



The SENATE

Weekly

Issue No. 0065

House ayes Motion on bursary consolidation

The Government allocated Sh656 billion to the education sector in the 2024/25 financial year. Senators say that lack of transparency makes it difficult to know the percentage allocated to bursaries.

The Ministry of Education will be forced to audit all the funds allocated to bursaries by both the National Government and county governments as the Senate pursues for free universal education.

Public learning institutions in Kenya are primarily funded by the Government. In the 2024/2025 financial, it is estimated that Sh656 billion was allocated to the education sector and Senators say disbursement of bursaries from various agencies makes it difficult to determine the total amount allocated in a financial year, thus hindering efforts to ensure equitable access to education for financially disadvantaged students.

Consequently, the House has resolved that the funds allocated to bursaries by both the National and County governments be consolidated and distributed by various government entities and agencies, with the aim of directing the funds to schools as supplementary capitation to facilitate the achievement of free secondary education.

The Motion was sponsored by Senator Karungo Thangwa who decried the fragmentation. "There is a lot of fragmentation. Fragmentation means five people are giving bursaries, but nobody knows who is giving whom because there is no coordination," said the Senator while moving the Motion, whose aim is to push for the consolidation of bursary funds for equitable access to education in Kenya.

Article 53 of the Constitution provides that every child in Kenya is entitled to free and compulsory basic education, the Basic Education Act provides that, basic education should



Senator Karungo Thangwa

be guided by principles such as equitable access to all youth and equal access to education or institutions.

Moving the Motion, the lawmaker noted that many students in secondary schools and higher education institutions come from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, making it difficult for them to afford school fees and access education opportunities. While he admitted that various interventions have been made over the years, including the issu-

ance of bursaries through the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NCDF), National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), the Ministry of Education and county governments through various county bursary funds, he regretted that school fees remain unaffordable for many parents and the allocation of bursaries has been plagued by nepotism, favoritism, and political manipulation, lack of transparency and accountability.

"This Motion is trying to achieve only one thing - to fight discrimination when it comes to issuing of bursaries. The person who gets the bursary is that person who probably knows the Member of Parliament (MP) or fills those forms or is in the campaign team of those who are issuing bursaries," he said.

There are several entities that offer bursaries: the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF), controlled by the Members of Parliament. They give bursaries for secondary school and tertiary education in the amount from Sh20 million to Sh70 million per constituency, The National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) by the 47 County Woman Representatives. They give bursaries of between Sh10 million to Sh20 million per year per county, the county governments, through the governor and MCAs). The Ministry of Education also gives bursaries. The president himself gives bursaries and his bursaries are in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

Each constituency gives an average of Sh50 million, multiplied by the 290 constituencies, translates to Sh14.5 billion. County Woman Representative gives Sh15 million, multiply by 47. That is about Sh700 million. The county governments give bursaries from Sh200 to Sh500 million per year per county. Taking the highest, Sh500 million per year, that will be about Sh23.5 billion.

He said that data on the amount the Ministry of Education gives to the bursary kitty is not known so is the President.

"That is why I am calling for that con-

solidation and making sure that we get to know how much and if we can approximate that will be about Sh50 billion going to bursaries,” he told the House.

“Instead of sending an MP, an MCA, the President or sending anyone, why

can we not take all these bursaries and put them in school, especially secondary schools, so that we can make secondary education free of charge? What stops us from doing that? We can add it to the capitation so that one does not have to go

kneel to a politician to get bursary. That way we will know how much is needed for education.”

The House also resolved that the cost of education should be calculated per learner and make the information public

for primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions, including a detailed breakdown of the annual financial requirements for each student across the country.

What they said:



Senator Godfrey Osotsi

We are seeing a situation where people are being given bursary even if they are not needy. Everyone is being given bursary for political purposes to the extent that one student is given Sh2,000. What does one do with Sh2,000? It is because the members of parliament who run the CDF bursaries are using it for political manipulation. If you do not support them, they deny you bursary. The County Public Investment and Special Funds Committee, which I chair, has for the last two years been dealing with audit reports for bursary funds in our counties. We have tabled numerous reports on this Floor. The picture coming from those reports is not good. The money that we give as bursary funds are being misapplied and misappropriated in our counties. One of the recommendations we have given is the need to align those bursary funds to the law and consolidate them. Even as we think about consolidation, we should rethink the policy on fees so that we have a free education policy from Early Childhood Education (ECD) to university. If a poor country such as Burkina Faso can wake up one day and declare there is no fees payment in school, and it is working, how can a country such as Kenya not do that? As we talk about consolidation of bursary programmes, we should also talk about how we can have a free education policy in this country.”



Senator Samson Cherarkey

“I agree with the prayers that we need to consolidate bursaries and make education free for all. Bursaries have been reduced to tokenism. If you support an MCA, a governor, a Member of the National Assembly, or a Woman Representative, you are given a bursary. Why is it that despite an amount of Sh656 billion being allocated to education, we still have many children who cannot access education in this country? Those are the hard questions that we must ask ourselves. That is why it is important that we need to consolidate all bursaries, direct all national government administration officials to ensure a 100 per cent transition rate for children in primary and secondary schools; now that the Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) has been changed to Competence Based Education (CBE) so that everybody can access education in this country. Instead, issue of bursary has been reduced and weaponized as a campaign political tool, where Members of the National Assembly, NGAAF and governors are using it. The silver bullet in all this is to consolidate the entire bursary fund, make education free and compulsory for all Kenyans, so that it becomes easy. At the end of this debate, the Committee on Education should will come up with an amendment to the Basic Education Act or the education laws and consolidate all the bursary.”



Senator Agnes Kavindu

“Kuna mambo mengi ambayo yanahusika na bursary. Ukienda kwa nyumba za waheshimiwa kule mashinani, utapata watu wakiwa huko wakingoja kupeleka bursaries. Hali hio pia hukua katika nyumba ya Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) na governors. Hoja hii ni nzuri lakini tukitaka kuondoa bursaries, lazima tuanze na ofisi za juu kisha tutoe bursaries kwa maofisi za governors na Members of Parliament. Baadaye, hio pesa iwekwe pamoja na kupewa Ministry of Education ndiposa elimu iwe bure kuanzia shule ya chekechea hadi university. Hata pesa inayotumika kupeleka wanafunzi kusoma nje ya nchi pia ipewe Ministry of Education ndiposa elimu iwe bure nchini. Hii itawezesha kila mtoto, hata yule maskini, kusoma bila kusumbuliwa. Sisi kama maseneta tunasumbuliwa sana na mambo ya bursary ilhali hatupati hizo pesa. Wananchi hutupigia simu kuitisha karo ya shule. Hiyo pesa ya bursary ikiwekwa kwenye kikapu kimoja na masomo iwe bure, shule zitaendelea na watoto wote watasoma. Hatutakuwa tukifanyia watoto harambee kwa sababu hawajapewa bursary.



Senator Munyi Mundigi:

“Kuna mambo mengi katika Hoja hii ambayo inafaa kuangaliwa. Tumekuwa tukipitisha pesa ziende kwa national Government na kaunti zetu lakini mipango huwa hazifuatiliwi vizuri. Hoja hii ya inahusu mambo ya elimu lakini lazima iangaliwe kwa njia inayofaa. Kenya ni nchi ya demokrasia na mambo mengi lazima yarudishwe kwa wananchi ili waweze kuamua kile ambacho wanataka. Tumepitisha sheria nyingi ambazo zinaleta shida kwa wananchi, county governments, National Treasury na kona zote za hii nchi. Hii jambo lazima iangaliwe na njia inayofaa ndiposa tuhakikishe ya kwamba elimu itakuwa free kutoka kule chini hadi university. Ikiwa hivyo, mimi nitaiunga Hoja hii mkono. Lakini lazima tufanye public participation kabla tuamue kwa sababu wananchi lazima waseme vile wanavyotaka kuongozwa. Mambo ya pesa lazima irejeshwe kwa wananchi ili wasema vile wanataka wapewe pesa. Tunaweza sema pesa ipolewe kwa ministry kisha hiyo ministry ikose kufanya kazi. Naunga mkono free education. Ni lazima masomo shule zote iwe free nchini.”



Senator Okiya Omtatah

“The basic concept of a bursary is that it is given to needy students, it is not the same as a scholarship. The distinction between a bursary and a scholarship must be made clear. I have seen allocations where people claim to be financing bright children. A scholarship is awarded based on academic excellence, as a grant. A bursary, on the other hand, is given based on economic need. There has been a misconception in our counties, where you will often find that Members of Parliament (MPs) sometimes award bursaries based on academic performance, assuming that a high-performing student automatically qualifies. No, a bursary is granted based on the principle that education is a right, and some individuals are unable to access it. Bursaries tend to be allocated in an opaque manner, making it unclear how much money has been allocated. There is no system of accounting or auditing for it. The amounts given are very small and cannot bring about any meaningful change. Since politicians are focused on numbers, they may even set up a tent and invite millions of people to receive a pittance in exchange for support. Although NG-CDF and the NGAFF have been used as a means of distributing bursary funds to needy cases and the grassroots, they are fraud schemes designed by the National Assembly Members to steal from the public.”



Senator Boni Khawale

“Bursaries and their administration are expensive, wasteful and a conduit for mega corruption. By the time the money leaves the National Treasury to go to the NG-CDF, the fund that the Women Members of Parliament (MPs) control, or to the Department of Education where the Office of the President controls some of it, there is an administration cost. Over and above that, because Kenyans are starting to become inherently corrupt, the people involved exercise their own little piece of corruption. I propose that this administrative cost that occasions wastage in hundreds of millions, the corruption that occasions loss of million shillings meant for bursary, be eliminated by simply leaving all this money at the Ministry of Education for the Ministry to offer free education. We can start with an experiment of adding to what President Kibaki had already proven. That you can make education in primary schools free. Then we add on by making it also free in secondary schools. If it stabilises, the next Government after that of President William Ruto, be it after 2027 or 2032, will be able to roll out free tertiary education.”



