



The SENATE

Weekly

Issue No. 0066

Senators maintain Sh465 billion as county share

Senators vow to amend the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 warning that underfunding counties in 2025/2026 could derail critical social services in counties.



Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot (left) moved the Bill while Senator Ali Roba, Chair, Finance Committee and Senator Tabitha Mutinda, vice chair, led the consideration of the Bill with stakeholders.

Senators have voted to amend the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 to push county equitable share to Sh465 billion in the next financial year, 2025/26.

The Council of Governors (CoG) is however demanding Sh526 billion as the allocation of the same period.

The lawmakers made the promise during the debate on the Bill even as they faulted the National Assembly and the National Treasury accusing them of undermining devolution.

The Bill, which originated from the National Assembly, allocates Sh405 billion to counties, the national Government's proposed share is Sh2.3 trillion while the allocation to the Equalisation Fund is Sh9.6 billion which is the 0.5 per cent of most recent approved accounts of revenue.

The Bill also contains Sh2.7 billion which is the arrears accrued from the

disbursement of the Equalisation Fund.

However, Senators argued that the proposed allocation to counties of Sh405 billion is erroneous as it is based on a wrong premise.

In developing the Bill, the National Assembly used wrong data, according to Senators.

The Bill indicates that the most recent audited and approved accounts of revenue are for 2020/21 financial year, which amounts to Sh1,570.6 trillion.

However, on April 15, 2025, the National Assembly approved the audited accounts of revenue of Sh1,920.4 trillion as the total nationally collected revenue of 2021/22 financial year.

"This means the most recent audited revenue received and approved by the National Assembly to be applied in the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 is Sh1,920.4 trillion for 2021/22 financial year," says the Committee on Finance

and Budget in its report after consideration of the Bill.

Senators say following the change (from Sh1,570.6 trillion to Sh1,920.4 trillion), the allocation to counties and the Equalisation Fund must be adjusted in order to meet the constitutional obligation.

Moving the Bill, Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot reflected on the fiscal instability witnessed in 2024, when the country witnessed a Sh400 billion revenue drop due to delays in the Finance Bill's assent forced a revision of the Division of Revenue Act.

He warned that underfunding counties again in 2025/2026 could derail critical public services at the grassroots level.

He told the House that the reliance on the last audited financial accounts has left counties struggling under deep debt and operating with insufficient resources.

"If our National Assembly believes that 2.5 per cent of the national budget is sufficient for NG-CDF, let us ensure that 15 or even 20 per cent is set as the minimum allocation for county governments," he said, adding that the when the budget is laid in the National Assembly, there is certainty that a dedicated portion of revenue will reach our counties.

"That would be a fair trade-off; 2.5 per cent for NG-CDF, 20 per cent for devolution."

In the report of the Budget Policy Statement (BPS) approved by the House in March, the House recommended Sh465 billion as fare share for counties in the equitable share.

"For us to settle on Sh465 billion, there are factors that led to that figure," said Senator Tabitha Mutinda while seconding the Bill.

The factors include, the Housing levy deductions, whose budget is projected at

Sh4.1 billion, enhanced Contributions to the NSSF (Sh6 billion), matching allocation to the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) project (Sh11.8 billion), matching allocations for the Community Health Promoters (CHPs) (Sh3.23 billion), annual wage increments (IPPD annual adjustment (Sh6.3 billion), basic salary increment as per the Doctors CBA 2017/21 and Execution of the Return To Work Formula (Sh3.5 billion).

Senator Boni Khalwale supported the proposed amendments saying they seek to ensure that the money reflects the functions that the county governments are supposed to do and the functions that the national Governments are supposed to do.

“We urge members of the National Assembly to try and understand devolution better, and appreciate that all of them come from one county or the other. They should not, while making a decision on the actual quantum of what goes

where, be tempted to think that they owe it to the national Government,” said Senator Khalwale.

Senator Eddy Oketch said the proposal of Sh405 billion to counties amounts to defunding counties.

“If you do the calculus, you will discover that in effect the National Assembly is defunding counties,” said the Senator.

For the last two years, the funds allocated to counties have primarily covered non-discretionary expenses. These are costs arising from national government policies that impose financial burdens on counties without the necessary financial backing.

