAT, the Senate, adopts the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget on the 2025 Budget Policy Statement, laid on the Table of the Senate on Wednesday, 12th March, 2025, and pursuant to Section 25 (7) of the Public Finance Management Act and Standing Order 186 (7) of the Senate, approves the 2025 Budget Policy Statement.

(Sen. Ali Roba on 13.3.2025)

(Resumption of debate interrupted on 19.3.2025)

(Division)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Now for Order No.12, this is division. Therefore, ring the Division Bell for one minute.

(The Division Bell was rung)

(Sen. Methu, Sen. Joe Nyutu and Sen. Ogola walked towards the Bar)

Hon. Senators, Sen. Methu and Sen. Ogola, we have a crucial exercise to undertake that touches on our core mandate. I beseech you to stay inside the Chamber instead of exiting. You can do that once we are done with the division.

Serjeant-at-Arms, kindly close the Doors and draw the Bar.

(The Doors were closed and the Bar drawn)

Hon. Senators, please take your seats, so that we can proceed. We will start with Order No.12 which has already been called out.

Clerk, is the system up and running?

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted with the Speaker)

(Question put)

Voting is going to be done electronically. At this juncture, hon. Senators, just log out. Serjeant-at-Arms, kindly remove unattended cards.

Serjeant-at-Arms, once you are done, let me know. Are you done? Okay. Hon. Senators, kindly log in and proceed to vote either “Yes”, “No”, or “Abstain”.

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(Electronic voting in progress)

We will proceed and once we are done with all these Orders and voting on the same, we will call upon hon. Senators who would have encountered any technical problem to manually cast their vote.

Clerk, tell me when we are ready to move to the next Order.

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted with the Speaker)

Okay, prepare the system. We are now moving to Order No.13. Since it had already been called out, I will proceed to put the question.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON THE 2025 MEDIUM-TERM DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

THAT, the Senate adopts the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget on the 2025 Medium Term Debt Management Strategy, laid on the Table of the Senate on Wednesday, 12th March, 2025.

(Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale on 18.3.2025)

(Resumption of debate interrupted on 19.3.2025)

(Question put)

Hon. Senators, you may proceed to vote either “Yes”, “No”, or “Abstain”. Proceed to vote.

(Electronic voting in progress)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, we move to Order No.15. Since it has already been called, I will proceed to put the question.

BILL

Second Reading

THE ENVIRONMENT LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL (SENATE BILLS NO.23 OF 2024)

(Sen. Abdul Haji on 12.2. 2025)

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(Resumption of debate interrupted on 13.2.2025)

(Question put)

You may proceed to vote.

(Electronic voting in progress)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Clerk, is the system ready?

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted the Speaker)

We move to Order No.16. Hon. Senators, I will proceed to put the question on Order No.16.

BILL

Second Reading

THE COUNTY CIVIC EDUCATION BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.4 OF 2024)

(Sen. Okenyuri on 12.2.2025)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 13.2.2025)

(Question put)

You may proceed to vote.

(Electronic voting in progress)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): I will proceed to put the question on Order No.17.

BILL

Second Reading

THE HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS BILL (SENATE
BILLS NO.8 OF 2023)

(Sen. Murgor on 11.3.2025)

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(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 11.3.2025)

(Question put)

You may proceed to vote.

(Electronic voting in progress)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, we now move to Order No.18.

BILL

Second Reading

THE COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.40 OF 2024)

(Sen. Korir on 12.3.2025 – Afternoon Sitting)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 12.3.2025 – Afternoon Sitting)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): I will now put the question.

(Question put)

You may proceed to vote.

(Electronic voting in progress)

Clerk, are we ready with the next Order? Is the system ready?

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted with the Speaker)

Sen. Olekina: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): You cannot rise on a point of order.

Sen. Olekina: I can.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): No, the Standing Orders are very clear on points of orders. What do you want to say, Sen. Ledama? You seem to be struggling.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether you are allowing me now. However, you have allowed me.

I rise under Standing Order No.66 to request that the next Order be deferred until another time.

(Applause)

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The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Are you requesting that putting of the question be deferred until the next sitting?

Sen. Olekina: Yes, putting of the question be deferred until the next sitting.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): It is so granted. Putting of the question on Order No.19 is hereby deferred to a later date.

(Applause)

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.12 OF 2023)

THAT, the Senate adopts the Report of the Mediation Committee on the Conflict of Interest Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 12 of 2023), laid on the table of the Senate on Thursday, 5th December, 2024 and further that pursuant to Article 113 (2) of the Constitution and Standing Order 167 (3) of the Senate, approves the mediated version of the Bill.

(Putting of Question on the Motion deferred)

(Vote tallying in progress)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, we have the results of the Divisions.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON THE 2025 BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT

DIVISION

ELECTRONIC VOTING

(Question, that the Senate adopts the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget on the 2025 Budget Policy Statement, laid on the Table of the Senate on Wednesday, 12th, 2025, and pursuant to Section 25(7) of the Public Finance Management Act and Standing Order 186(7) of the Senate, approves the 2025 Budget Policy Statement)

AYES: Sen. Abass, Wajir County; Sen. Chesang, Trans Nzoia County; Sen. Chute, Marsabit County; Sen. Dullo, Isiolo County; Sen. Faki, Mombasa County; Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, Tharaka Nithi County; Sen. Githuku, Lamu County; Sen. Kathuri, Meru

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County; Sen. Kavindu Muthama, Machakos County; Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale, Kakamega County; Sen. Kisang, Elgeyo Marakwet County; Sen. Korir, Bomet County; Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Samburu County; Sen. Lomenen, Turkana County; Sen. Madzayo, Kilifi County; Sen. Mariam Omar, Mandera County; Sen. Munyi Mundigi, Embu County; Sen. Murgor, West Pokot County; Sen. Mwaruma, Taita Taveta County; Sen. Ogola, Homa Bay County; Sen. Oketch Gicheru, Migori County; Sen. Okiya Omtatah, Busia County; Sen. Olekina, Narok County; Sen. Osotsi, Vihiga; Sen. Seki, Kajiado County; Sen. Sifuna, Nairobi City County; Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo SC, Kisumu County; and, Sen. Wamatinga, Nyeri County;

NOES: Nil

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, the results of the Division are as follows-

AYES: 28

NOES: Nil

ABSTENTIONS: Nil

The "Ayes" have it.

(Question carried by 28 votes to 0)

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON THE 2025 MEDIUM-TERM
DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DIVISION

ELECTRONIC VOTING

(Question, that the Senate adopts the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget on the 2025 Medium Term Debt Management Strategy, laid on the Table of the Senate on Wednesday, 12th March, 2025.)

AYES: Sen. Abass, Wajir County; Sen. Chesang, Trans Nzoia County; Sen. Chute, Marsabit County; Sen. Dullo, Isiolo County; Sen. Faki, Mombasa County; Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, Tharaka Nithi County; Sen. Githuku, Lamu County; Sen. Kathuri, Meru County; Sen. Kavindu Muthama, Machakos County; Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale, Kakamega County; Sen. Kisang, Elgeyo Marakwet County; Sen. Korir, Bomet County; Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Samburu County; Sen. Lomenen, Turkana County; Sen. Madzayo, Kilifi County; Sen. Mariam Omar, Mandera County; Sen. Munyi Mundigi, Embu County; Sen. Murgor, West Pokot County; Sen. Mwaruma, Taita Taveta County; Sen. Ogola, Homa Bay County; Sen. Oketch Gicheru, Migori County; Sen. Olekina, Narok County; Sen. Osotsi, Vihiga; Sen. Sifuna, Nairobi City County; Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo SC, Kisumu County; and, Sen. Wamatinga, Nyeri County;

NOES: Sen. Okiya Omtatah, Busia County;

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The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, the results of the Division are as follows-

AYES: 26

NOES: 1

ABSTENTIONS: Nil

The “Ayes” have it.

(Question carried by 26 votes to 1)

BILL

Second Reading

THE PUBLIC FUNDRAISING APPEALS BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO. 36 OF 2024)

DIVISION

ELECTRONIC VOTING

(Question, that The Public Fundraising Appeals Bill (Senate Bills No.36 of 2024) be now read a Second Time)

AYES: Sen. Chesang, Trans Nzoia County; Sen. Chute, Marsabit County; Sen. Dullo, Isiolo County; Sen. Faki, Mombasa County; Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, Tharaka Nithi County; Sen. Githuku, Lamu County; Sen. Kathuri, Meru County; Sen. Kavindu Muthama, Machakos County; Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale, Kakamega County; Sen. Kisang, Elgeyo Marakwet County; Sen. Korir, Bomet County; Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Samburu County; Sen. Lomenen, Turkana County; Sen. Madzayo, Kilifi County; Sen. Mariam Omar, Mandera County; Sen. Munyi Mundigi, Embu County; Sen. Murgor, West Pokot County; Sen. Mwaruma, Taita Taveta County; Sen. Ogola, Homa Bay County; Sen. Oketch Gicheru, Migori County; Sen. Olekina, Narok County; Sen. Osotsi, Vihiga; Sen. Sifuna, Nairobi City County; Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo SC, Kisumu County; and, Sen. Wamatinga, Nyeri County;

NOES: Sen. Abass, Wajir County and Sen. Okiya Omtatah, Busia County.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, the results of the Division are as follows-

AYES: 25

NOES: 2

ABSTENTIONS: Nil

The “Ayes” have it.

(Question carried by 25 votes to 2)

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(The Bill was read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole tomorrow)

BILL

Second Reading

THE ENVIRONMENT LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO. 23 OF 2024)

DIVISION

ELECTRONIC VOTING

(Question, that the Environment Laws (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 23 of 2024) be now read a Second Time)

AYES: Sen. Abass, Wajir County; Sen. Chesang, Trans Nzoia County; Sen. Chute, Marsabit County; Sen. Dullo, Isiolo County; Sen. Faki, Mombasa County; Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, Tharaka Nithi County; Sen. Githuku, Lamu County; Sen. Kathuri, Meru County; Sen. Kavindu Muthama, Machakos County; Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale, Kakamega County; Sen. Kisang, Elgeyo Marakwet County; Sen. Korir, Bomet County; Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Samburu County; Sen. Lomenen, Turkana County; Sen. Madzayo, Kilifi County; Sen. Mariam Omar, Mandera County; Sen. Munyi Mundigi, Embu County; Sen. Murgor, West Pokot County; Sen. Mwaruma, Taita Taveta County; Sen. Ogola, Homa Bay County; Sen. Oketch Gicheru, Migori County; Sen. Okiya Omtatah, Busia County; Sen. Olekina, Narok County; Sen. Osotsi, Vihiga; Sen. Sifuna, Nairobi City County; Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo SC, Kisumu County; and, Sen. Wamatinga, Nyeri County;

NOES: Nil

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, the results of the Division are as follows-

AYES: 27

NOES: Nil

ABSTENTIONS: Nil

The "Ayes" have it.