Senator Margret Kamar

“Consolidation is not, in fact, just it. We need to know how much money the national Government has been spending. Members of Parliament through the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) talk about these bursaries as the only thing that has been given out to families equitably. We should make sure that everybody gets it without being pre-qualified by a chief, Member of County Assembly or Member of Parliament. If we can free parents from paying school fees in primary schools they can give their children good nutrition. Right now, we are attacking the limited resources that the parents have to pay school fees. While we are doing that, we should be aware that as a country, we have obligations that are internationally binding in nature and we should ensure that we comply with them. We need to know the cost because county governors should know there is nothing wrong with giving bursaries, but please, have an intergovernmental agreement so that functions are followed by resources. If you want to give bursaries, you need new money from the national Government because this is not your function.”



Senator Karen Nyamu

“We cannot say that education is a great equaliser yet, as a country, what we have done is made bursaries the great un-equaliser. This is because the most vulnerable of society, who do not have connections, who are in the direst need, end up missing out on bursaries. If you do not have any political connections, if you do not have a phone number of any politician or members of his team, then you can forget accessing bursaries in this country. We have cases in Nairobi county of students who end up deferring their secondary education. They go up to Form Two and are unable to fund their education due to poverty. They drop out and when they get some assistance, they go back again after a year. This is not something that we should be condoning as a society. This Motion is one of the reasons we exist as a House. The Motion is very progressive. It is going to ensure that we create a level playing field in the country, and to give every child a chance at education. As a House, we need to come up with radical changes in our system of education. It is one thing to fund education and another to churn out students who are not ready for the job market. Our schools are churning out students who are being prepared to be job seekers. We need to inculcate an entrepreneurial culture right from the basic education so that by the time they get to the Technical Industrial Vocation Education and Training (TVET) even the attitude has changed. Right now, it is even embarrassing to go to TVETs because they are considered institutions for those who unable to get the mainstream or traditional courses.”



Senator Eddy Oketch

“The essence of a bursary fund in financing education is not feasible because it is not giving the young people enough money to go to school. The Sh5,000 that they give cannot finance people’s schooling not even those who are in a day school. There is political interference by those who are offering them: governors and MPs. Bursary by its nature has become a political funding mechanism. It is funded to people who have voted for particular politicians. It is not need-based and it is not merit-based. This means that most needy people in our communities or the most merited for this kind of financing do not get to be financed. The issue of corruption in bursaries. I do not want to point particular areas but we can give data in a number of constituencies if this Motion gets concurrence of the National Assembly. You will find a Member of Parliament who wants to vie for governorship and has a bursary kitty choosing to allocate bursary to students who are not from his or her own constituency. They do that for political financing, then use that when campaigning in constituencies that are not their own.”



Senator Raphael Chimera

“I benefited from three different NG-CDFs. This was only possible because my father had access to sitting Members of Parliament (MPs) by virtue of his work. That does not make him a rich man in the society. I wonder what happens to the young child in Kwale County whose father has no connections, not even to the village elder. That tells you that such a child will ordinarily be unable to benefit from this program. When you look at the funding around it, if you look at each of the 290 constituencies setting aside say Sh60 million, that gives you around Sh17 billion. If you assume that every county has set aside Sh0.5 billion for its bursary programmes, that is about Sh25 billion. If you look at the capitation nationally, it is roughly Sh8 billion every year that would afford and make sure that every student, devoid of political connections, colour, religion, whether they know someone, and devoid of being asked to kneel down before an MP or a governor, is able to access education. They can go to school for free without having to queue outside an MP’s office or without having to beg a governor.”



Senator Gloria Orwoba

“I would like to highlight the fact that based on the budgets that we have seen we need to be honest to each other. We are unable to facilitate complete free education from nursery school all the way to university. So, it is time as a country, we ask ourselves, if we are overly ambitious that we want to facilitate free education from nursery to primary to high school to university. It might not work. Perhaps, that is overly ambitious. However, is it possible then to have a conversation to say, can we at least have completely free primary education? When I talk about free, it is not where you are told it is free, however, you have to pay Sh20 for ABCD, or however, the Board of Management together with the Parents Teachers Association have decided to come together, therefore you have to pay motivation to have the teachers to come in class for two or three extra hours. We should be alive to the fact that as it stands, perhaps, we cannot finance the full education all the way to university, but then let us talk about consolidating all these funds and ensuring that at the bare minimum, primary school education is completely free.”



Senator Ledama ole Kina

“We are not going to be able to consolidate these bursaries. A Motion in this House will not be implemented because you will be fighting left, right, and centre. The only way for to get a solution to narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, between those who have and those who do not have, when it comes to the issue of education, is for us to go back to the Constitution and change the system of education that we have in this country. How we fund education in this country, is very crucial. The only way that we can guarantee free primary education and ensure that every child in this country gets access to education is when we decide to scrap all these bursaries. Let us do away with the bursaries. Let us make it free education. That is the argument that I want to have.”

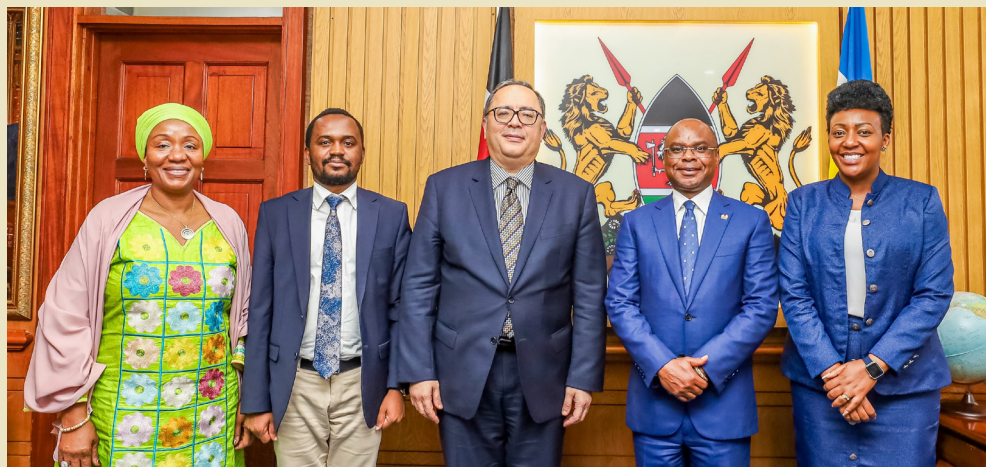


Senator Wakili Sigei

“Politicisation is what this Motion speaks to. It states that consolidation of bursary funds will ensure that the rightful children benefit from this fund. They will not have to sing to the tune of a certain political class to get the bursary. We need to support it because it is only the best way to ensure that the rightful people benefit from the bursary. It will also help avoid politicisation of the funds. The Senate does not oppose

issuance of bursaries and support of children who are in need of Government support. It is unfortunate that there is inability to appreciate a clear way of administering this Fund. Those who have benefited from these funds must be known. They should get us the list of the people and institutions that have benefited even if they are Tertiary and Vocational Education Training centres

Speaker commends Senators



Speaker Amason Kingi poses for a photo with Mr Sultan Hajiyeve, the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Kenya, who had paid him a courtesy call at Parliament Buildings. Others in the picture, from left, are Senator Hamida Kibwana, Senator Raphael Chimera and Senator Tabitha Mutinda.



Mr Sultan Hajiyeve, the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Kenya signs the Visitors' Book in the Speaker Amason Kingi office during the visit.



Senator Tabitha Mutinda speaks during the meeting between Speaker Kingi and the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Kenya, Mr Sultan Hajiyeve.



Speaker Kingi and Mr Sultan Hajiyeve during their meeting which also included Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo, Senator Hamida Kibwana, Senator Tabitha Mutinda and Senator Raphael Chimera.

Speaker Amason Kingi last week hosted a delegation from the Italian Parliament led by Mr Emanuele Loperfido, a Member of Parliament in the 19th Legislature and Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Member of the Defence

Committee. The Speaker was joined by Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina, Senator Catherine Mumma, Senator Shakila Abdalla and Senator Hamida Kibwana.



Speaker Kingi in a group picture with the delegation.



Speaker Kingi speaks during the meeting with the delegation.



Speaker Kingi, Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina and Mr Emanuele Loperfido, the head of the delegation.



Hon Emanuele Loperfido signs the visitors' book in the Speaker's Office.

Revenue formula debate suspended

Speaker Amason Kingi has suspended debate on the Motion on the Fourth Basis for Allocating the Share of National Revenue among Counties to allow Senators to consult.

The Speaker suspended the debate after consultation with Senator Ali Roba, the chair of the Committee, at the prompting of the lawmakers.

The Motion, which was based on the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget, which considered the matter, will be debated on May 22, 2025.

“I have consulted with the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget and Finance and we have agreed that this Motion will be moved on May 22, 2025,” the Speaker ruled on Thursday.

The Speaker delivered the ruling after Senators pleaded that Motion be stayed and they be allowed to read the report of the Committee, consult and build consensus then come back to debate and make the decision.

“I agree that this is an extremely weighty matter. We should put every effort to ensure that we avoid the ugly scenes witnessed during the passage of the formula that is now under implementation,” the Speaker ruled.

Debate on the Third revenue Sharing formula nearly almost left the Senate, and the country, sharply divided in 2021.

The problem emerged after the formula indicated that some counties were to lose out on their allocation.

“You should read the document and consult amongst yourselves. If you find



Senator Boni Khalwale

difficulties amongst yourselves and you need the Speaker and the secretariat to bring you together for purposes of hammering a certain consensus, then we will be available.”

By the time of the ruling, Senator Ali Roba, the chair of the Committee, was on the floor moving the Motion that if approved will bring in a new revenue sharing regime among counties from financial year 2025-2026 to financial year 2029-2030.

The Committee has raised the baseline allocation ratio to Sh387.42 billion from the current 158 billion.