“For instance, when a policy such as housing levy deductions is implemented at the national level, county employees are also subjected to the same deductions. Yet, counties had not accounted for this in their budgets, as devolution was still taking root. This places an additional financial burden of approximately Sh4



Ms Mary Chebukati, Chair, Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) when she appeared before Finance Committee to discuss the Fourth Revenue Sharing formula.

billion on counties.”

In its consideration of the Bill, the Committee on Finance and Budget noted that over the years, the county equitable share has on average been 2.23 per cent of GDP.

In the 2025/26 financial year, the nom-

inal GDP is projected to be Sh19,272 trillion, the county equitable share percentage of GDP should be maintained at the same level and further an additional Sh34.93 billion be provided to meet the cost of the non-discretionary expenditures.

House extends time for President Memo on Conflict Bill

Senators have voted to give the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights more time to consider the President’s Memorandum on the Conflict of Interest Bill, 2023.

On Tuesday, the House voted to grant the Committee an extra 45 days to consider the reservations expressed by President William Ruto when he refused to sign the Bill and referred it back to the Senate.

The Bill aims to provide for the management and regulation of the Conflict of Interest regime to prevent public officials from using their positions to influence the decisions of other officers to further their individual interests.

It also seeks to impose stringent sanctions against government officials found culpable of engaging in business to amass ill-gotten wealth.

The Bill began from the National Assembly where it was passed and thereafter moved to the Senate, which also passed the Bill with a raft of amendments.

The President expressed reservations with 12 Clauses and refused to sign the Bill and Speaker Amason Kingi referred the Bill to the Committee to consider the memorandum.

Under the House rules, the Committee is expected to consider and report to the House on its consideration of the Memorandum within 14 days.

Senator Wakili Sigei, who chairs the Committee, said they have been forced to request for more time because the Committee has not been able to conclude within the 14 days that the Stand-

ing Order provides.

“That is the basis upon which we are placing this Motion for consideration, so that we are given another 45 calendar days within which the Committee is expected to consider and remit its report back to the House,” he said, while moving the procedural Motion.

Senator Sigei said the Memorandum was also sent to the National Assembly adding that the extra time required will be used by the Committee to have an engagement with the counterpart Committee from the National Assembly so that they can agree on a version that the two Houses will have on the Bill.

“This cannot and will not be done within the 14 days which are lapsing today,” Senator Sigei told the House last Tuesday.

The Comments were supported by Senator Raphael Chimera who observed that it is the second time this Bill is being referred back to Parliament for further amendments.

“If you look at the reservations from the President, what has been proposed raises quite serious concerns and very weighty would-be amendments. As a Committee, we wish to be allowed much more time to caucus, discuss and thoroughly look into the proposed amendments, the clauses as they are so that we can come up with a much more acceptable version that will be ready for presidential assent,” said Senator Chimera.

In the Memorandum, the President expresses reservations with 12 clauses in the Bill as passed by both Houses.

He starts with Clause 2 which defines



Senator Wakili Sigei

terms used in the Bill. The President points out that the absence of definitions of the word “family” and “relative” limits the scope of the Bill, an omission he observes gives public officers a loophole to bypass conflict of interest restrictions by using family members and relatives as proxies, thereby compromising the integrity of the conflict of interest framework.”

“Public Officers may conceal assets acquired through conflict of interest by failing to declare such assets,” he says in the memorandum, adding that it is important for the lawmakers to empower EACC to institute forfeiture proceedings against public officers who fail to disclose assets.

He also wants the term “undeclared asset” defined.

The President wants Parliament to amend the Bill and define family and relatives. In his recommendations he wants the House to define family as the spouse, dependent child or parent of a public officer, a dependent child of a public officer or a parent of the spouse of a public officer.

In the case of a relative, the President proposes that it should be defined as a person who is related to a public officer by birth, marriage, adoption or affinity and undeclared asset should be defined as any asset that is not disclosed in the prescribed manner in any declaration year.

The President also had issues with Clause 5 which provides that the Act shall be administered by a reporting authority and EACC.

Embrace legislative frameworks that enhance integration – Speaker Kingi

Speaker Amason Kingi has urged member states of the East African community (EAC) to scale up their impact in promoting trade, peace and sustainable development while he reiterated the need for the Parliamentarians to advocate for policies that secure the future of the Community.