(Question carried by 27 votes to Nil)

(The Bill was read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole tomorrow)

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BILL*Second Reading*THE COUNTY CIVIC EDUCATION BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO. 4 OF 2024)**DIVISION**

ELECTRONIC VOTING

*(Question, that the County Civic Bill (Senate Bills No.4 of2024)
be now read a Second Time)*

AYES: Sen. Abass, Wajir County; Sen. Chesang, Trans Nzoia County; Sen. Chute, Marsabit County; Sen. Dullo, Isiolo County; Sen. Faki, Mombasa County; Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, Tharaka Nithi County; Sen. Githuku, Lamu County; Sen. Kathuri, Meru County; Sen. Kavindu Muthama, Machakos County; Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale, Kakamega County; Sen. Kisang, Elgeyo Marakwet County; Sen. Korir, Bomet County; Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Samburu County; Sen. Lomenen, Turkana County; Sen. Madzayo, Kilifi County; Sen. Mariam Omar, Mandera County; Sen. Munyi Mundigi, Embu County; Sen. Murgor, West Pokot County; Sen. Mwaruma, Taita Taveta County; Sen. Ogola, Homa Bay County; Sen. Oketch Gicheru, Migori County; Sen. Okiya Omtatah, Busia County; Sen. Olekina, Narok County; Sen. Osotsi, Vihiga; Sen. Sifuna, Nairobi City County; Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo SC, Kisumu County; and, Sen. Wamatinga, Nyeri County;

NOES: Nil

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, the results of the Division are as follows-

AYES: 27

NOES: Nil

ABSTENTIONS: Nil

The “Ayes” have it.

(Question carried by 27 votes to Nil)

*(The Bill was read a Second Time and committed
to a Committee Tomorrow)*

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BILL*Second Reading*THE HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO. 8 OF 2023)**DIVISION**

ELECTRONIC VOTING

(Question, that the Heritage and Museums Bill (Senate Bills No.8 of 2023) be now read a Second Time)

AYES: Sen. Abass, Wajir County; Sen. Chesang, Trans Nzoia County; Sen. Chute, Marsabit County; Sen. Dullo, Isiolo County; Sen. Faki, Mombasa County; Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, Tharaka Nithi County; Sen. Githuku, Lamu County; Sen. Kathuri, Meru County; Sen. Kavindu Muthama, Machakos County; Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale, Kakamega County; Sen. Kisang, Elgeyo Marakwet County; Sen. Korir, Bomet County; Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Samburu County; Sen. Lomenen, Turkana County; Sen. Madzayo, Kilifi County; Sen. Mariam Omar, Mandera County; Sen. Munyi Mundigi, Embu County; Sen. Murgor, West Pokot County; Sen. Mwaruma, Taita Taveta County; Sen. Ogola, Homa Bay County; Sen. Oketch Gicheru, Migori County; Sen. Okiya Omtatah, Busia County; Sen. Olekina, Narok County; Sen. Osotsi, Vihiga; Sen. Sifuna, Nairobi City County; Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo SC, Kisumu County; and, Sen. Wamatinga, Nyeri County;

NOES: Nil

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, the results of the Division are as follows-

AYES: 27

NOES: Nil

ABSTENTIONS: Nil

The "Ayes" have it.

(Question carried by 27 votes to Nil)

(The Bill was read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole tomorrow)

BILL*Second Reading*THE COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.40 OF 2024)**DIVISION**

ELECTRONIC VOTING

(Question, that the County Library Services Bill (Senate Bills No. 40 of 2024 be now read a Second Time)

AYES: Sen. Abass, Wajir County; Sen. Chesang, Trans Nzoia County; Sen. Chute, Marsabit County; Sen. Dullo, Isiolo County; Sen. Faki, Mombasa County; Sen. Gataya Mo Fire, Tharaka Nithi County; Sen. Githuku, Lamu County; Sen. Kathuri, Meru County; Sen. Kavindu Muthama, Machakos County; Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale, Kakamega County; Sen. Kisang, Elgeyo Marakwet County; Sen. Korir, Bomet County; Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Samburu County; Sen. Lomenen, Turkana County; Sen. Madzayo, Kilifi County; Sen. Mariam Omar, Mandera County; Sen. Munyi Mundigi, Embu County; Sen. Murgor, West Pokot County; Sen. Mwaruma, Taita Taveta County; Sen. Ogola, Homa Bay County; Sen. Oketch Gicheru, Migori County; Sen. Okiya Omtatah, Busia County; Sen. Olekina, Narok County; Sen. Osotsi, Vihiga; Sen. Sifuna, Nairobi City County; Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo SC, Kisumu County; and, Sen. Wamatinga, Nyeri County;

NOES: Nil

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, the results of the Division are as follows -

AYES: 27

NOES: Nil

ABSTENTIONS: Nil

The "Ayes" have it.

(Question carried by 27 votes to Nil)

(The Bill was read a Second Time and committed to a Committee of the Whole tomorrow)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Serjeant-at-Arms, you may now draw the Bar and open the Doors.

(The Bars were drawn and Doors opened)

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Hon. Senators, we will resume the natural flow of today's Order Paper. That means, we will go back to Statements pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1).

Sen. Faki, please proceed.

(Resumption of Debate on Statements)

STATEMENTS

OPERATIONS OF BANDARI MARITIME ACADEMY IN MOMBASA COUNTY

Sen. Faki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, Sir. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1), to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Education regarding the operations of Bandari Maritime Academy in Mombasa County.

The Bandari Maritime Academy in Mombasa County is a regional center of excellence for maritime skills development in the blue economy. However, in recent times, the institution has faced several challenges, including delayed salary payments for the lecturers, irregular fee payment structures and the absence of a clear framework for placing students in industrial attachment.

These challenges, if not resolved, impact the Academy's operations and daily status as a learning institution.

In the statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The delay in the timely payment of lecturers' salaries, which has led to demotivation and reduced efficiency in carrying out their duties.

(2) The college's failure to provide maritime students with the essential sea practical training.

(3) The need to standardize tuition fees in line with other institutions, offering similar courses, and ensure regularized payment of fees to alleviate the financial burden on students and their parents.

(4) The criteria the college should adopt to facilitate placement of students in relevant industries for the industrial attachment.

Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Hamida Kibwana, please proceed.

Sen. Kibwana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

I have two Statements.

NON-COMPLIANCE BY COUNTY GOVERNMENTS WITH SRC DIRECTIVES

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget regarding non-compliance by county governments with the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, SRC, directives on Budgetary Caps for Rent Expenditure for Top Officials.

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In May, 2019, the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), issued a circular directing all county governments to cease paying rent for governors, deputy governors and county assembly speakers. Additionally, the SRC mandated that these counties ensure the construction of official residences of these officials by 30th June, 2022. Failure to adhere to this policy has resulted in significant financial losses as some counties continue to spend millions of shillings monthly on rent.

In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) County governments that have disregarded the SRC directives on capping rent expenditures for top officials, specifying the amount of public funds spent beyond the establishment limits.

(2) Counties that have failed to comply with the SRC directive issued in March, 2019, which required the completion of official residences of governors, deputy governors and county assembly speakers by 30th June, 2022.

(3) Funds allocated for the construction of this official residences, highlighting counties where such projects have stalled or have not commenced despite budgetary provisions.

(4) Policy and legal measures being implemented by the National Treasury, the Controller of Budget (CoB) and the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) to strengthen enforcement mechanisms and ensure compliance with SRC guidelines to prevent further misuse of public funds.

(5) Disciplinary measures taken against county officials who have ignored SRC directives and authorized excessive rent expenditures, contrary to established guidelines.

I thank you.

IMPACT OF KENYA INFORMATION SYSTEM SHUTDOWN ON HEALTH DATA MANAGEMENT

Sen. Kibwana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second one is on the shutdown of the Kenya Health Information System (KHIS) and the impact on health data management.

I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Health regarding the shutdown of Kenya Health Information System, formerly known as the District Health Information System (DHIS), and its implications to health data management in Kenya.

The Kenya Health Information served as a central nationwide health reporting database, playing a crucial role in collecting, analyzing and disseminating health data to inform decision-making in the healthcare sector.

The system was hosted by the Health IT Department of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which provided both technical and financial support. Its recent shutdown raises significant concerns about the continuity of health data tracking, disease surveillance, and healthcare resource planning.

In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) Whether the Minister of Health had an exit strategy or a handover process to ensure the continuity of health data management following USAID's exit from Kenya.

(2) The Government's plan to restore or replace KHIS, including measures to ensure the long-term sustainable and national ownership of health data management systems, along with the associated costs.

(3) The impact of the shutdown on healthcare service delivery, disease surveillance and policy planning, particularly in tracking outbreaks and managing national health programmes, and how these crucial services will be managed, given the time-sensitive nature of disease surveillance.

(4) Whether any sensitive Kenyan health data has been lost, compromised or accessed by unauthorized parties following the KHIS shutdown.

(5) Kenya's engagement with other partners in the development and maintenance of the KHIS, and what measures are in place to safeguard the nation's health data sovereignty in the future.

I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Richard Onyonka had three Statements. Any Senator holding brief for Hon. Onyonka? May I have your written authorization, Sen. Omtatah?

I have allowed hon. Senators to transact businesses that are not theirs, only later for the hon. Senator whom you are holding brief for walks to my office complaining. That is why I made that Communication the other day, that for you to transact any business for and on behalf of a colleague, at least let us have a written authorization. Even a text, I will go with it.