Senator Enoch Wambua

What this means is that for every allocation to the counties hence, Sh387.43 billion will be shared by counties as baseline allocation factor derived from each county’s allocation for 2024/25 financial year, the balance will then be subjected to the five-parameter formula. They are population weighted at 42 per cent, Equal Share which is assigned 22 per cent, Geographical Size (9 per cent), Poverty (14 per cent) and the Income Distance at 13 per cent.

The intervention was triggered by Senator Godfrey Osotsi who requested for more time because the report

is important to the Senate, and the devolution enterprise in general, as it is considered only once after five years.

“I request that we are provided with the report [of the committee] so that we are able to follow and interrogate the issues. These are very important issues,” he said.

Senator Enoch Wambua said consideration of the formula is perhaps one of the most important engagements of the Senate in its five years because it will determine the monies that will be shared among counties for the next five years.

Senator Boni Khalwale cited the history of decision-making on the formula saying there was a major risk that it could be rejected despite the efforts the Committee had expended.

“It would be more useful to the House that the report was available to Members, they interact with it, then debate be done thereafter,” he observed, adding that House ran the risk Members will start opposing it.

“This is one piece of legislation where we should take our time. It is going to bind us up to the year 2031. I am requesting that you allow this document to be properly understood by our colleagues.”

Senator Gloria Orwoba urged the Speaker to summon a Kamukunji, (an informal sitting of the House) for new members to be sensitised on what the formula is all about

CoG wants Sh536B as equitable share in 2025/26 FY



Senator Ali Roba, the chair Committee on Finance, presides over the meeting with Council of Governors.

The Council of Governors (CoG) has urged the Senate to amend the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025, and increase the county equitable share from Sh405 billion, as approved by the National Assembly, to Sh536 billion.

The increase, the county Council explained, is to align the allocation framework with the country’s macroeconomic growth and to ensure that counties address their financing needs adequately.

In a meeting with the Committee on Finance and Budget on Tuesday, May 6, Governor Ferdinand Barasa, who chairs the Finance Committee of the Council, beseeched the Senate to review the resource allocation framework and propose that counties receive an extra Sh131 billion for the 2025/2026

Financial Year.

He explained that despite the continued expansion of Kenya’s fiscal space in comparison with the national government’s share, the counties’ share has almost stagnated for the past 5 years, negatively affecting the productivity of the devolved units.

“For the last 5 years, the counties’ equitable share has grown by a marginal Sh70 billion while that of the national government has grown by Sh702 billion. This is unfair to the 47 devolved units,” Governor Barasa told the Committee.

The Governor had appeared before the Committee to give input into the Bill which is currently before the House. He was accompanied by Governor Mutula Kilonzo Junior.

The huge allocation disparity, the



Governor Fernandes Barasa, the chair of CoG Finance Committee with Governor Mutula Kilonzo Junior during the meeting with Committee on Finance.

Council argues, does not reflect the equitable division of national revenue between the two levels of government and is not in sync with the growth trends of the country’s revenue and Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

While agreeing with the Council of Governors for the additional allocation to counties and the gradual reduction in the national allocation, Senators counselled the county bosses to be exemplary ambassadors of devolution by effectively and efficiently discharging their mandate.

The legislators pledged the Senate’s resolve in coming up with a less controversial revenue-sharing formula and assured that no county will lose a coin from their current allocations to ensure equitable gains.

“The Fourth Basis of revenue sharing is now the property of the House. As the Senate, we will recommend a formula that will be less controversial. We will do our best in support of Devolution,” Senator Ali Roba said.

They appealed for governors to have peer review sessions during their meetings to improve performance and share best practices, emphasising that counties should not compete but learn from each other.

The Members of the Senator Ali Roba-led Committee also met with the Chairperson of the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) Mary Chebukati, who took them through the Commission’s memorandum on the Division of Revenue Bill.

Delegated Committee adopts Aviation Regulations

The Committee on Delegated Legislation has approved the Civil Aviation (Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation) Regulations, 2025.

During a session chaired by Senator Danson Mungatana, the Committee endorsed the regulations following consultations with key stakeholders in the aviation sector. The proposed rules, published on January 17, 2025, by the Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport are grounded in Section 82 of the Civil Aviation Act.

The Regulations are designed to align Kenya's investigative procedures with the latest provisions of Annex 13 of the Chicago Convention, which outlines international standards for investigating aircraft accidents.

They will replace the outdated 2018



Senator Danson Mungatana, chaired the session.



Senator Mungatana consults Senator Betty Montet and Senator Dan Maanzo during the meeting.

framework by expanding coverage to include not only manned aircraft but also "Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA)," a move reflecting the growing relevance of drone technology in modern aviation.

Notably, "Regulation 3" makes it clear that all serious incidents and acci-

dents involving Kenyan-registered aircraft, whether occurring domestically or abroad, fall under its scope.

An important change is the establishment of an "independent Aircraft Accident Investigation Department (AAID)," which is to operate separately from the

Kenya Civil Aviation Authority. This structural shift is aimed at safeguarding the integrity of investigations and avoiding potential conflicts of interest.

The regulations detail steps for evidence handling, communication with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the provision of support to "survivors and victims' families." The AAID will also maintain a comprehensive safety database and is expected to publish findings aimed at improving future aviation safety.

Sanctions for breaching the rules include "fines up to one million shillings or imprisonment of up to six months."

Senator Daniel Maanzo, Senator Betty Montet and Senator Mohamed Faki also attended the meeting which assessed the legal basis, consultation process and the potential regulatory impact of the new rules.

Committee directs Ministry to share CAIPs feasibility study



Senator George Mbugua and Senator John Methu during the Committee on Trade meeting.

The State Department for Industry is responsible for the implementation of the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs), Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry Lee Kinyajui has said.

The initiative, part of Kenya's Medium-Term Plan, is designed to enhance value addition, promote agro-industrial development, and transform counties into manufacturing hubs.

The CS told the Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industrialisation that CAIPs are intended to bring together clusters of independent firms to achieve economies of scale, share infrastructure, and foster opportunities such as bulk purchasing, value addition, and recycling.

The government had initially allocated Sh100 million per county in the 2023/24 financial year to support the project. However, the cost per county was revised to Sh500 million after technical designs were developed.

We the new funding model, each county contributes Sh250 million in counterpart funding.

The CS had appeared before the Committee to respond to a statement by Senator Godfrey Osotsi who had raised concerns about poor implementation, delayed disbursements, and weak oversight of the CAIPs project.

The lawmaker pointed out that only a fraction of the allocated funds had reached the counties, with an outstanding balance of Sh4.6 billion even as he called for attention to land ownership issues, exclusion of counties from procurement processes, and the lack of clear intergovernmental agreements, all of which are hindering implementation.

"If these challenges were not addressed CAIPs programme will become a white elephant by 2027," he told the Committee.

Senator George Mbugua urged the Ministry to provide a feasibility study on the project, noting concerns that construction had begun without clear evidence of planning or progress.

He also sought updates on the County Competitive Index and questioned the Ministry's low budget absorption rate.



Senator Isa Juma Boy, the chair, Trade Committee, and Senator Esther Okenyuri.

Senator Esther Okenyuri inquired about the closure of companies in the past year, as well as the foreign companies setting up operations in Kenya, including the counties they are targeting and the products they will offer.

She also requested more information on the County Competitive Index and asked whether the Ministry is collaborating with the Ministry of Energy to reduce energy costs for industries.

The CS explained that the CAIPs project is being rolled out in three phases.

Phase One, covering 18 counties, is set for the 2023/2024 financial year, with additional phases covering 19 counties in 2024/2025 and the remaining 10 counties in 2025/2026.

The CS also noted that while Sh4.7 billion was allocated for the project, only Sh1.152 billion had been disbursed by the end of the financial year, leaving an outstanding balance of Sh3.348 billion for Phase One counties.

"Despite challenges such as reduced budget allocations, difficulty acquiring

suitable land, and lack of basic infrastructure, progress has been made," said the CS, adding that six special economic zones are under development, with Mombasa and Kisumu already operational.

"The Ministry remains committed to the successful implementation of CAIPs. There is need for continued collaboration between the national and county governments to ensure the initiative's success."

The committee directed the Ministry to conduct and share a feasibility study on the county industrial park project and provide intergovernmental agreements between the national and county governments.

"The committee also calls for engagement with all 47 counties to assess the project's status and challenges," said Senator Isa Juma Boy, the chair of the committee, adding that the Ministry should disclose information on procurement processes and the companies awarded contracts for the project.

EPRA explains curtailment of power generation



Senator Oburu Oginga, chair Committee on Energy, presides over the meeting with the officials from EPRA. Others are Senator William Kisang, the vice chair, (Second left), Senator Beatrice Ogola and Senator Danson Mungatana.

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) has formally responded to the Committee on Energy over the reported curtailment of geothermal power generation between July and December 2024. The statement comes in the wake of growing public and parliamentary concern regarding Kenya's energy mix, renewable investments and increasing reliance on electricity imports.

EPRA told the Committee that it does not issue directives to curtail geothermal energy. Such decisions are the responsibility of the System Operator at the National Control Centre, managed by Kenya Power. The dispatch of elec-

tricity to the national grid is determined by a range of technical and economic factors, including marginal generation costs, contractual obligations, demand, transmission constraints, and voltage stability.

"During peak hours in Kenya is when we import power from Ethiopia because solar and wind power are not used during the peak hours," explained Eng Joseph Oketch, EPRA Director of Electricity and Renewable Energy.

EPRA addressed concerns raised over lost revenue for Independent Power Producers (IPPs), stating that most are protected under Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), which include provisions

such as capacity payments or deemed generation. As such, they continue to receive revenue even when curtailment occurs.

Regarding energy imports, EPRA maintained that sourcing power from Ethiopia has been a cost effective measure to address a shortfall in installed local capacity a situation worsened by a government imposed moratorium on new PPAs. EPRA noted it is actively engaging both the Executive and Parliament to lift the moratorium.

With respect to the Ethiopia-Kenya power import agreement, the Authority confirmed that it is currently under review, but only in terms of expanding

capacity during peak hours. There are no current plans to revise the arrangement in a way that would negatively impact off-peak local renewable generation.