I do not want Sen. Onyonka to storm my office and distance himself from your good gesture, Sen. Omtatah. Then we will drop those three Statements.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE MATHEMATICS AS A
COMPULSORY SUBJECT IN SENIOR SCHOOL

URGENT APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY AND REPARTIATION
OF MS. MARGARET NDUTA MACHARIA FROM VIETNAM

GOVERNANCE CONCERNS AND LEADERSHIP
TRANSITION AT KLB

(Statements Dropped)

Sen. Sifuna, proceed.

NON-SETTLEMENT OF INSURANCE POLICY MATURITY CLAIMS
BY CORPORATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Sen. Sifuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget, regarding the non-settlement of insurance policy maturity claims by the Corporate Insurance Company Limited.

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In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The total value of outstanding insurance policy maturity claims at Corporate Insurance Company Limited, including the duration for which these claims have remained unpaid and the number of affected policyholders.

(2) The causes of the delay in settlement of the claims and the timelines for resolving the issues.

(3) The current financial position of Corporate Insurance Company Limited, including whether the company is stable enough to guarantee the security of existing insurance policies.

DELAYED REMITTANCE OF SCHOOL CAPITATION
BY THE NATIONAL TREASURY

Sen. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to take the second Statement.

I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Education regarding the delay and failure to remit capitation funds to public schools currently amounting to Kshs64 billion in arrears.

In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The reasons why the National Treasury has failed to release capitation funds despite the urgent cash flow challenges facing public schools across the country.

(2) The long-term strategies in place to prevent delays in the disbursement of capitation and ensure continuous funding for school operations, infrastructure and payment of suppliers.

(3) The safeguards being implemented to protect school principals and management from potential legal and financial liabilities due to unpaid suppliers and increasing pressure from other stakeholders.

I thank you. I have taken both Statements.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Now, we move to Sen. James Lomenen.

STATUS OF RETRIEVAL OF BODIES OF KENYAN
FISHERMEN KILLED IN TODONYANG

Sen. Lomenen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

I rise personally to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations regarding the status of retrieval of bodies of Kenyan fishermen that were killed by suspected militiamen from Ethiopia in Todonyang area along the Kenya-Ethiopia border on 22nd February, 2025.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during a visit to the area on 24th February, 2025, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration made several commitments, including-

(a) Formation of a specialized security and rescue team to retrieve the bodies of the victims and to provide medical assistance to survivors; and,

(b) Deployment of two modern boats to boost the search and rescue efforts;

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In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

- (1) The status of fulfilment of the commitments by the Cabinet Secretary.
- (2) The progress made in the retrieval of the bodies of the victims of the attack by suspected militiamen from Ethiopia.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Omtatah, you may now proceed to read the three Statements by Senator Richard Onyonka. I have seen the text authorizing you to do so.

GHOST WORKERS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Sen. Okiya Omtatah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare, regarding ghost workers in the public service.

In the statement, I request that the Committee addresses the following-

(1) Whether there are any audits or investigations by the Public Service Commission (PSC) and County Public Service Boards (CPSBs) to eliminate ghost workers from the national and county government payrolls and if so, provide the full findings.

(2) The financial impact of ghost workers on national and county government expenditures disaggregated by the national government and each respective county government since the operationalisation of devolved governments in 2013.

(3) The short-term, medium-term and long-term measures that the national Government and respective county governments have taken to identify and eliminate ghost workers from their payroll systems, outlining the strategies implemented to recover any misappropriated funds.

(4) Any disciplinary or legal actions taken against officials at the national and county government levels who have been found culpable of facilitating or failing to prevent the existence of ghost workers.

This is a Statement by Sena. Mumma, not by Sen. Onyonka. Sen. Mumma had also asked me to read hers.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): I do not have the authorisation. If you give me the authorisation for Sen. Mumma, I will look at it and make a determination. Yes, you may proceed.

Sen. Okiya Omtatah: So, that is a Statement by Sen. Catherine Mumma, MP, nominated Senator, dated 19th March, 2025.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Onyonka had three statements. Sen. Omtatah, you may proceed to read Sen. Onyonka's Statements. I have seen the text.

AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN COUNTIES

Sen. Okiya Omtatah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Sen. Catherine Mumma, I rise, pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1), to seek a Statement from the Standing

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Committee on Health regarding the availability, accessibility and affordability of rehabilitation services across counties to address substance and alcohol abuse.

In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The status of deliberations by the Intergovernmental Sectoral Committee on Health, comprising the Council of Governors, Committee on Health and the Ministry of Health on facilitating access to rehabilitation services for Kenyan youth struggling with substance and alcohol abuse and the strategies being adopted by the national and county levels, at the national and county levels to address this crisis.

(2) The number of registered rehabilitation centres per county distinguishing between public and private facilities, their bed capacities and whether they have sufficient personnel, including medical professionals, caregivers, and counsellors, to cater to the rising demand for rehabilitation services.

(3) The frequency of inspections - that is three - conducted by a national authority for the campaign against drug abuse, the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), and other oversight bodies to ensure that rehabilitation centres comply with operational standards and quality care requirements.

(4) The measures in place to ensure that rehabilitation services remain affordable and accessible, particularly for vulnerable groups, minors, and low-income individuals.

(5) The preventive strategies established to curb alcohol and drug abuse and whether there is a coordinated approach among key stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector actors, and community organisations.

(6) The key challenges facing the establishment and operation of rehabilitation centres and interventions in place to address these challenges.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE MATHEMATICS AS A COMPULSORY SUBJECT IN SENIOR SCHOOL

Sen. Okiya Omtatah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Education regarding the decision by the Ministry of Education to remove Mathematics as a compulsory subject for senior school pupils under the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

This decision has sparked widespread debate and raised serious concerns about its potential impact on educational quality, career readiness, and national development. Mathematics is not just a subject. It is a fundamental skill essential for daily life, from finance and business to engineering, construction and analytical problem-solving. Removing it as a core subject risks producing a generation that is ill-equipped to compete in a technology-driven global economy.

This move threatens to reverse Kenya's progress in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), education, which is crucial for industrialisation, innovation, and economic growth.

Mathematics plays a pivotal role in fostering critical thinking, innovation and informed decision-making. If implemented, this policy change would have far-reaching consequences for learners and the country's future workforce.

In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

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(1) The rationale behind the decision to remove Mathematics as a compulsory subject and its projected impact on students' competencies and career prospects.

(2) How this decision aligns with Kenya's Vision, 2030 and other national development goals that prioritise STEM, education and industrialisation.

(3) Whether adequate consultations were conducted with the key stakeholders, including parents, teachers, education experts and employers, before implementing this policy change.

(4) Measures to be implemented to ensure Kenyan learners remain globally competitive, particularly in STEM-related fields.

This Statement has been signed by Senator Richard Onyonka, MP, Senator for Kisii County, dated, 18th March, 2025.

URGENT APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY AND REPATRIATION
OF MS. MARGARET NDUTA MACHARIA FROM VIETNAM

Sen. Okiya Omtatah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations regarding the fate of Ms. Margaret Nduta Macharia, a Kenyan citizen who has been sentenced to death in Vietnam over a drug-trafficking offence.

In the Statement, I request the Committee to address the following-

(1) The measures being taken by the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to ensure that Ms. Macharia receives fair legal representation abroad and to explore the possibility of her repatriation to Kenya to face trial under our judicial system.

(2) Efforts being made to plead for clemency and on humanitarian grounds to have Ms. Macharia's death sentence commuted to life imprisonment or an alternative penalty and whether diplomatic negotiations are underway to facilitate her repatriation to Kenya, so that she may serve her sentence within our justice system.

(3) Number of Kenyan citizens currently incarcerated abroad, specifically the nature of the charges they face and detail the diplomatic efforts being undertaken to safeguard their rights and welfare.

(4) Security lapses at Kenyan airports, particularly the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), regarding the trafficking of prohibited substances from 2022 to date and outline the measures being implemented to strengthen airport security checks to prevent future occurrences.

The Statement is signed by Senator Richard Onyonka, MP, Senator for Kisii County, dated 19th March 2025.

GOVERNANCE CONCERNS AND LEADERSHIP
TRANSITION AT KENYA LITERATURE BUREAU

Sen. Okiya Omtatah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Education regarding the governance concerns and leadership transitions at the Kenyan Literature Bureau (KLB).

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In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The procurement processes for the award by the KLB of all currently active contracts for publishing and supply of various books, including the merits of each award as well as the nature and extent of involvement of the Ministry of Education in the processes.

(2) The process followed by the Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) to acquire printing and binding machines in the Financial Year 2024/2025, including whether due diligence was undertaken and where it was not, whether disciplinary actions have been undertaken against the responsible officials.

(3) The renewal of contracts for officers holding managerial positions at the KLB, including whether due process was followed.

(4) Reasons why the renewal of contracts for the officers was not gazetted and the corrective actions taken to address the issue.

(5) Whether the human resource practices at the KLB during appointments, promotion and salary reviews adhere to principles of equity and fairness.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, SC!

(Sen. Orwoba stood at the Bar)

(Interruption of debate on Statements)

Before, you take to the Floor, Professor, we have Sen. Gloria Orwoba at the Bar. Now, Sen. Gloria Orwoba, when you last appeared and sat at the Bar, you were unable to fulfil conditions for you to be readmitted to the Chamber. Those conditions were pursuant to a resolution of this House.

You are back today. You may proceed.

Thank you.

POINT OF ORDER

ADMISSION OF SEN. GLORIA ORWOBA, MP
BACK TO THE SENATE

Sen. Orwoba: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Indeed, I was unable to fulfil the conditions. However, after being guided by the Senate Majority Leader and seeking counsel within and outside the House, I am going to read the apology without any omission. I am going to fulfil it because that is a procedure of the House. However, allow me to issue the disclaimer as advised-

“I, Senator Gloria Orwoba, on this day, 20th March, 2025, I will tender the prescribed apology herein as a requirement and a fulfilment of the Senate resolution with a disclaimer that these are not my words and in no way does it infer a confession or any admission whatsoever of liability on my part. It shall not

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prejudice my case in court where I have been sued by Jeremiah Nyegenye, the Clerk of the Senate.”

I proceed to read the prescribed apology.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, Sen. Gloria Orwoba, hereby tender my unreserved apology to this Senate, honourable Senators, Clerk of the Senate and the Secretariat of Parliament for having acted in a manner which pursuant to Section 16(e) and Paragraph 7 and 8 of the Fourth Schedule to the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act, 2017 constituted a breach of Parliamentary privilege that reflected adversely on the dignity and integrity of Parliament and its Members and was contrary to the best interests of Parliament and its Members.

I undertake that I shall abide by the responsibilities of leadership as set out in the Constitution, the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012 and the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act, 2017.

I therefore beseech to be admitted to the Chamber.

I thank you and submit.

*(The Speaker (Hon. Kingi) consulted with
the Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot)*

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Gloria, you are hereby admitted back to the Chamber.

(Sen. Gloria Orwoba walked into the Chamber)

Sen. (Prof) Ojienda, you may proceed to read your Statement.

(Resumption of debate on Statements)

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have several Statements. I will quickly start with the first one. The first statement is on the state of media freedom and working conditions of journalists in Kisumu County.

STATE OF MEDIA FREEDOM AND WORKING CONDITIONS
FOR JOURNALISTS IN KISUMU COUNTY

I rise, pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology regarding the state of media freedom and working conditions of journalists in Kisumu County, following the resignation of nearly half of the staffers at KALA-TV, a leading vernacular TV station based in Kisumu County, due to delayed salaries and poor working conditions.

In the Statement, the Committee should-

(1) Provide details on the challenges faced by journalists in Kisumu County, including delayed salaries, poor working conditions, job insecurity and any instances of intimidation or violations of press freedom.

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(2) Clarify whether the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) and other relevant regulatory bodies have taken any steps to address the grievances of journalists at KALA-TV and other media houses facing similar difficulties.

(3) Indicate whether any investigations or interventions by labour rights organisations and media regulatory bodies are currently underway regarding the working conditions of journalists in Kisumu County.

(4) Explain the measures in place to ensure the sustainable funding operations and stability of local media houses, especially in light of economic challenges affecting the industry.

(5) Provide details of any planned policy interventions or legislative measures aimed at safeguarding rights and welfare of journalists in Kenya, particularly in Kisumu County.

DISCONTINUATION OF HELB TO KENYA SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENTS

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second Statement is on the discontinuation of the Higher Education Loans Board Student Loan Facility or (HELB) to students of the Kenya School of Law.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53 (1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Education regarding the discontinuation of the HELB loan facility to students of the Kenya's School of Law (KSL).

In the Statement, the Committee should-

(1) Provide reasons for the discontinuation of HELB loan facility to students of KSL, stating whether any consultations were undertaken with key stakeholders that informed the decision.

(2) Set out the steps taken to reinstate the student loan facility to ensure continued support to many qualified, but financially disadvantaged students currently undertaking or seeking admission to the Advocates Training Programme (ATP) at KSL.

(3) Provide the possibility of introducing alternative funding mechanisms, including the establishment of an educated Government-managed student loan facility to cater for postgraduate students and others doing professional courses at ATP.

(4) Address other initiatives by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, the Council of Legal Education (CLE), KSL and HELB to address financial barriers to education, which include the requirement to pay 70 per cent of tuition fees up front and whether KSL could consider adopting a staggered payment fee plan.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE OF POSTA (K)

My third Statement is on the financial sustainability, relevance and future of the Postal Corporation of Kenya (POSTA).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)

regarding the financial sustainability, relevance and future of Postal Corporation of Kenya in the digital era.

POSTA was once a vital communication and logistics hub in Kenya. However, in today's fast-paced digital economy where emails, SMSs and private courier services have replaced traditional mail, serious concerns arise.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hold on, Sen. Ojienda. What is your issue, Senator for Kakamega?

(Interruption of debate on Statements)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ELECTION OF SEN. (DR.) LELEGWE LTUMBESI TO PRESIDE AS TEMPORARY SPEAKER

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping with my calling as the Senate Majority Whip, I wish to appeal to you to allow me to briefly move a small Procedural Motion regarding the issue of the Chair.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Procedural Motion-

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order No.107(1)(c) of the Constitution and Standing Order No.18 of the Senate Standing Orders, the Senate elects Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, MP, to preside over the sitting of the Senate for the remainder of the day, today, Thursday 20th March 2025, in the absence of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Members of the Speaker's Panel.

I request Sen. Korir to second me.

Sen. Korir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. As led by my able leader, Hon. (Dr.) Lelegwe is up to the task. I second.

(Laughter)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, as you are aware, the Chair is human. It is on record that the Deputy Speaker and Sen. Veronica Maina have just been called to a very important State meeting. Sen. Mumma is in New York. Sen. Abdul Haji just left today for *Umra*. Therefore, the presidium has been left to only one person, the Speaker.

Now, the Chair is human. I cannot take a break even for a minute before adjourning this House. If you will, I can adjourn this House for half an hour. You allow me to respond to natural calls of nature or we do not interrupt the flow of today's business by allowing Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe, MP, to preside. He has been on this Chair previously and is extremely familiar with the dealings of the Chair to take over here till the very end.

This being a Procedural Motion, it need not be put to debate. Therefore, I will proceed to put the question.

(Question put and agree to)

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Proceed, Professor.

(Resumption of debate on Statements)

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo, SC: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Posta was once a vital communication logistics hub in Kenya. However, in today's paced digital economy where emails, Short Message Services (SMSs) and private courier services have replaced traditional mail, serious concerns arise as to whether continued Government investment in Posta is a prudent use of public resources.

The Corporation has faced several financial distresses with a debt burden of Kshs9 billion and consistent dependence on Government bailouts. While there have been recent reports of modest profitability, these gains remain marginal compared to the institution's financial obligations and operational inefficiencies.

In the Statement, the Committee should-

(1) Provide an update on Posta's financial position, including its current liabilities, revenue streams and profitability prospects in the light of the Kshs9 billion debt burden, outlining any Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) or alternative funding mechanisms being explored to make Posta self-sustaining and reduce its reliance on taxpayers' money.

(2) Assess whether continued funding of Posta is a prudent economic decision given the evolving technological landscape and emerging market alternatives, and clarify the Government's strategic plan for Posta's future, particularly, in the context of digital transformation and competition from private logistics providers such as DHL, Wells Fargo and G4S.

(3) Explain the status of Posta's modernization efforts, including its potential role in e-commerce, logistics and digital Government services and state whether their plans to restructure, privatize or phase out, considering its declining relevance and continued dependence on public funds.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the third Statement is on the security of funds of members of Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs).

Mr. Speaker, this Statement has been read this afternoon by Mr. John Methu. I will not read it again.

INEFFICIENCIES AND FLIGHT DELAYS BY KENYA AIRWAYS

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo, SC: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to request a Statement from the Standing Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing regarding the operational inefficiency, reliability and governance of Kenya Airways (KQ), with a particular focus on the recurrent and excessive delays affecting the scheduled flights.

The KQ, christened the Pride of Africa, as it then was and being our national flag carrier, bears a profound responsibility to uphold service excellence, operational integrity and efficiency. However, the incessant delays and cancellation of scheduled flights, both

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domestic and international, have disrupted travel plans, undermined confidence in the airline and raised serious concerns regarding its capacity and management.

It is imperative that thorough scrutiny is conducted to establish the root causes and provide a sustainable framework for corrective action.

In this regard, the Committee should-

(1) Provide a detailed breakdown of the number of aircraft owned and leased by KQ, their deployment for domestic and international routes and the extent to which the available fleet meets the demands of air travel.

(2) Disclose the airline's ownership status, including principal shareholders, asset ownership, the terms and duration and financial implications of leasing arrangements for aircraft and related operational equipment.

(3) Provide a comprehensive analysis of the primary causes of delays in scheduled domestic and international flights, with a focus on recent disruptions, while examining KQ's existing partnerships, code-sharing agreements and interdependencies with other carriers, assessing whether these agreements, contribute to service disruptions and outline the immediate and long-term strategies in place to rectify these issues.

(4) Clarify whether KQ has an adequate number of pilots, engineers and essential personnel to efficiently execute its flight schedules and outline any ongoing or planned measures to bridge any human resource gaps.

(5) Outline the airline's protocols on passenger communication, compensation and service recovery when flights are delayed or cancelled and evaluate whether these measures align with international best practices.

(6) Confirm KQ's compliance with the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority, (KCA) regulations and any penalties or corrective directives issued due to operational shortcomings.

ADEQUACY OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS IN KISUMU COUNTY

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo, SC: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1), to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on National Security and Defence, regarding the adequacy of administrative units in Kisumu County and their capacity to effectively serve the growing population.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the establishment of well-structured administrative units is vital for efficient governance, security and equitable resource distribution. As Kisumu County continues to grow, it is imperative to assess whether the existing administrative framework is sufficient to meet the needs of the people.

In the Statement, Mr. Speaker, the Committee should-

(1) State the total number of administrative units in Kisumu County, including sub-counties, divisions, locations, and sub-locations, and indicate whether these units were aligned with the current population distribution and service delivery needs.

(2) Clarify whether the Government has received any requests from local leaders, communities or stakeholders regarding the creation of additional administrative units to enhance governance and public service delivery.

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(3) Explain the criteria used by the Ministry of Interior and National Administration to determine the adequacy of units and whether Kisumu County meets these thresholds, alerting any plans to establish new units in Kisumu County.

(4) Outline measures the Government is putting in place to strengthen the capacity of existing units to effectively address issues of security, development and public service.

KILLING OF KENYAN FISHERMEN IN
TODONYANG BY ETHIOPIAN MILITIA

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53 (1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations regarding the killing of Kenyan fishermen by suspected militiamen from Ethiopia in Todonyang border area along the Kenya-Ethiopia border.

In the Statement, the Committee should-

(1) State the status of the investigation of the incident, providing details on the circumstances leading to the brutal attacks of Kenya fishermen in Ethiopia border.

(2) State measures being taken to ensure justice for the victims, including details of any diplomatic efforts to settle the issue with the Ethiopian Government.

(3) Set out the measures put in place to assist the affected families, including whether the Government is providing psychological assistance and compensation to the families.