Acting EPRA CEO Cyprian Nyakundi said Kenya does not buy power from Ethiopia to replace Kenyan geothermal power but to supplement what we have already."

Members of the Committee voiced concerns and posed direct questions to EPRA during the session.

The Committee chair Oburu Oginga questioned why power generation in Kenya is more expensive compared to Ethiopia and Uganda and why the Geothermal Development Company is not compensated when steam is released but not used.

"When we meet energy sector stakeholders, they talk about lifting the moratorium," said Senator Danson Mungatana. "But I don't hear a united voice, despite having 417 members."

Senator William Kisang, the vice chair, added: "We are in agreement that the moratorium should be lifted and the Geothermal Power Company should be compensated."

Senator Veronica Maina pressed further, asking, "How do we get electricity cheaper and affordable in Kenya?"

EPRA reaffirmed its commitment to energy security, sustainability, and preserving investor confidence in Kenya's renewable energy sector.

Committee engages stakeholders on Health Products Bill

The Committee on Health last week held an informative engagement with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) which focused on the potential impacts of the Kenya Health Products and Technologies Regulatory Authority Bill, 2022.

The Bill seeks to consolidate the regulation of human and veterinary health products under a new centralised authority, a move that has drawn significant concern from veterinary professionals, regulatory experts, and sector stakeholders.

The session formed part of the Committee's ongoing public participation exercise, as required under Article 118 of the Constitution. Stakeholders from across the veterinary industry were present to offer their views on how the Bill may affect the safety, access, and regulation of animal health products in Kenya.

During the engagement Senator Jackson Mandago directed the VMD to clarify the origin of veterinary drugs available in Kenya. "Where exactly are the drugs being administered to our animals manufactured? Are we importing them, or are they made locally, and how are they verified before reaching farmers?" he asked, noting that the answer was

critical to understanding the country's regulatory preparedness.

Dr Allyham Amasha, who represented the academic and professional veterinary sector stated that a significant portion of veterinary medicines are manufactured here in Kenya. "We have operational facilities that are licensed and the VMD ensures the drugs undergo rigorous quality testing before approval and distribution," she told the Committee during the session held in Parliament Buildings.

Effort to shift the regulation to a general health authority will compromise the existing systems that ensure the products are safe and effective, she argued.

Senator Mariam Omar, the Vice Chairperson, expressed concern that the infiltration of illegal and unregulated drugs through informal border points. "We have evidence that some animal drugs are being smuggled in from Somalia and Ethiopia. These are not tested or registered, yet they're finding their way to farms. How are we ensuring that milk or meat from such animals is safe for public consumption?" she asked.

In response, Dr Nungula Karachu, the Chairperson of the Kenya Veterinary Board (KVB) cited Clause 3(2) of the Bill which states that no other authority may regulate items that will under the



Senator Jackson Mandago, chair of the Committee on Health, presides over the meeting with officials from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, alongside Senator Ledama ole Kina and Senator Mariam Omar, the Vice chair.

law once its enacted. "That effectively sidelines the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and could create a regulatory vacuum. If passed in its current form, the Bill will blur responsibilities and open the floodgates for unregulated products."

The Committee also questioned the proposed involvement of pharmacists in dispensing veterinary drugs. Senator Mandago asked, "Are pharmacists truly equipped to guide farmers on drug use in animals? This is about more than just handing over medicine— it's about understanding animal biology and treatment."

Dr. Delphine Ogutu, technical expert at the VMD, replied, "Pharmacists are trained for human medicine, not animal

health. Veterinary medicine requires deep knowledge of different species, treatment regimens, and withdrawal periods. Misuse of these drugs, especially when guidance is inadequate, could result in toxic residues in food products and growing resistance to treatments."

The Committee was also urged to reject Clause 31(2), which proposes the creation of a Kenya Essential Veterinary Medicines List under the new Authority. Dr. Amasha argued that such an authority exists under the Ministry of Agriculture by veterinary professionals. This proposed change would create unnecessary overlap, disrupt established systems, and place control in the hands of people without the necessary expertise."

Senate hosts NYS students



Principal Serjeant-At-Arms Stephen Maru speaks to NYS students.



Mr Stephen Maru joins the NYS students for a group photo at the Senate.



NYS students pose for a group picture with Senate staff led by Mr Stephen Maru, the Principal Serjeant-At-Arms during their one-day tour of Parliament Buildings.

The Senate this week played host to 50 student leaders from the National Youth Service (NYS) Engineering Institute and three members of staff on a one-day educational visit of Parliament.

The visit was organised by the Senate Liaison Office with the aim of deepening the understanding of the young leaders in the inner workings of Parliament, the roles of Parliament particularly the Senate and Kenya's democratic governance system.

Welcoming the delegation to Parliament, Thursday, May 15, Majority Whip

Boni Khalwale lauded the students for their commitment to provide leadership at such a young age and urged them to aspire to be national leaders.

"I applaud you for your commitment to learn about leadership. Learn as much as you can in your visit because it will help you as you exercise your leadership duties," said Senator Khalwale.

The students were in the Chamber to observe the day's proceedings, during which the Speaker Amason Kingi officially recognised their presence and introduced them to the House.

Dr Brighton Buchere, the Director of

the Senate Liaison Office, had earlier taken the visitors through the structure and functions of Parliament, emphasising the important role the Senate plays in protecting the interests of the counties.

He urged the students to take advantage of the opportunity to interact with Senators and the Senate's staff to get pointers on how to improve their leadership skills and become better leaders.

"This visit is a valuable opportunity for you to understand the workings of Parliament, interact with key officers, and grow your leadership skills," observed Dr Buchere.

The students also got a chance to engage with parliamentary officers drawn from different directorates, including Ms Lilian Waweru, a Legal Counsel at the Directorate of Legal Services, who offered a detailed presentation on the legislative process and Mr Stephen Maru, Principal Serjeant-at-Arms, who delivered a compelling talk on leadership in democratic governance.

The education visits are part of the Senate's commitment to improving civic education and empowering the youth through direct engagement and mentorship.

Making progress in ECDE and VTC implementation



Senator Betty Montet, the chair Committee on Education.



Governor Eric Mutai when he appeared before the Committee.

Uasin Gishu and Kericho County Governments have submitted comprehensive reports on the progress they have made in the implementation of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) to a Committee of the House.

The Governors of Bomet and Kericho appeared before the Committee on Education last week.

The first to appear was Governor Jonathan Bii who revealed that the county has an enrolment of 34,285 ECDE learners who are supported by 1,299 ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable terms, with an additional 91 on three-year renewable contracts. Eight teachers were absorbed from the defunct local authorities.

Governor Bii highlighted the County's investment in ECDE infrastructure and resources, noting that a total of Sh79.2 million was earmarked for infrastructure development and teaching materials. The County also provides a school meals programme at an annual cost of Sh1,624 per learner. He further noted that the County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with

the Kenya Literature Bureau (KLB) for the supply of ECDE learning materials, and has allocated an additional Sh10 million for materials in the 2025/2026 financial year.

On vocational training, the County has significantly supported its VTCs through capitation and infrastructure development. Uasin Gishu allocated Sh104 million in 2022/23 financial, Sh92 million in 2023/24 financial year and Sh69 million in 2024/25 financial year to fund capitation, procure equipment, and construct modern workshops.

To improve access and inclusion, Governor Bii cited initiatives such as the Tujiajiri Programme, a public-private partnership with KCB that provides startup toolkits to disadvantaged trainees. The County has also focused on public awareness campaigns, establishment of centres of excellence per trade, and the retooling of instructors on emerging technologies.

The Governor acknowledged challenges including inadequate funding for ECDE infrastructure, negative perceptions of vocational education, and competition from national institutions offering full scholarships. He emphasised

the need for enhanced support from the national government and partners to bridge these gaps.

The Committee chairperson Betty Montet lauded the County for its structured approach to ECDE and VTC development, noting the County's commitment to professionalizing the education workforce, improving learning environments, and promoting inclusive access to skills training. The Committee affirmed its continued support and engagement with counties to strengthen the delivery of devolved education functions across the country.

Similarly, Kericho County has over 50,000 ECDE learners, with 1,144 ECDE teachers deployed across six sub-counties. Data shows 1,129 teachers are on permanent and pensionable terms, while 15 serve on contract. Governor Eric Mutai told the Committee Kericho County has invested significantly in ECDE infrastructure and staffing, with Sh437 million allocated to salaries in 2023/24 financial years and Sh72 million which has been set aside for development.

The County has no provision for feeding ECDE learners—a critical gap

the county hopes to address.

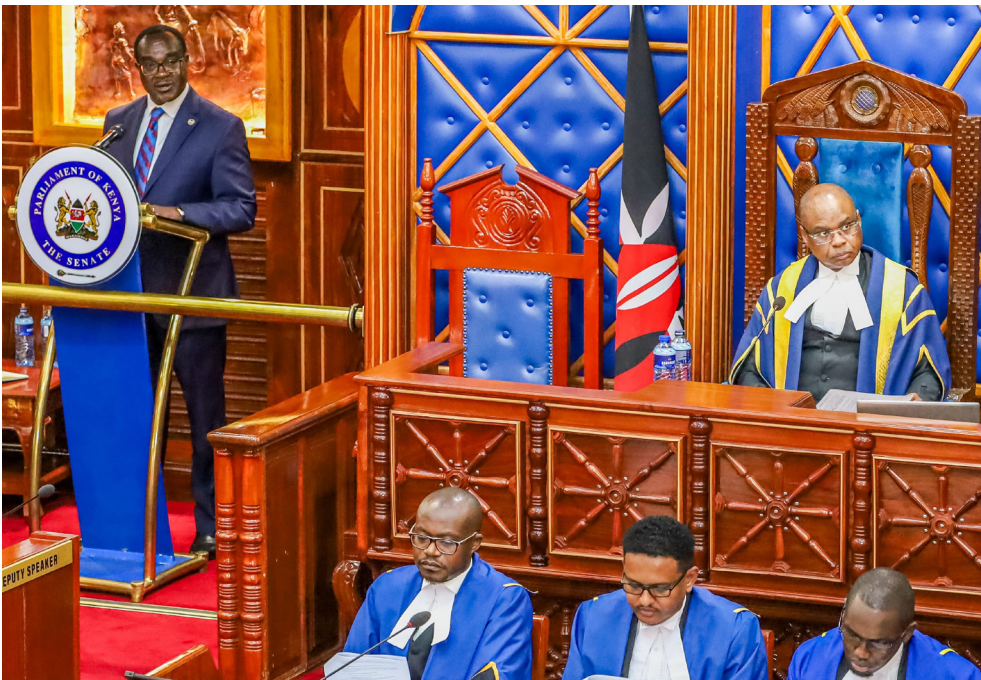
On vocational training, Kericho has 13 operational VTCs and five under construction, with a total enrollment of 4,773 trainees, including 48 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The county has allocated Sh42 million in 2024/25 financial year for VTC development and an additional Sh24 million earmarked for instructor recruitment in 2025/26 financial year.