(4) Set out the action taken by the Government to enhance security along Kenya-Ethiopian border to prevent recurrence of similar incidences.

I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Kavindu Muthama.

OPERATIONS OF KATELEMBO ATHIANI MUPUTI
FARMING AND RANCHING COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

Sen. Kavindu Muthama: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity.

I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee of Land, Environment and Natural Resources regarding the operations of Katelembo Athiani Muputi Farming and Ranching Cooperative Society in Machakos County.

In the Statement, the Committee should-

(1) Table the original survey map of the area measuring 11,967 hectares occupied by the Katelembo Athiani Muputi Farming and Ranching Cooperative Society in Machakos County, including all the areas designated for public utility.

(2) Provide the original ballot allotment lists of the land, disclosing details of all allottees of the land and their respective plot numbers;

(3) Assess the authenticity of the title deeds and all other documents related to the land, including survey plans, mutation forms and deed plans.

(4) Outline the steps being taken to ascertain the legitimate land owners, including the individuals who have inhabited the Miwongoni Dam area over a prolonged period,

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and to address the claims of forced relocation of the land owners and individuals by land speculators colluding with the officials of the Cooperative Society.

(5) Explain the measures in place to ensure transparency and accountability in the compensation of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in respect of the Miwongoni River Dam project in order to ensure rightful compensation of legitimate land owners and long-term inhabitation of the Miwongoni Dam area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have another Statement.

ACUTE BLOOD SHORTAGE IN THE COUNTRY

I rise per pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee of Health regarding the acute blood shortage in the country.

In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The current state of blood transfusion services in the country, including details of available blood banks and laboratories' reagents.

(2) The reasons behind the persistent blood shortage in the country and the measures currently being taken by the Ministry of Health and the Kenya Blood Transfusion and Transplant Services (KBTTTS) to ensure the consistent availability of blood transfusion services and blood reagents in the country.

(3) The measures and strategies in place to enhance public education and awareness campaigns regarding the reluctance of Kenyans to donate blood and demystify the reasons, myths and beliefs that may lead to this reluctance.

I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Mutinda, proceed.

DELAYED RESPONSE OF COMMERCIAL BANKS' LENDING RATES TO CHANGES IN THE CENTRAL BANK RATES

Sen. Tabitha Mutinda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53 (1) to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee of Finance and Budget regarding the delayed response of commercial banks' lending rates to changes in the Central Bank Rates (CBR).

In the Statement, the Committee should address the following-

(1) The factors contributing to the delayed response of commercial banks' lending rates to changes in the CBR.

(2) The steps being taken by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) to enhance the effectiveness of CBR as a monetary policy tool, ensuring that financial institutions adjust their lending rates in a timely manner without further action or any further delay or intervention from the CBK.

(3) Recommendations on policies and practices that CBK could adopt from the Federal Reserve (FR) in the United States of America (USA), European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of England (BE) to ensure seamless economic adjustments in response to changes in the monetary policy.

I thank you.

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The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Chute.
Those two Statements are dropped.

PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS IN MARSABIT COUNTY

PROGRESS OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME
AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

(Statements dropped)

We will defer the Statements by Sen. Mundigi and Sen. Veronica Maina.

RELOCATION OF EMBU SEWERAGE
TREATMENT PLANT BY EWASCO

FINANCIAL CRISIS AT THE TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY OF KENYA

(Statements deferred)

We now move to Statements pursuant to Standing Order No.57 (1). Senate Majority Leader, proceed.

BUSINESS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING TUESDAY, 1ST APRIL, 2025

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a Statement pursuant to Standing Order No.57(1).

I present the business for the week commencing Tuesday, 1st April, 2025, when we resume from recess.

As Hon. Senators are aware, at the rise of the House today, the Senate will proceed on recess until Tuesday, 1st April, 2025 pursuant to the Senate Calendar. Consequently, the Senate Business Committee (SBC) has not scheduled any business for next week.

The status of legislative business pending before the Senate is as follows-

There are 57 Bills pending conclusion in the Senate, out of which 45 are at the Second Reading stage and 12 at the Committee of the Whole stage. There are 30 Motions pending conclusion. There are 26 Petitions pending conclusion, out of which 18 are due for reporting by the respective standing committees and 532 Statements pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) pending conclusion by the respective standing committees.

Upon the resumption of regular sittings on Tuesday, 1st April, 2025, the SBC will meet to consider the business for the week. The tentative business for that day will include business not concluded from today's Order Paper as well as business indicated in the Notice Paper.

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The tentative business for the Morning Sitting on Wednesday, 2nd April, 2025, will include the schedule of questions to the Cabinet Secretaries as approved by the Senate Business Committee as well as Motions.

The questions include-

Question No.2 to the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs;

Question No.7 to the Cabinet Secretary for Co-operatives and Small, Medium Enterprises Development;

Question No.42 also to the same Cabinet Secretary;

Question No.34 to the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning;

Question No.35 to the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning;

Question Nos.48 and 37 to the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forest.

The tentative business for the Afternoon Sitting on Wednesday, 2nd April, 2025 will include business not concluded from Tuesday's Order Paper and the following-

Bills with a Statutory Instrument (Amendment) Bill; the County Wards Equitable Development (Amendment) Bill; the County Statistics (Amendment) Bill; the County Governments (State Officers' Removal from Office) Procedure Bill; the Creative Economy Support Bill; The Livestock Protection and Sustainability Bill; and the County Government's (Amendment) Bill.

The Bills at the Committee of the Whole include-

The County Public Finance Laws; the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood) Bill; the Land Laws (Amendment) Bill; the Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill; the Establishment of the National Teaching and Referral Hospitals in Kenya; Consolidation of bursary funds for equitable access to education in Kenya.

The projected business for Thursday, 3rd April 2025 will include business not included in the Order Paper for Tuesday, 1st April 2025, Wednesday, 2nd April 2025, and any other business scheduled by the SBC.

In conclusion, as Hon. Senators will note from today's Order Paper, Orders No.9 to 15 are scheduled for Division, with two of them relating to critical business, which, I am glad to report that we have since considered, albeit late and out of time, which is rather unfortunate, but glad nonetheless that we have done so.

Finally, I want to thank you and hereby lay the Statement on the Table of the Senate.

I thank you.

(Sen. Cheruiyot laid the document on the Table)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Now, Hon. Senators, I will allow comments.

Clerk, can you reset our system? I am unable to pick any name from my dashboard.

(The Clerk-at the Table reset the Speaker's screen)

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(Sen. Lemaletian consulted the Speaker)

Okay. Hon. Senators, we will allow comments on the statements that have been requested.

Senator Essy, you may proceed.

Sen. Okenyuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I would wish to know whether you agreed to comment on the general statement that Sen. Methu gave on the 50th Anniversary---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Yes, pursuant to Standing Order No.1, I will allow comments on that particular Statement.

Sen. Okenyuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for that consideration.

I might not be conversant with very many of the events then, but then, as a student of History, I read a lot about the late JM Kariuki and most of the activities that influence our politics currently.

Of notable intent that I would want to mark out is that the late JM Kariuki defended the poorest of the poor in society and on the issue of land that we are currently battling still to date. As we mark 50 years since his demise, I want to send my sympathies to the family and I wish that we still look deeply into issues he fought about then so that we move forward as a country.

I also want to comment on the Statement by Sen. Methu and Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, SC on Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). I am a beneficiary of the HELB Loan. So, once students miss the HELB Loan, it affects them in terms of accommodation, and meals. We have students who come from very poor backgrounds who are relying on these monies to support them. Imagine a situation where students who are not able to get this money, they are not able even to report back to their universities and places of study.

On that note, I would also wish to encourage beneficiaries of the HELB Loans to pay back. Once you have been able to successfully get a job, make it a point of urgency to pay back that money so that other students from very needy areas can benefit from this loan.

Finally, I want to support the Statement by Sen. Sifuna on delayed capitation to schools. Heads of schools are having a very hard time. I do not even know how they are going to prevent strikes. We are not going to expect heads of schools to use their own money to run the school. I want to implore the Government that we prioritize sending capitation to schools, so that heads of schools can pay support staff money, and provide food for the students so that we can keep our students in school.

I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Maanzo.

Sen. Maanzo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to comment. I wish to begin with a Statement by Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda concerning delayed flights of KQ.

Kenyans indeed travelling can get very inconvenienced. This happens when something goes wrong with an aircraft or it fails to take off from another destination and,

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therefore, disrupts the rest of the events of the flight. Also, a flight takes off, develops problems airborne, and comes back.

That happened one time with a flight to New York. People were stranded at the airport, although efforts were made to make them comfortable for many hours. This eventually messed up the whole schedule of the New York flights, which was a big favour from the American Government, so that it could make travel easy. Therefore, there is a need to make sure that the management is assisted by this House to make sure that our destination is reliable and people wish to use our branded aircraft.

The second issue by Sen. Mariam Omar is on the abduction of chiefs. It is very surprising that up to today, chiefs who are security people, and who are usually accompanied by police officers who are armed, and who had gone to plan an event which the President was attending, got abducted. This is a very serious issue. To date, they have not been found either by the armed forces or the police. That means if a chief who is well secured in an area in the north eastern can be abducted, then any Kenyan in Kenya, can easily be abducted and find themselves outside their jurisdiction.

This is a very important Statement. We should do our level best as a House to make sure, first and foremost, these chiefs are found alive and safe, and to make sure that Kenyans are safe in the country. The biggest responsibility goes to the President, the Defense Forces and the Minister in charge of Interior and National Administration. Every effort should have been made by now to make sure they are back. However, abductions are not a new thing in the country. We have battled with quite a number recently.

We had an MCA who was abducted eight months ago and was released recently. The circumstances have not yet been explained. Even our own Sen. Okiya Omtatah had a huge squad at his house, ready to abduct him one of the evenings, but luckily, he had left the place. Therefore, anyone of us can be in trouble.

The final one is the one by Sen. Kavindu Muthama concerning the farmers cooperative SACCO, where land is being stolen right, left, and centre, and even where there is a dam called Mwongo. I had an opportunity to visit with my sister, Sen. Kavindu, and I realized, for those who are about to be compensated, those parcels of land have been interchanged with others.

The Government is about to compensate the residents so that they can have a huge dam. However, scrupulous people have exchanged the plot numbers and want to benefit while the real owners go away without benefit. This House needs to rein in hard on that, so that justice is done to the people.

I thank you and support.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Boni, please, proceed.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to join the Senator of Nyandarua County, the family of Josiah Mwangi Kariuki, his friends and relatives in celebrating the 50th anniversary of his passing on. As I do so, I would like to affirm that we have a unique opportunity as Government to refuse a repeat of what led to the death of JM Kariuki. The best way to do it is to end the culture of abductions and extrajudicial killings because it was in exactly the same manner that Josiah Mwangi Kariuki was picked from Hilton Hotel, went and met his death in Ngong Forest.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House should be a part of the pain the family went through, because we brought shame. It is in this House that the then Vice-President announced that J.M. Kariuki was alive and had gone to Zambia. It is also in this House that the Commission of Inquiry was ordered by the then-President that they expunge the names of the people who had killed JM Kariuki.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, borrowing a leaf from what has happened in the United States of America, in reference to the truth surrounding the killing of John F. Kennedy, has now come out clearly, we have an opportunity now for the truth to come out about these senior officers in Government who killed Josiah Mwangi Kariuki.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is good we guide Sen. Methu to see what we can do so that we push for this truth to come to light. Integrity is everything. I know, not many might know, but a Member of the Cabinet, Henry Pius Masinde Muliro, former Member of Parliament (MP) of Kitale East Constituency, quit his job as a minister because he said he could not sit in a Government that the probe had indicated had a part in the killing of Josiah Mwangi Kariuki.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second comment is on the matter raised by Sen. Onyonka about the position of mathematics in our new education system. I would like to appeal to us, politicians and the rest of the Kenyans that this matter must be left to professionals.

Those of you who are old enough know that in our “O” and “A” level system of education, Mathematics was mandatory for all of us from primary up to the end of “O” level in the fourth year in secondary school. However, when we were specializing at “A” level, there was no need for us to be given further Mathematics, unless you are pursuing a pathway that was scientific. Therefore, I would like to support those people who are thinking that at senior secondary, it might not be necessary to teach people Mathematics. Let Mathematics be taught up to and including junior secondary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my last comment is on the Statement sought by Sen. Onyonka. He has raised the issue of drug trafficking, and in particular, the unfortunate incident of the arrest of Margaret Nduta.

[The Speaker (Hon Kingi) left Chair]

*[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe
Ltumbesi) in the Chair]*

Let us be careful, Kenyans. Following what is going on social media, as we fight for the human rights of this young lady, we run the risk of glorifying drug trafficking. Even as we call for fairness in the handling of the matter of Nduta, we must teach our children that there is no profession to be admired in the dark world of drug trafficking.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, it is a shame that some of the people who end up being arrested in Singapore, Dubai and other international airports, are able to start their journey with those drugs from here at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). It means our system at this airport is rotten and corrupt, and the officers responsible are incompetent. We cannot have a country that is going to be profiled internationally as a country of drug traffickers.

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Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I was seated on that chair, when Prof. George Saitoti was standing here, and he read to this country the top 10 drug traffickers in this country. They are on record. Some of them are in the Government and others are very loud in the opposition. The drug traffickers were named. Some say that it is after George Saitoti had chosen to take them on that, that he lost his life.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Sen. Gloria, please proceed.

Sen. Orwoba: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I would like to comment on Sen. Hamida Kibwana's Statement about the shutdown of the Kenya Health Information System owing to the departure of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) from the country.

It is unfortunate that we are living in difficult times. This is an example to show that as much as we are accepting aid, and saying that it is okay to have donors and all these international organizations supporting us in one way or another, as you are aware, this is a very vital system. The Kenya Health Information System is a system that was holding medical or health data of Kenyans.

It is that same system that is used to even have a foresight or focus on outbreaks and all sorts of sensitive things. Owing to the departure of USAID, you can see now the system has been shut down. The questions that Sen. Hamida Kibwana is asking should actually open our eyes in terms of who are we trusting, our systems or some of our development projects with, even if it is international organizations. One of the questions that is being asked, and that is why I want to highlight this so that Kenyans can understand, is that she is seeking to find out whether the Ministry of Health had an exit strategy or a handover process to ensure the continuity of the health data management.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I have always spoken about resilience plans in terms of our programmes, systems, Information Technology (IT) or otherwise. Right now, we are in a situation where we do not even know if our health data has been accessed by third parties. We are in a situation where we do not have a resilience plan. That can only mean that, God forbid, if we have an outbreak today, we might not even be able to do what is necessary to curb that outbreak and put in measures to ensure that Kenyans are safe.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as we are seeking to find out what is happening with that system now that USAID has left, it is also imperative that our Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy ensures that we are in control of some of these sensitive docket, programmes or projects, as much as we accept the funding.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would like to also add my voice on Sen. Richard Onyonka's Statement in terms of the policy on the decision to remove Mathematics as a compulsory subject.

We all say and joke that we never use algebra in life. We are always saying that some of the mathematics that we learned all the way to high school has never been applicable to our day-to-day life. However, we have to appreciate that as we are moving to CBC, mathematics is an essential part of our lives. For us to even start this session

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here, we always have to count if we have quorum. As much as we are saying that at one point we do not need mathematics, this decision has been hasty and a lot has not been put into real thought in terms of what we are removing. Furthermore, it has never hurt anyone to study mathematics all the way, even to college.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I did not like mathematics, I have never liked it, but once in a while, I start to appreciate why I was in some of those very complicated classes. This is because, sometimes you never get to appreciate the applications of the basis and the themes that we learn in mathematics, until you are out there in the industry, whether in communications, engineering, architecture or whatever. You are then forced in a situation where you have to apply some level of thinking that we acquired during those mathematics classes.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I believe that was a hasty decision. I hope that as we are seeking inquiries on what led to this policy and how we can further make our curriculum efficient, I would like to say that we must appreciate that we do not apply algebra everywhere, but some of the things that we are taught in mathematics are actually applicable in life. It is also a basis of our day-to-day lives in the different forums that we are in.

I thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Senator Beatrice Ogola.

Sen. Ogola: I thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I will start by supporting the first two Statements under Standing Order No.52(1). As we remember J.M. Kariuki on the 50th anniversary of his death, I want it to go on record that I also want to remember, in a special way, one outstanding man we have had in this country, the late Tom Mboya who came from Homa Bay County.

Just like J.M. Kariuki had outstanding deeds in this country, the late Tom Mboya equally had very remarkable things that we can remember. He was a Cabinet Minister for Economic Planning and Development in this country. In my County of Homa Bay, we attribute a lot of great things to Tom Mboya. Part of them are the Homa Bay Referral Hospital, the Homa Bay High School and the stadium that we have today. All these are attributed to the planning that Tom Mboya did while he was the Minister for Economic Planning and Development Ministry.

Along with J.M. Kariuki and Tom Mboya, I want to remember also the doyen of devolution, the late Odhiambo Mbai who equally comes from a sub-county that I have a history with, Homa Bay Town Sub-county. The late Odhiambo Mbai's successes were not limited to the devolution that we now enjoy. This Senate came with a new Constitution and all that is attributed to one scholar called the late Odhiambo Mbai. Along with the personalities we remember in this country, there is the late Minister Robert Ouko. These are the people who did a lot in this country.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as we remember J.M. Kariuki, and the few we have mentioned, there are many others in this Republic, like Tom Mboya, Odhiambo Mbai and Robert Ouko. It is important to note that there is something in a name that all of us must guard. That is why we must all protect our names and build on to these names.

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Very few people can remember who physically Tom Mboya was. A few of us here can remember physically who J.M. Kariuki was and who Odhiambo Mbai was. They do not even know how physically they looked, but we remember those names. That is why we say we must protect our names. That is why we say we can never ever allow people who discredit other people's names, because names are built over years. People take years to build their names, some of it professionally and for some, even their families rely on these names. That is why we call upon everybody to respect each other, to honor each other and to never ever discredit names that people have built over centuries.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I come to the second Statement and which I support, by the nominated Sen. Mariam Omar. The Senator talks about abductions, but on the same note, I want to remind this House of a lie that I heard here some few weeks ago.

One of us came here to say that Raila Amollo Odinga did not mention the issue of abductions until we held prayers, a few days to his going for elections in Addis Ababa. I would like to put this record straight. That statement was made by the Senator for Kiambu, Senator Thang'wa. He said that at no time, did Raila talk about abductions.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I want it to be recorded here, that right in December, 2024, when Governor Gladys Wanga was hosting the finals of the Genowa Cup in the Raila Odinga Stadium in Homa Bay County, Raila Amolo Odinga came out publicly to talk against abductions and in the presence of the President of this country. Therefore, it is a lie to say that Raila Amolo Odinga did not talk about abductions.

As I correct that, I also want to say that we should never encourage issues like abductions. In this country, we should encourage diverse thinking and when people speak out their mind and that is in the Constitution, 2010, they must be heard and abductions should be treated as a criminal offense.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I also support the statement by the Senator for Kisii, Sen. Richard Onyonka, on his statement about the policy decision that was made by the Government to remove mathematics as a compulsory subject. I support the sentiments that have been brought up here over the same by my sister, Sen. Gloria, that mathematics and languages have skills that we refer to as life skills. We all know that we all need mathematical skills, whether you are a hustler or a *boda* rider, we need to sharpen these skills in school.

Therefore, I will not be one person who will support this policy decision. Mathematics and languages form the foundation of the skills upon which people build the professions that they have. I have been a teacher of languages, and I know the basic skills that language builds are listening, speaking and writing, and these are core. Somebody might underrate them, but throughout all our lives and even today, if you are a Member of Parliament, you need those skills. That is why they are referred to as basic skills.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that for mathematics, there must be a re-thinking of the fact that we can remove mathematics as a compulsory subject. For such a decision, there should be public consultation even before that is implemented.

I will go to the Statement by the Senator for Nairobi County. This is a Statement regarding the delayed remittance of school capitation by the National Treasury. A few weeks ago, Sen. Catherine Mumma made a Statement stating that the Union of

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Secondary School Principals was proposing an increase to school fees. However, you know the economic status of our people. In that Statement, two factors were considered; the late disbursement of funds from the National Treasury and a review of school capitation. Success is not instant coffee. There must be an investment in the success that we require in our schools.