“Through bursary allocations and targeted community outreach, we are working to ensure equitable access to skills development across all groups, especially the disadvantaged,” the Governor told the committee, outlining challenges, including teacher shortages, resource gaps, and cultural stigma surrounding vocational training.

He called for greater collaboration with the national government and development partners to strengthen service delivery.

The Committee commended Kericho's progress and took note of the county's best practices, including partnership with non-state actors like HANDS-JICA to enhance ECDE service delivery.

Censure truant Cabinet Secretaries – Speaker Kingi



Speaker Amason Kingi presides over House business during last week's Question Time when Education CS Julius Ogamba appeared.

Speaker Amason Kingi has challenged Senators to exploit all tools at their disposal and ensure that Cabinet Secretaries and all other members of the Executive respect the Institution of the Senate while remaining firmly accountable to the Kenyan public.

One of the tools the Speaker cited was the Standing Orders even as he encouraged the Senators to file censure motions

against Cabinet Secretaries who do not honour invitations of the House.

“We have lamented for quite some time. Time has come for you to invoke the provisions of Standing Order No.51(D),” he said in response to failure by the National Treasury CS John Mbadi to appear before the House to respond to Members’ questions.

Standing order No 51 (D) of the

House rules states: “The Senate may, where a Cabinet Secretary fails, without reasonable cause, to appear and respond to Questions under this Part, move a motion to censure the Cabinet Secretary.”

“Move a censure Motion so that this Senate can regain its respect. The cabinet secretaries can also acknowledge, indeed, that this is a House that speaks for and on behalf of the people,” insisted the Speaker.

He said questions that CS Mbadi was supposed answer arise from concerns raised by Kenyans warning that any cabinet secretary failing to appear for purposes of responding to the questions is basically, failing Kenyans.

“We have talked, lamented and vented our frustrations enough. Move an official censure Motion against some of these cabinet secretaries so that we can see some seriousness going forward.”

CS Mbadi was expected to respond to three questions from members but he dispatched a letter to the Speaker indicating his absence as he had other official engagements.

This forced the Speaker to withdraw questions from Senator Enoch Wambua, Senator James Murango and Senator Tom Ojienda due to the absence of the CS.

The Speaker rejected the letter de-

scribing it as contemptuous. “It does not even indicate the reason why the Cabinet Secretary is not present. Standing Order No.51(D) clearly states that if a cabinet secretary fails to appear for no good reason, a Censure Motion can ensue.”

The House expressed its anger toward the CS warning that he has the time to attend political rallies but snubs the invitation of Senate.

“We will call out these cabinet secretaries without fear. We will say these things publicly because that is what we swore to do,” said Senator Sifuna, challenging the House leadership to call out.

“We have to insist on doing our oversight role as Senators, regardless of whatever monster people think exists in this country called broad-based Government.”

Senator Danson Mungatana said Parliament should pass a law that cabinet secretaries should not accompany the president to political rallies. “These people are supposed to be technical. The people who should accompany the President and be on the ground are governors and members of parliament. What do they do? The fact is that they do not go to those places if the President is not there.”

BILLS

Statistics Bill withdrawn

The County Statistics Bill, 2024) has been withdrawn in what the sponsor, Senator Ali Roba, says is pave way for consultation with stakeholders.

The Senator made the request to withdraw during the Tuesday sitting moments after the House resumed its sittings after a short break.

“The reason for the withdrawal is to allow for further consultation with stakeholders with a view to developing a comprehensive framework that addresses concerns at both the national and county government levels,” the lawmaker told the House when the Bill was called for Second Reading.

The Bill requires county governments to develop their own statistical data to aid in their planning and distribution of resources, establishes a statistics office in every county whose mandate was to collect, compile, analyse, abstract and disseminate statistical information relating to the devolved functions.

“The office shall primarily be responsible for compiling, analysing, abstracting and dissemination of statistical data relating to the devolved functions,” reads the Bill in part.



Senator Ali Roba

The Bill was introduced for First Reading in 2021 with Senator Farhiya Ali as the sponsor. It lapsed with the life of the 12th Parliament and was taken over by Senator Roba in the 13th Parliament.

In collecting the data, the Bill proposes that the office of the County Statistician shall use standards and methodologies approved by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). The statistics office shall be headed by a county statistician.

The Bill seeks to establish a county statistical system that will enable evidence-based planning for development.

“Statistics are an indispensable component of planning for any government. Without timely and accurate statistical data, a government cannot match resources with needs.”

Senator Roba says that the there is a nexus between statistics and good governance in that reliable statistical data is vital for good decision making, poverty reduction strategies, and economic development strategies, access to information, transparency and accountability in governance.

The County Statistician shall coordinate with KNBS so that the statistics held by the bureau are accessible to the members of the public.

The Bill establishes an intergovernmental technical committee on statistics headed by the PS responsible for matters related to statistics for proper coordination with KNBS and effective functioning of the county statistics offices.

The committee shall comprise, among others, one county executive committee member responsible for matters relating to statistics nominated by the Council of County Governors, one county statistician, three people appointed by the CS in charge of statistics and KNBS director

general.

It shall be responsible for developing strategies which shall ensure uniform standards, policies and methodologies amongst the various offices of county statisticians.

“It shall examine and make recommendations on the formulation and implementation of statistical programmes of the office on an annual basis,” it reads in part.

The proposed law states that the national and the county governments shall consult and cooperate with each other in the performance of their functions including the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of statistical information.

It states that the county executive committee member responsible for statistics shall, in every four months after the end of each financial year, make a report to the respective governor on new statistical information on matters affecting the county government.

“The county statistician may, at the request of any person and upon the payment of the prescribed fee, provide to that person any information relating to the functions of the office under this Act,” it

State to reinstate disability indicator guidelines – CS Mutua

The Government has confirmed ongoing efforts to reinstate the Disability Mainstreaming Indicator (DMI) in the Performance Contracting Guidelines.

This follows a directive by President William Ruto and increasing calls from Parliament to strengthen disability inclusion in public service.

Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection told the House explained the status of the DMI and broader disability employment compliance in public institutions adding that the Disability Mainstreaming Indicator was among six indicators removed from the perfor-

mance contracting framework.

This was after a stakeholder review aimed at reducing the number of cross-cutting indicators.

He noted that the Ministry, through the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), has continued to implement and advocate for the DMI outside the official performance contract framework.

“We are committed to reinstating the indicator,” said Mutua, adding that: “We are conducting an impact assessment this financial year to demonstrate its effectiveness and relevance.”

He was responding to a question from Senator George Mbugua.



Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua

CS Duale says no extra pay for SHIF registration personnel



Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale

The Cabinet Secretary for Health Aden Duale has clarified the terms of engagement for personnel involved in the ongoing registration of Kenyans into the newly launched Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).

The personnel are not receiving any additional allowances beyond their standard remuneration, CS Duale told Senators.

This follows a question raised in the Senate by Kisumu Senator Tom Ojienda.

Senator Ojienda had sought clarity on the specific roles of personnel from the Ministry of Interior and National Administration and whether any additional incentives were being provided to them for their role in SHIF registration.

CS Duale explained that National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) are playing a pivotal role in the registration initiative.

Their duties include community mobilization, public sensitization and real-time monitoring of registration progress, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

As of May 12, over 22 million Kenyans had registered for SHIF, with daily registrations averaging between 40,000 and 50,000 people during weekdays.

“NGAOs are leveraging their existing grassroots networks to drive awareness and facilitate voluntary registration,” said Duale who noted that their participation is considered part of their regular public service duties.

Ministry to operationalise deposit Guarantee Fund

The Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development has affirmed its commitment to operationalising the Deposit Guarantee Fund and integrated digital lending platforms for cooperatives with the aim of safeguarding members’ savings and enhancing access to credit.

This was revealed during a Senate session where the Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya appeared to respond to questions raised by members.

Senator Karen Nyamu had sought clarification regarding the Ministry’s initiatives in support of youth and women-led MSMEs, financial accountability in SACCOs and harmonisation of cooperative policies across counties.

CS Oparanya observed that while the Deposit Guarantee Fund and digital lending platforms are in the pipeline, their rollout will ensure enhanced fi-

nancial security and seamless access to affordable credit for cooperative members.

He emphasised the need for a harmonized national cooperative policy to promote consistency and cooperation across county governments.

“The Deposit Guarantee Fund will be a critical tool in protecting members’ deposits,” said CS Oparanya, adding that in tandem, the integrated digital lending platforms will simplify and standardise lending processes for cooperatives, fostering financial inclusion.”

A significant portion of the Cabinet Secretary’s response focused on the persistent issue of delayed remittances to Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs), particularly by county governments and universities.

The delays, he noted, have resulted in over Sh600 million in unpaid SACCO deductions.



Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya

Senator Sifuna tribute to late Pope Francis

Senator Edwin Sifuna has expressed hope that the newly elected Pope Leo XIV will stay on the progressive path charted by his predecessor, Pope Francis, rather than returning the Holy See to the conservative arena.

“The challenges facing the church and the world today require a new focus, new methods and a new vision. The church and the political platform are now dominated by younger people for whom conservative beliefs may not hold sway,” the Senator said in a personal Statement to the House on the death of Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican State.

Pope Francis died on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, aged 88.

The Senator is a practising Catholic and used the floor to celebrate the life of what he described as “arguably the most liberal and progressive Pope ever”.

He said Pope Francis’ death is a huge loss to progressives of all shades across the world.

He told the House that he has had the privilege to see three Popes in his life, plus the latest one who was elected on Thursday.

“This experience has given me time to reflect on the values and principles that the leader of the Holy See usually bestows on the Catholic community, the



Senator Edwin Sifuna

largest religious denomination across the world,” he explained.

He added: “In my reflections, I have come to understand that the key qualities that made Pope Francis unique on the stellar role of Popes were his genuine compassion, his grace towards the poor and the vulnerable and his deep belief in the principles of inclusivity.”

Pope Francis manifested courage in its pure form, he said, extended a mighty hand of support to the marginalised, in-

cluding sexual and gender minorities, at times when these topics were unaddressed in most parts of the globe.

“It is meaningless to celebrate the lives of the departed if we do not take moments to ask what lessons we have drawn from them or their works. Predictably, many leaders in Kenya and in the world have had occasion since the death of the Pope to hail him as a great person, a wonderful human being and a compassionate Jesuit.

However, I have to point out to everyone that while Pope Francis served, he declined the trappings of the papacy. He preferred to live a humble life in his Casa Santa Maria Marta residence rather than the papal apartments used by his predecessors.”

The Pope was a legendary believer and purveyor of the common touch philosophy. He always preferred to reach out to the masses and show compassion to the lowly. The late pontiff was a strong opponent of global economic models that enrich a few and widen the gap between the rich and the poor.

“It is my strong contention that mourning the Pope in flowery media releases, while holding on to the exclusivity of right-wing politics, divisive ethnic rhetoric, corruption and wanton theft of public resources, is hypocritical. Such

actions contradict the principles held by the departed pontiff.”

The Catholic Communion is a hugely conservative institution, and yet in the period that it has been led by a progressive liberal, the conversation around freedom rights and equality has been magnified more.

Senator Sifuna said the new Pontiff has an obligation to be more sympathetic to migrants, to gender and sexual minorities, to the vulnerable and to the new face of the young voter, nearly all liberal, like his predecessor.

“We have to spur action on climate change and build bridges across ethnic divides. We are now called upon to detach from the divisive rhetoric of our predecessors and embrace each other in our diversity because we have no other option. This will be the greatest way to honour the memory and work of Pope Francis.”

He said the greatest lesson the late Pontiff left to the world is that a good person at the top is all it takes for society to find its foot and move forward. “I hope that this lesson will not be lost to both Catholics and non-Catholics as we seek a united front in socio-economic and political realms to empower people and move our countries forward.”

KURUNZI

Seneti yatakiwa kukabiliana na dawa zilizopitwa na wakati



Seneta Godfrey Osotsi

Seneta Godfrey Osotsi amelitaka Bunge la Seneti kuchukua hatua kuhusu dawa ambazo muda wake wa kutumika umepita japo bado zinapatikana kwenye taasisi za afya nchini Kenya.

Katika ombi alilowasilisha akitaka Kauli kutoka kwa Kamati ya Afya, Seneta Osotsi alielezea hofu kuhusu suala linaloendelea la dawa ambazo muda



Seneta Raphael Chimera

wazo wa matumizi umepita japo zipo katika vituo vya afya vya umma, akielezea hali hiyo kuwa tatizo la kitaifa ambalo linahitaji hatua za hima.

“Mkaguzi Mkuu wa Hesabu, kwa miaka mitatu iliyopita, ameripoti kiwango kikubwa cha dawa ambazo muda wazo kutumika umepita japo zipo katika hospitali zetu. Hili ni suala linalohitaji kushughulikiwa kwa haraka kwani lina-

hatarisha maisha ya Wakenya wanaotafuta matibabu katika vituo vya afya vya umma,” Osotsi aliiambia Seneti wakati wa kikao.

Alishangaa namna vituo vya afya vya Kaunti vinaweka dawa ambazo muda wazo wa matumizi umepita licha ya hatari zinazojulikana. “Je, kuna mwanachama wa ushirikiano unaowahusisha wafanyakazi wa Kaunti au watoaji binafsi wa huduma za afya kuiba dawa zilizokusudiwa kwa watu wetu?” Aliuliza Seneta Osotsi.

Seneta Osotsi aidha aliibua wasiwasi kuhusu Mamlaka ya Ugavi wa Dawa nchini Kenya (KEMSA), akisema mianya katika ugavi huenda inachangia kwenye tatizo hilo. “Ni lazima Bunge hili lipate maelezo ya kina kuhusu iwapo hatua za kuchelewesha usambazaji wa dawa au usambazaji wa dawa za muda mfupi zinazidisha hali hii mbaya,” alikariri Seneta huyo.

Aliitaka Kamati kuikumbatia teknolojia ya kufuatilia tarehe za mwisho wa matumizi na kuzingatia uhaba wa maduka ya dawa yanayohudumu karibu na hospitali ili kukomesha unyonyaji dhidi ya wananchi.

Seneta huyo alitaka Seneti kuchukua hatua kali na za hima ili kuwalinda wagonjwa na kurejesha imani ya umma katika mfumo wa afya.

Kwingineko Seneta Raphael Chimera,

ametoa wito wa uingiliaji kati wa haraka na uwazi kuhusu masuala muhimu yanayoathiri sekta ya afya na fedha nchini Kenya.

Katika ombi la Taarifa kwa Kamati ya Afya, Seneta Chimera alitilia shaka agizo la hivi majuzi la Waziri wa Afya la kusimamisha utoaji leseni kwa madaktari wa kigeni, isipokuwa wale kutoka Afrika Mashariki akitaka ufafanuzi wa namna hatua hiyo inavyoathiri wale ambao tayari wanahudumu. Alieleza kusikitishwa na usumbufu unaoweza kujitokeza katika utoaji wa huduma za afya akiitaka serikali kuweka wazi sababu za kusimamishwa kazi, vigezo vya ukaguzi wa madaktari wenye leseni na muda uliopangwa wa hatua hiyo.

Katika ombi jingine alilolielekeza kwenye Kamati ya Fedha na Bajeti, Seneta Chimera aliangazia kuporomoka kwa Benki ya Imperial, ambayo ime-waacha maelfu ya waweka amana bila ufikiaji kamili wa pesa zao karibu mungo mmoja baadaye. Alitafuta ufahamu kuhusu hatua ya urejeshaji wa mali, ulipaji wa amana na hatua za kisheria zilizochukuliwa dhidi ya waliohusika na usimamizi mbaya wa benki hiyo.

Vilevile Seneta huyo alisisitiza haja ya uwajibikaji thabiti wa kitaasisi, mageuzi ya sera kwa wakati na kuimarisha imani ya umma katika uadilifu wa mifumo ya afya na kifedha.

Hatua ya serikali kuvikodesha viwanda vya sukari yazua maswali

Seneta Okiya Omtatah, ameta-ka majibu kutoka kwa Kamati ya Fedha na Bajeti kuhusu hatua ya serikali kuvikodesha viwanda vya sukari vya umma kwa kipindi cha takriban miaka 30. Kulingana na Seneta Omtatah, mpango huo unamaanisha kubinafsisha umiliki wa viwanda hivyo ambavyo hapo awali vilikuwa chini ya usimamizi wa umma, licha ya kuwepo kwa njia mbadala kama vile kuimarisha umiliki wa umma kupitia uteuzi wa mamejeja wa kitaalamu na wenye weledi.

Seneta huyo anaitaka Kamati ieleze vigezo vya kuvikodesha viwanda hivyo badala ya kuviendesha chini ya usimamizi bora wa umma. Alitaka kujua iwapo mkakati huo unalenga maslahi ya kijamii na kiuchumi ya wenyeji wanaoitegemea sekta hiyo kwa riziki zao.

Mbali na hayo, Seneta Omtatah anaitaka ufafanuzi kuhusu jinsi mpango huo wa muda mrefu unavyokidhi misingi ya uwajibikaji wa umma. Alitaka kufahamishwa iwapo kulifanyika ushirikishwaji wa wananchi na wadau kwa njia muafaka kabla ya uamuzi huo kuafikiwa akisisitiza kuwa uwazi na ushirikishwaji ni muhimu katika maamuzi yanayohusu

mali ya umma.

Aidha, Seneta huyo anaitaka taarifa kuhusu athari zitakazowakumba wakulima, wafanyakazi na uchumi wa maeneo ya uzalishaji wa sukari kutokana na mpango huo. Anaitaka Kamati kubaini hatua zilizowekwa kulinda mali ya umma na kuhakikisha huduma zinaendelea kutolewa mbali na kuyapa uwezo kiuchumi maeneo yanayokitegemea kili-mo cha miwa.

Seneta Mohammed Faki ametoa onyo kuhusu hali mbaya inayozidi kushuhudiwa katika kivuko cha Likoni ambacho ni kiungo muhimu cha usafiri kati ya Kisima cha Mombasa na bara. Seneta huyo anatafuta taarifa kamili kutoka kwa Kamati ya Barabara, Uchukuzi na Makazi kuhusu hali hiyo.

Seneta Faki alieleza changamoto mbalimbali zinazokumba huduma ya kivuko hicho zikiwemo foleni ndefu wakati wa saa za kilele, msongamano na hatari za kiusalama. Alitoa mifano ya matukio ambapo walinzi binafsi wanaosimamia kivuko hicho walishindwa kuudhibiti umati, hali inayoweza kusababisha hatari kubwa wakati wa dharura. Alifichua kuwa matumizi ya vivuko vya

zamani ambavyo hali yake ya bima na mitambo ni ya kutiliwa shaka yanazidisha tatizo hilo.