Many head teachers and teachers in general take their time in educating our children. As I remember, the Government must contribute a big percentage even as parents also subsidize school payments. We have often seen monies allocated to our school in the budgets of the Ministry of Education. All we are saying is that these monies must be disbursed in time if we want success and our students to learn in time. The schools can only be efficient and effective if some of these funds are disbursed to them in time.

We all know that schools have a calendar. They have a calendar that must be followed, even their term dates. All the activities that happen in school happen because of certain resources that are given to the schools.

Schools use part of this money to pay certain teachers where there are shortages. Some of this funding is also used to build some of the infrastructure in schools. The laboratories where the children learn must be funded. We cannot expect success if the Government does not invest in these schools.

Lastly, I want to support the statement by the Senator of Machakos regarding the acute shortage of blood in the country. Look at the number of accidents reported on our roads every other day. These are unplanned occurrences. The Government must plan well in advance. We should have blood bank centres across the regions in this country. There must be not only adequate blood, but blood that hospitals and members of the public can reach at any time and speed. The need for blood is not only limited to the accident victims that we have. We also have sick people who need blood to be sustained. We have often heard of people who lost their lives because blood was not available. This must be discussed by the Committee when you finally give your direction, and we should never see a situation where there is a lack of blood in this country.

Lastly, I support the Statement by the Senator of Kisumu. This one regards the adequacy of administrative units in Kisumu County and their capacity to serve the growing population effectively. We have often said that we must bring services closer to our people. These administrative units provide structures that bring these services closer to the people. We have talked about decentralization and devolution of services. This must not be limited to Kisumu County.

In the sub-county where I come from, Ndhiwa, our people are crying for more administrative units. Through the effort of leadership and some delegations that met with His Excellency, the President of this country, we divided the Ndhiwa sub-county into two sub-counties. However, if you look at the length and population of that sub-county, we need that sub-county to get further subdivisions, and we propose to have three sub-counties out of the single sub-county that we have in Ndhiwa today.

This is an effort to get services closer to the people. This is why all of us applaud devolution: We wanted services to come from Nairobi and to be devolved up to the county headquarters. Those services must not be limited to the county headquarters. They

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must go down past the sub-county headquarters, up to the wards, and even up to the villages. I support this Statement in the spirit of efficiency, availability and equity of services to our people.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Sen. Orwoba, proceed.

Sen. Orwoba: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I was not here when we were honouring the late Sen. Cheptumo. I was hoping that you could give me two minutes to honour him because I was not in the House.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Proceed, Senator.

Sen. Orwoba: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Having been in this House for a short period and being a first-timer, I know that one of the people who mentored me and gave me advice is Sen. Cheptumo. He used to sit behind me.

When he passed away, it was very sad for me. I wanted to take this opportunity to honour him and let the public and particularly his family know that, indeed, in this Senate, he was a light to some of us who needed legal counsel, counsel from ranking members and someone with experience in the House. Therefore, I wanted to take this time to honour him.

I hope that, as we always ensure that we have public records here, his submissions in the House and the work that he has done will not be forgotten by the people of Baringo and Kenyans at large.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Next order.

BILLS

First Reading

THE PUBLIC AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.4 OF 2024)

*(Order for First Reading read - Read the First Time
and Ordered to be referred to the relevant Senate Committee)*

First Reading

THE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) (No.2) BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.26 OF 2024)

*(Order for First Reading read - Read the First Time and Ordered
to be referred to the relevant Senate Committee)*

*First Reading*THE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS BILL
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILLS NO.2 OF 2025)

(Order for First Reading read - Read the First Time and Ordered to be referred to the relevant Senate Committee)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Next order.

MOTIONADOPTION OF JOINT REPORT OF ON CONSIDERATION OF NADCO
AND THE MULTI-SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON THE
REALIZATION OF THE TWO-THIRDS GENDER PRINCIPLE

THAT, the Senate adopts the Joint Report of the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and the Senate Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights on its consideration of the Report of the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) and the Report of the Multi-Sectoral Working Group on the realization of the Two-thirds Gender Principle, laid on the Table on Thursday, 13th February, 2025.

(Sen. Wakili Sigei on 12.3.2025)

*(Resumption of debate interrupted on
12.3.2025 - Afternoon Sitting)*

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Proceed, Sen. Beatrice Ogola.

Sen. Ogola: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. I especially applaud the leadership of this country, that is the two leading lights; His Excellency the President and the former Prime Minister.

It is not for any reason that I indicate that I am proud of these two gentlemen. This is a discussion that came from the NADCO Report from a group that was constituted by the President and the former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, because of their charisma and patriotism for this country. Yesterday we had a delegation of Homa Bay County leadership, led by our performing Governor, Hon. Gladys Wanga, that met the Head of State. That is a right of any leader in this country.

Something that I must applaud from that visit is that the Head of State was categorical and made a statement that touched my heart. He indicated that Kenya is big enough for all of us. He added that in this country, no community needs to leave for the other to come into leadership. That is why we are saying that everybody must reconsider

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their decision. Let us all be part and parcel of this country. Let us be part and parcel of running this country. Let us be part and parcel of all the initiatives in this country.

It was very critical when the Head of State made that statement. I realised that we do not even need outrageous thinking of shareholding that we have had in this country after elections. There is a notion that there are people who must be in and must own this country in certain percentages. I want to declare that Kenya is for all Kenyans and we must all be part of running of this country.

We want to tell anybody who thinks that they can only be there alone. We want to convince everybody that we do not need some communities to leave the Government for some to get in. We need everybody in this country. Possibly that is the reason this country is still holding up.

After meeting the Head of State, as the leadership of my county, we also met the Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga. In our discussion, the former Prime Minister told us that we all belong to this country, we can all be comfortable in this country, and that we all need each other. He went ahead to say that nobody should be uncomfortable because somebody is part of this Government. After all, we all belong and we all have some space.

Going back to the NADCO Report, I want to state here that I support it. In this country, we must implement the two-thirds gender rule. In our discussion with the President, he was very emphatic. I saw a man who has a vision for this country; a man who wanted to carry everybody in this country; a man who does not want to leave the youth behind; a man who does not want to leave women behind; a man who does not want to leave any quarter behind because he believes that in this country, we are all equal and we all belong to Kenya. The President promised that delegation that one thing he will see to its fruitful end is implementation of the two-thirds gender rule.

Why do we want a country where we have women being over 55 per cent, but we do not want them to have an equal measure of seats in leadership at all levels and structures of decision-making? We are not specific that the gender rule will only affect---

When people talk about the gender rule, they go very fast to point at elective seats. Let us embrace the two-thirds gender rule, whether in appointive or elective positions. Since the Senate guards and protects the interest of the counties, the Senate must ensure that in the formation of structures in the counties, they adhere to the two-thirds gender rule.

I have been a County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in a county government. All appointing authorities, even in the national Government, run to the minimum of not more than two-thirds. We have counties where people only go for only three women out of 10 appointive positions. Why do we not have even five-five? Why do we not have six women against four men? Why not the other way around? I am not saying that gender is only about women. I am mentioning women because it is the women who have not been considered much. As a country, let us include everybody in decision-making. Let us get women into seats.

We are not only getting women into seats because we want to see the physical women. It is not just physical women that we are looking for. We are looking for the gender and the thinking of women to be brought up at the decision-making table. I am

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here because I was nominated on the gender platform. As we discuss here and make decisions, we are doing so with the thinking of other women outside the Houses in mind. As I support this Motion, I encourage the leadership of this country to give us the goodwill so that we solve this problem once and for all.

This country called Kenya is admired in this continent because we lead and others follow. How can it be that when it comes to an important issue such as the gender rule, then we are backtracking? I challenge all the men in Parliament, be it in the Senate or the National Assembly. Let us show that we are charismatic, passionate and patriotic. You cannot live with people as your wives, sisters or daughters, but you do not like them getting into those positions.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I support this Motion and all that was discussed in the NADCO Report. As I rest, I want to appreciate the two leaders who saw to it that it is through negotiations that we can solve a lot of conflicts.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, as we break for recess, our people down at the counties are looking forward to their leaders visiting them and sharing with them the challenges that they go through. Let us go down to the ground and share with our people the confusion that is in the Social Health Authority (SHA) and issues of delayed disbursement of funds.

I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Proceed, Sen. Orwoba.

Sen. Orwoba: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Motion on the two-thirds gender rule and this report that was tabled.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am a beneficiary of affirmative action in the sense that I have been nominated in the Senate based on an affirmative action that was passed, to ensure that we have equal representation for both men and women in spaces such as the National Assembly and the Senate.

I have read through the reports on the two-thirds gender rule and what has been submitted. While I have a contrary opinion to some of the proposals that are in there, I generally support that we must have equal representation of both genders in all the spaces, be it the Cabinet or Parliament, where decisions are being made about lives; that influence our actions in our society.

Additionally, in the proposal to amend Article 98 of the Constitution to have additional seats in the Senate to represent women, I hope that this will be considered. While we are having what we call nominations, we also have to consider that you are not just being nominated because you are a woman. It is because you are first of all a leader, actively participating in the political space and interested in changing the lives of Kenyans, so that they can see you as someone who is representing the public in all these spaces.

Therefore, while we are looking at additional seats or putting more affirmative actions to ensure that we reach the two-third gender rule, we also have to consider where we are sending these women. Are we sending them without a vote in the Senate?

I sit in the Senate as a specially nominated Senator and you do know that my vote when it comes to matters that deal with devolution is carried by my delegation chair, who is the elected Senator for Kisii County. There are times when I sit in the House and I can

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represent women in this House by adding my voice through debating. When it comes down to the power of the vote specially elected Senators who are here to represent either the gender or working groups, do not have a vote. This is something that we have to consider so that we do not just have specially nominated Senators who have no power to influence decisions where it matters.

I know that there has been a discussion on whether or not we need women in leadership. It is very unfortunate considering what has happened recently. We have lost the G7 Members to G6 Members on the impeachment of Governor Kawira Mwangaza. We must understand that as we are making strides in terms of gender representation and women empowerment, there are many things that need to be dealt with in these spaces. One of them is looking into policies on how we approach matters from a gender lens.