Seneta huyo aidha anaitaka Kamati ieleze sababu za kudorora kwa huduma hiyo na hatua zinazochukuliwa na Mamlaka ya Bandari nchini Kenya (KPA) kurejesha huduma bora. Pia anaitaka kujua hatua zinazotekelezwa kuboresha udhibiti wa umati na usalama wa wasafiri.

Kadhalika, Seneta Faki ametaka taarifa kuhusu mipango ya kukabiliwa na majanga yanayoweza kutokea katika kivuko hicho mbali na kufafanuliwa hali ya utekelezaji na muda wa kununua vivuko vipya.

Seneta huyo ameitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta wa Kaunti ya Migori Eddy Oketch kubaini sababu za kuondolewa kwa daraja la muda lililojengwa wakati wa janga la COVID-19 ili kupunguza msongamano akisisitiza haja ya kuwa na njia salama kwa wanaotembea kwa miguu.

Kamati hiyo pia imetakiwa kuweka wazi iwapo kuna mpango wa kulirejesha daraja salama la wanaotembea kwa miguu.



Seneta Mohamed Faki



Seneta Okiya Omtatah

This Week in History - On May 25, 2017

House approves Motion on the Joint Parliamentary Select Committee on EALA election



Majority Leader Kithure Kindiki

The House debated and approved the Motion on the report of the Joint Parliamentary Select Committee on the election of Members to East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA). The Motion was moved by Majority Leader Kithure Kindiki. The report provides that the slots for EALA should be shared on the ratio of 5:4 between the Majority Party and the Minority Party. Senator Kindiki told the House that the independents will not be able to get a slot because their ratio is less than 0.1 per cent. "In future, there will be need to amend the rules on the election of EALA Members to clarify the issue of independent candidates. The rules are not very clear. Therefore, there is need to clarify how independent candidates are likely to be considered for election in future in accordance with Articles 85 and 99(1) of the Constitution of Kenya," he said.

He said that what Kenya had done during the election of the previous term was not in accordance with the law because Parliament, which is the Electoral College, was not provided with an opportunity of choosing because an election envisages choice. Because of that ruling, Kenya was found to be in violation of the Treaty. "It is for that reason that the rules of this year and going forward have provided that Parliament must be provided with an opportunity to have more than one choice per slot."



Senator Billow Kerrow said:

"This is a very important institution – the East African Legislative Assembly. It is the key institution that drives the integration of East Africa; a process that is political integration and economic integration. This is a process that has stalled because some of the protocols developed by this Assembly have not been domesticated or approved by our Parliaments. This is because also we do not give enough teeth or power to that institution. However, given what is happening in in the European Union (EU) and other regional Parliaments, this is an important institution that we need to strengthen. One of the ways in which we can strengthen this institution is to put people of a high caliber, based on merit who can make a difference in that institution."



Senator Johnstone Muthama said:

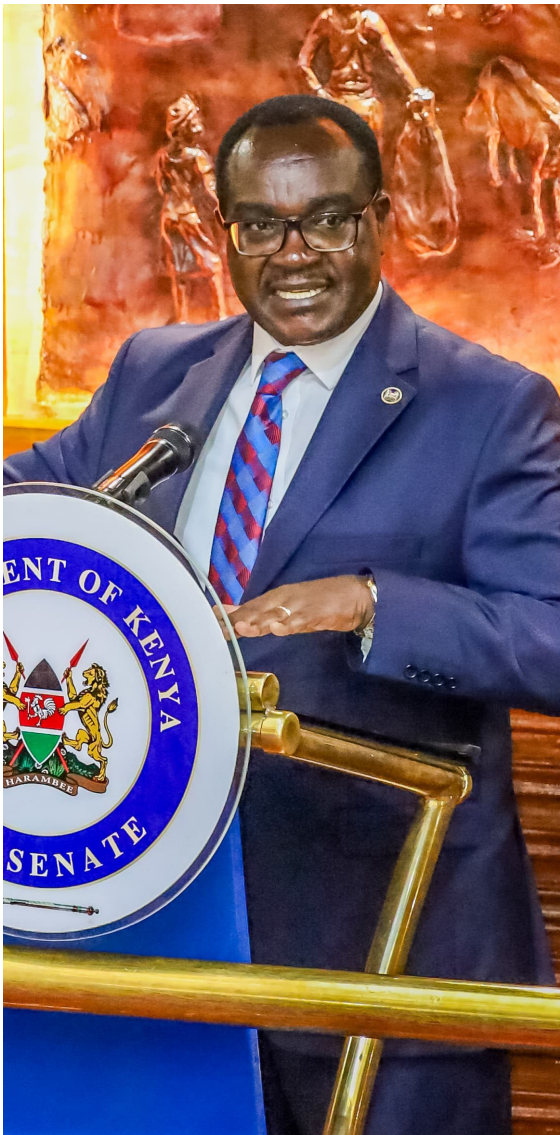
"We have just concluded party nominations and there is a great deal of outcry all over the country. What stands out is that many political parties, including leaders themselves, have chosen candidates. As a result of that, the country has been divided more than ever before. Considering where we are coming from; despite the fact that leaders and the top leadership on daily basis in this country keep on talking about a united country; a country that is free of tribalism, but what we witness at the end of the day is the other way round."



Senator Judith Sijeny said:

"I find it very unfortunate that we can stand and discriminate against our people, oppose things just for the sake of it and waste time because others want to buy time for their personal reasons. Kenya is again going to look bad when we have followed the due process. The law says that at most three times. I am a lawyer and most of these political parties have a panel of lawyers. Why did they sit and agree and bring it to Parliament then for others to start thinking that it was wrong? That has been the interpretation. Why can they not move to court if they want that proper interpretation to be done again?"

Government investing in TVET infrastructure – CS Ogamba



Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba answers members' questions on Wednesday, on the right are Senator Catherine Mumma and Senator Fatuma Dullo.

The Government in collaboration with development partners such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the German Development Bank (KfW), is actively investing in the infrastructural development of tertiary institutions, Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba has said.

Additional funding is being sourced from the National Government-Constituencies Development Fund (NG CDF) and contributions from local communities surrounding the institutions.

The Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba made the revelation on Wednesday when he gave a detailed account of the government's efforts to harmonise vocational education in both national and county levels. The CS also detailed the plan to expand student accommodation and consider conditional grants for urban development.

"To further address the shortage of student accommodation in tertiary institutions, the Government is engaging private investors, through structured Public-Private Partnership (PPP) processes. Through this, the Government

encourages potential investors with interest in developing accommodation facilities within tertiary institutions to make such investments. We have taken measures such as encouraging institutions with land to enter into collaborative partnerships with private investors through which the private investors develop accommodation facilities for use by students," said the Cabinet Secretary.

He was responding to questions by Senator Catherine Mumma who had sought clarity on three critical areas surrounding intergovernmental collaboration on curriculum alignment in vocational training, steps to encourage private investment in educational infrastructure and the potential for conditional grants to support urban planning.

The Senator served as the chairperson of Sigalagala National Polytechnic in Kakamega county when it was formed as a national polytechnic. During this transition, the student population rose from 2,900 to 13,500 by the time she left.

"The reason I was asking this question is because it is now clear that when

you set up universities and national institutions, they trigger peri-urban growth. Anybody passing Sigalagala can see that it has so much population. There was no intergovernmental conversation around growing Sigalagala as a peri-urban area," she told the House.

She added: "If we operationalised intergovernmental conversations, then the National Government as they declare national polytechnics and universities would be compelled to also give conditional grants to develop the relevant peri-urban infrastructure to support those learning facilities."

The Government has taken measures such as encouraging institutions with land to enter into collaborative partnerships with private investors through which the private investors develop accommodation facilities for use by students.

The CS said there are 1,156 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) across all the 47 counties in Kenya, with a total enrolment of 141,157 trainees.

The institutions are strategically located in villages to ensure that the youth

can conveniently access skills training while residing at home.

"Recognising the needs of trainees from far-flung areas, some VTCs, particularly those situated in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and urban centres, have established accommodation facilities," he told the House, adding that the facilities help to bridge the gap for learners who would otherwise face challenges in accessing training due to distance.

"As a Ministry, we also explore ways to enhance student accommodation in VTCs, particularly in areas where demand exceed available facilities."

Regarding conditional grants to counties, CS Ogamba indicated that while education infrastructure falls under various jurisdictions, the government is exploring sustainable financing mechanisms, including grants, to support planning and development around educational hubs, particularly in urban settings.

He noted that this would require continued dialogue between both levels of government.



The Senate Board of Management last week hosted a party for Ms Susan Juma, a retiring staff member of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) for her long, loyal service to the nation.

1. Deputy Clerk Mohamed Ali congratulates Ms Juma during the party.
2. Senate Board of Management, led by Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye, pose for photograph with Ms Juma.

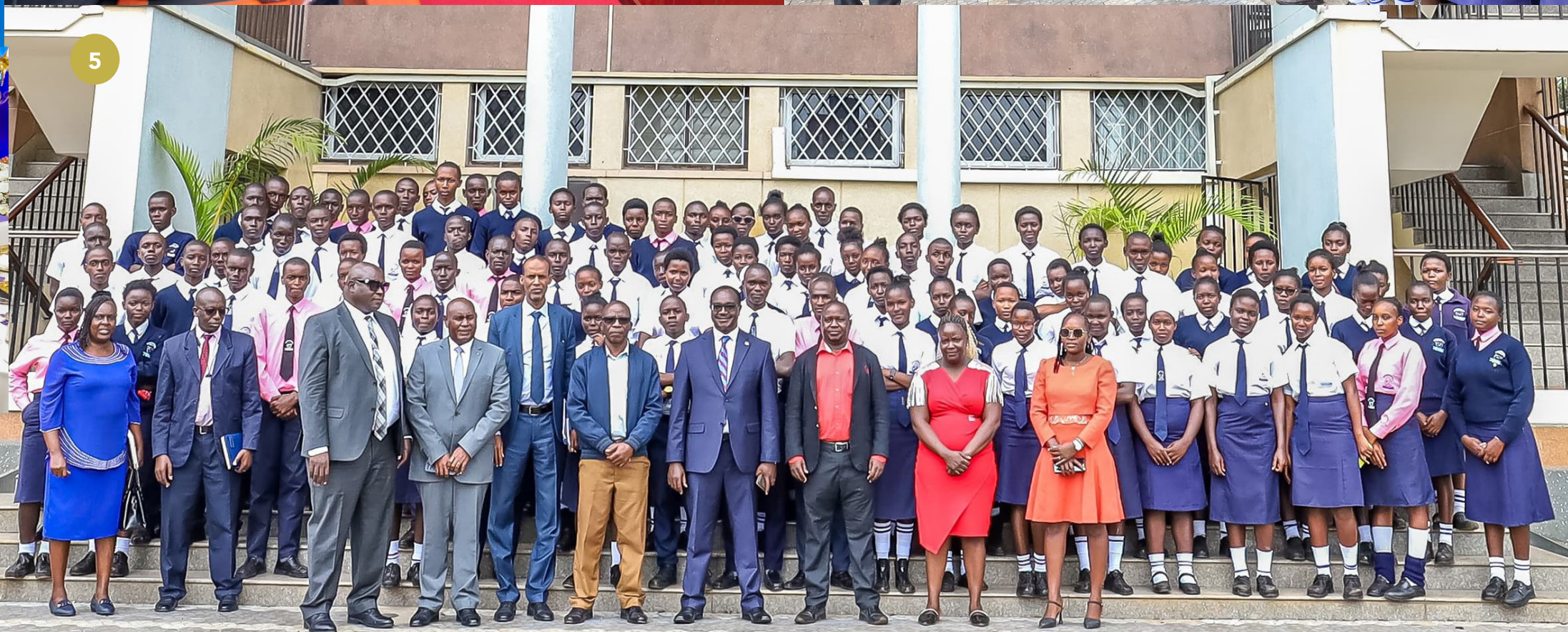
3. Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi honours Ms Juma with a bouquet of flowers.

4. Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye honours Ms Juma with the long service award.

5. Senate staff celebrate with Ms Juma during her retirement party.

6. Students and teachers from St Francis Girls Mang'u, Kiambu County, after their tour of Parliament Buildings.

7. Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye and the leadership and staff in the Directorates of Legal Services and; Litigation and Compliance during their joint retreat in Nairobi.



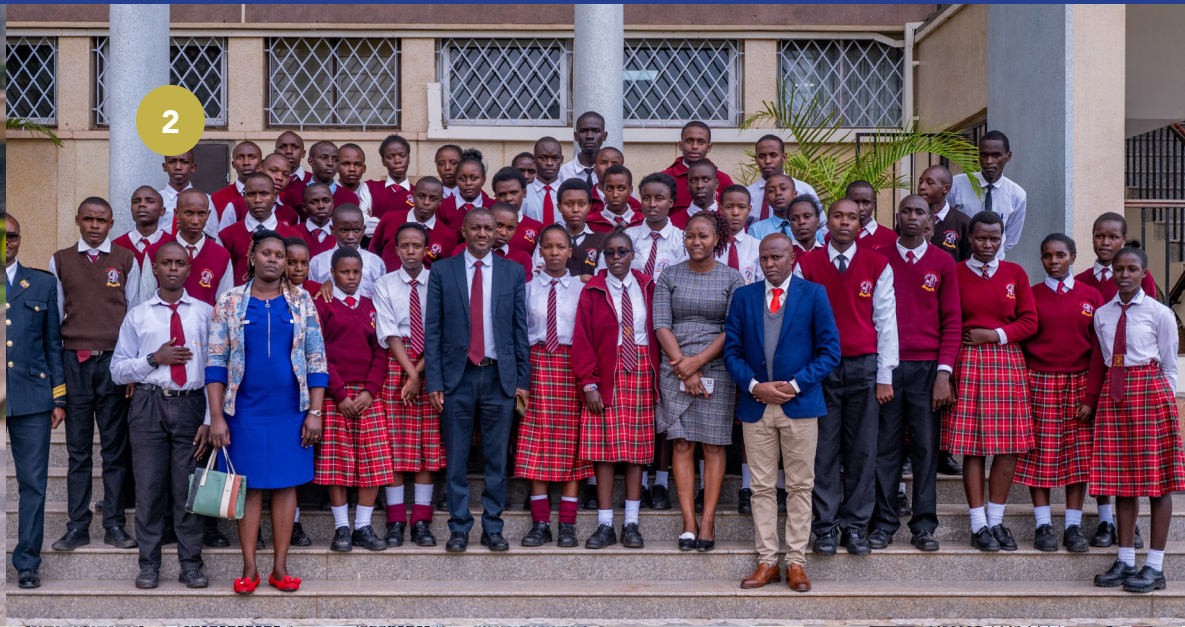
1. Hansard Reporters from the Republic of The Gambia and the Republic of Ghana who are undergoing training at the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) pose for a group picture after their tour of Parliament Buildings.

2. Governor Mutula Kilonzo Junior shares a light moment with Members of the Finance Committee led by Senator Tabitha Mutinda, the vice chair (right). Others are Senator Boni Khalwale and Senator Mariam Omar.

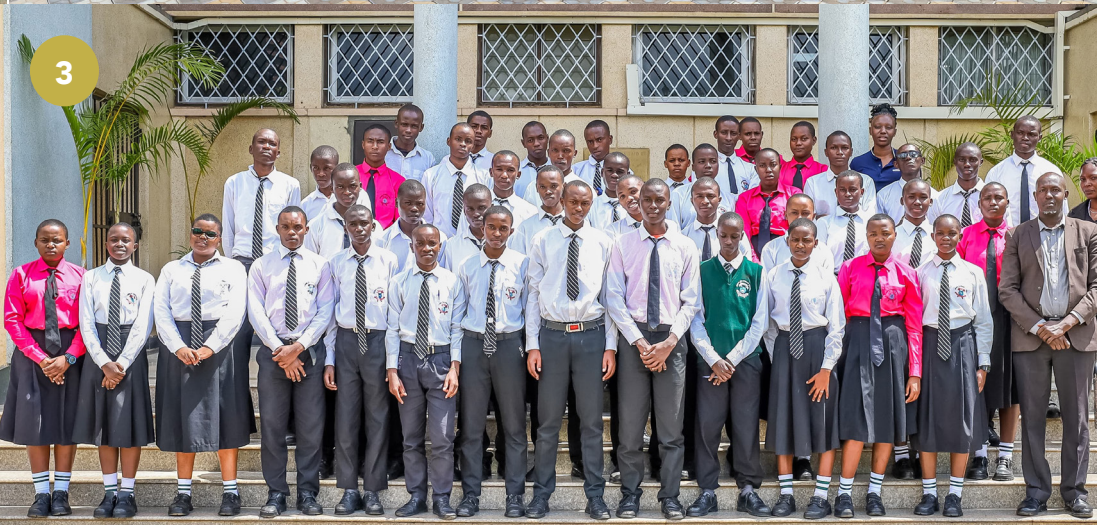
3. The Finance and Budget Committee during their meeting with officials from the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) during the meeting in which they deliberated on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025.

4. CS Julius Ogamba had the opportunity to offer useful tips to learners from Kamwimbi Secondary School whom he met at Parliament Buildings after he responded to Questions from Senators on Wednesday morning.

5. Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba joined teachers and students from Kamwimbi Secondary School, Tharaka Nithi County, for a photo opportunity during their tour of the Senate.



- 1 Senator Dan Maanzo speaks to students from Nunguni AIC Secondary School, Makueni County, when they visited Parliament for academic exposition.
2. Senator Maanzo joined the Students from Nunguni AIC Secondary School for a group photo.
3. Students from Aberdare Ranges Junior School, Nakuru County, also visited the Senate last week.
4. Students and teachers from Nyambaria Boys High School, Nyamira County, at the Senate.
5. Teachers and students from Kithunguriri Day Sec. School, Embu County, pose for a group picture at the Senate.
6. Students from St. Theresa Secondary School, Muranga County, follow House proceedings in the Senate Chamber during their study tour of Parliament Buildings.



1. A Parliamentary Communications Officer speaks to students of Ikombe Secondary School, Machakos County, at Parliament Buildings.
2. Serjeant-At-Arms James Ngusya with students and teachers from Mbondoni Secondary School, Kitui County.
3. Students and teachers from Mithini Secondary School after their tour of Parliament Buildings.
4. Students and teachers from Ikombe Secondary School, Machakos County, at Parliament Buildings.
5. Dr Brighton Buchere, the Chairperson of the Devolution Conference Planning Committee of the Senate, chairs the Planning Committee at Parliament Buildings.
6. Members of the Senate Planning the Devolution Conference at Parliament Buildings.



1. Senator Ledama ole Kina addresses students of Sekenani girls' secondary school and Olderkesi Secondary School, Narok County, when they visited Parliament Buildings.
2. Senator Ledama ole Kina speaks to students of Meteitei boys secondary school, Nandi County, at Parliament Buildings.
3. Senator Ledama ole Kina with students of Sekenani girls' secondary school, Narok County, who visited Parliament Buildings last week.
4. Senator Edwin Sifuna, Senator Hamida Kibwana and Senator Karen Nyamu with students from St. Hannah's Girls' School, Nairobi County, at Parliament Buildings.
5. Senator Samson Cherarkey addresses UHC interns outside Parliament Buildings when presented a Petition on their plight last week.
6. Students from Kiburu Boys High School, Kirinyaga County, at Parliament Buildings.
7. Public Communication Officer Ronny Nyagah speaks to students and teachers from S A Nguluni Secondary School, Machakos County, during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
8. Students from Ithumula Secondary school, Makueni County, follow proceedings in the Senate Chamber as Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale answers members' questions.



A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

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