We have to understand that it is not just about nominating or pushing women into the spaces of politics, but ensuring that we can be mentored and guided. Therefore, we can also be able to positively impact this politics or governance and also sustain those seats. It was very sad to have watched the several Impeachment Motions of Governor Kawira and participated in some of them that were in Plenary. The matters that came up in all those Impeachment Motions that were tabled, you could see what was lacking was that there was no gender lens even in the submissions of the impeachment.

I do not want to stand in this “Upper House”, this very prestigious House, to say that most of the things that are happening are because of patriarchy. Nonetheless, allow me to say that in the Kenyan or African culture, we have inculcated a very patriarchal tradition in the ways that we live, communicate and conduct business. You can tell that we still have a long way to go.

I speak this in the background of what is happening in New York. We have seen that the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is pushing the agenda of women empowerment and representation of women that we keep talking about. Consequently, in line with the theme of the International Women's Day which is *Accelerate Action*, we have to start actioning the policies and proposals that we are tabling.

We have to start being intentional in terms of, do we want to have women in these spaces of representation. If we do, we have to be intentional, starting from this country. I have just seen that we have had many changes in the Executive. There has been a memo that has been circulated in terms of change in office for principal secretaries, ambassadors and all those changes that have happened. I was holding my breath hoping that we, as the women of Kenya, had been given a Cabinet Secretary for Gender. It has not happened yet. That is why I say that we have to be intentional.

At the background of everything that is happening, we also have to hold ourselves accountable. I am specially nominated under my party, which I remain loyal to, the United Democratic Alliance (UDA). I am pushing the agenda of the Kenya Kwanza Women Charter, which I was leading in drafting and presenting. Our President put his signature and promised the women of Kenya that he was going to do certain things. He was going to ensure that the women of Kenya will feel represented and even feel the impact of this Government in terms of certain matters that just touch on our lives as women in this country.

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I cannot belabour the point of what has been happening on the front of femicide and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) reports, and those that have not even been reported. We have lost so many women when it comes to gender-based violence. We have spoken about the things that we need to do. We have given reports and recommendations in this House. We have brought Statements and summoned the Cabinet Secretaries.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we had the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration who is now the Deputy President, Hon. (Prof.) Kithure Kindiki. We have even had pronouncements being made by the President. As a country, are we intentional in terms of ending all forms of GBV, be it the violence that is meted out during intimate partner violence situations, female genital mutilation and online cyberbullying that is meted out on women? What have we done as a Government that signed a women's charter and promised to stand and make sure that the women of Kenya are represented?

As I support the Motion on adoption the Report of NADCO, I look forward to seeing this being executed. I remain hopeful, but I am also very cautious that we are not going to end up as a talk show. One of the things that I always tell the President, who happens to be my party leader as well, is that I am stubborn. I speak up and appear to be very arrogant and adamant on certain issues. This is because I understand the promises that we put on paper and promised the women of Kenya.

I promised myself when I got nominated to this seat that in my time in this Senate, I will ensure we deliver whatever we were selling during the campaigns. We talked about free sanitary towels to all schoolgirls and women in the vulnerable communities. In my day-to-day activities, these are some of the things that I hold dearly and push for in my legislative agenda.

We promised the women of Kenya that we are going to have proper maternal health care. In the background of the confusion in the Social Health Authority (SHA) and the challenges with the Universal Health Care (UHC) system that we are proposing to revolutionize that space, I keep asking myself, where is the maternal healthcare? What are we doing about Linda Mama? That is why even as I get the backlash of being part of this Government, we are working behind the scenes because I hold dearly some of the things. I am well aware that, being a beneficiary of an affirmative action seat, I have to make sure my voice is heard every time we are talking about these issues.

Aside from the femicide, the GBV, representation in the National Assembly, the Senate or the Cabinet, I highlight that there are certain economic programmes in this country that we have to intentionally put a gender lens. When we are proposing an economic programme for the vulnerable, startups and the youth, where are the women of Kenya in these programmes? One of the programmes that has been very successful in the Kenya Kwanza Government is the fertilizer programme. It has yielded a lot of positive results in the harvest we have had in coffee and tea production. However, every single time I see any executive or a representative of the executive talking about the fertilizer programme, I want to always ask, where are the women in that fertilizer programme? How are we ensuring that in the politics of the local distribution of fertilizer, how are the women farmers, who are also hard-working Kenyans, benefiting from this programme?

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When it comes to the Hustler Fund Programme, I am always keen to look at the statistics of how women are faring. How are they borrowing? If they are paying back, is it beneficial to their businesses? How are the women faring in every single programme, including the diaspora jobs which have been introduced?

I see the Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection going around campaigning and telling the youth to go for the jobs. I am always asking, how are the women of Kenya being represented in those programmes? Are we just looking for drivers and manual labourers, which is exclusive to the male? Are we saying that we want to line up all the young men because we want to be manual labourers because they are strong and have muscles? Where are the women of Kenya in that programme?

As I stand here today as a beneficiary of the affirmative action, I support this latest move to ensure that we execute the two-thirds gender rule. I am also cautiously observing if we are going to be intentional in seeing the execution of this report from the amendments, proposals, all the way to its fruition.

When it comes to matters of the women agenda, we are known to just talk. In fact, I have stopped accepting invitations by all the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) who call us for breakfast. I have told them that we have had so many breakfasts. We have been drinking tea and having lunch. We like coming together as women and say this should happen. We must now get down to business and action on the things that we have been proposing. Therefore, I want to support this.

I conclude by saying that in 2025, the two-thirds gender agenda might be about having more women in office. Many years ago, we did not even have one woman governor. Maybe in the next 10 years, the two-thirds gender rule will be about having more men or equal representation of men in these spaces. Let us not think that this is just a women's affair because once we get to the balance where we are 50-50, definitely at one point, we are going to be talking about ensuring that both the men and the women have equal representation. We might surprise ourselves and by having nominated Members of Parliament in the Senate who are men coming because of the affirmative action.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I submit.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Hon. Senators, I defer putting of the question to Order No.20.

(Putting of the Question on the Motion deferred)

Next order.

MOTION

NOTING OF REPORT OF THE 9TH IPU CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS HELD IN HANOI

THAT, the Senate notes the Report of the 9th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from

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15th to 17th September, 2023 laid on the table of the Senate on Tuesday, the 5th of March, 2024.

(Sen. Methu on 19.3.2025 - Morning Sitting)

(Resumption of debate interrupted on 19.3.2025 - Morning Sitting)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Hon. Senators, I defer putting of the Question to this Motion.

(Putting of the Question on the Motion deferred)

Next Order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO THE LPG EXPLOSION IN MRADI, NAIROBI CITY COUNTY

THAT, the Senate adopts the Report of the Standing Committee on Energy on its inquiry into the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) explosion in Mradi Area, Embakasi, Nairobi City County, laid on the Table of the Senate on Thursday, 8th August, 2024.

Hon. Senators, there being no Senator wishing to contribute to this Orderr, I defer Orders No. 22, 23, No. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 to the next sitting.

(Motion deferred)

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO THE PERSONAL SECURITY CONCERNS RAISED BY HON. PHILOMENA KAPKORY, DEPUTY GOVERNOR, TRANS-NZOIA COUNTY

THAT, the Senate adopts the Report of the Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations on its inquiry into the allegations on personal security concerns raised by Hon. Philomena Kapkory, Deputy Governor, Trans Nzoia County laid on the Table of the Senate on Tuesday, 1st October, 2024.

(Motion deferred)

MOTIONADOPTION OF REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO THE STATE OF
MARKETS IN VIHIGA AND BUNGOMA COUNTIES

THAT, the Senate adopts Reports of the Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations on its inquiry into the state of markets in Vihiga and Bungoma counties arising from statements sought by Sen. Godfrey Osotsi, MP, and Sen. David Wafula Wakoli, MP laid on the Table of the Senate on Tuesday, 1st October, 2024.

(Motion deferred)

MOTIONADOPTION OF PROGRESS REPORT ON DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSIVITY IN STAFFING OF STATE AGENCIES

THAT, the Senate adopts Progress Report of the Standing Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and Regional Integration into an inquiry on the diversity and inclusivity in the staff composition of state agencies in Kenya, laid on the Table of the Senate on Thursday, 3rd October, 2024.

(Motion deferred)

MOTIONADOPTION OF REPORT ON THE COUNTY OVERSIGHT
AND NETWORKING ENGAGEMENTS TO TAITA TAVETA,
MOMBASA, AND KWALE COUNTIES

THAT, the Senate adopts the Report of the Standing Committee on Health on the County Oversight and Networking Engagements to Taita Taveta, Mombasa and Kwale Counties, laid on the Table of the Senate on Thursday, 5th December, 2024.

(Motion deferred)

MOTIONADOPTION OF REPORT ON INSPECTION TOUR OF HEALTH FACILITIES
IN WEST POKOT, TRANS NZOIA AND TURKANA COUNTIES

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THAT, the Senate adopts the Report of the Standing Committee on Health on the inspection tour of health facilities in West Pokot, Trans Nzoia and Turkana Counties, laid on the Table of the Senate on Thursday, 5th December, 2024.

(Motions deferred)

BILLS

Second Reading

THE LABOUR MIGRATION AND MANAGEMENT (NO.2) BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.42 OF 2024)

(Bill deferred)

Second Reading

THE STREET NAMING AND PROPERTY ADDRESSING
SYSTEM BILL (SENATE BILLS NO.43 OF 2024)

(Bill deferred)

Second Reading

THE SPORTS (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL
(SENATE BILLS NO.45 OF 2024)

(Bill deferred)

Second Reading

THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY (AMENDMENT)
BILL (SENATE BILLS NO.47 OF 2024)

(Bill deferred)

MOTIONADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE PURSUANT
TO THE APPROVED CALENDAR

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order No.31(3), the Senate do adjourn until Tuesday, 1st April, 2025.

(Motion deferred)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi): Hon. Senators, there being no other business on the Order Paper, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, 1st April, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The Senate rose at 6:08 p.m.