“As we face challenges in trade patterns, security dynamics and foreign relations, our parliaments must rise to the occasion to advocate for policies that promote peace and economic growth, as well as ensure East Africa’s voice is respected on the global stage,” said Speaker Kingi.

He made the remarks during the 19th meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers of national legislatures and East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) in Dar es Salaam.

He reiterated that the collaboration among EAC member states is critical in navigating emerging geopolitical realignments.

“In a time of global uncertainties and shifting alliances, our Parliaments must stand as pillars of stability, diplomacy and democratic governance.

Other emerging topics at the centre of the conference in Dar Es Salaam were climate change and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The Speaker implored his counterparts to prioritise legislation that drives climate resilience, green energy adoption and environmental protection adding that member states should borrow best practices from other jurisdictions where Parliaments have taken proactive legislative measures to ensure AI systems are safe and transparent.

The Bureau of EAC and EALA offer a much-needed platform for member states to engage robustly and strategically, with an aim to enhance fraternal ties and a sense of brotherhood across East Africa.

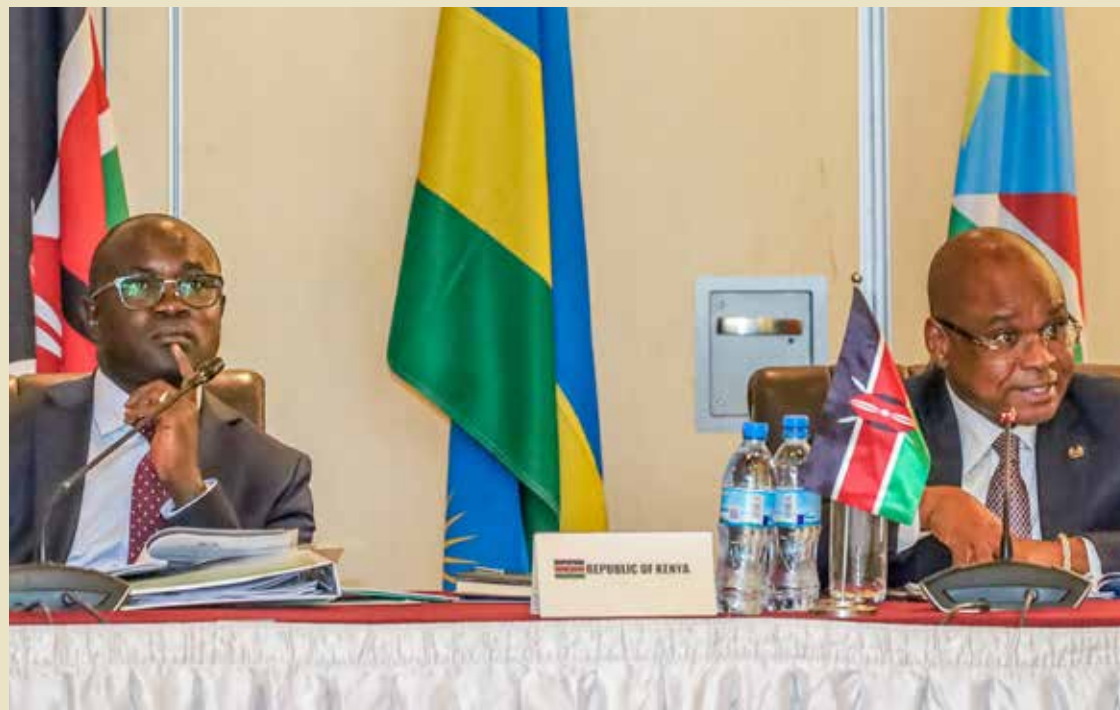
The Parliament of Kenya has played a major role in promoting peace, stability and development in the EAC by ratifying key protocols, supporting cross-border cooperation and peace-keeping missions in troubled parts of the EAC region.

The launch of the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI) in Nairobi in 2019 came as a major boost to the EAC in catapulting the integration process and providing link between EAC member states and beyond.

The institute was launched following the enactment of the East African Parliamentary Bill, 2011, which anchors and provides for the legal framework of its establishment.



Prayers before the EAC Speaker's Bureau meeting the official start in Dar es Salaam.



Speaker Amason Kingi makes his comments during the 19th meeting of the East African Community (EAC) Speakers' Bureau in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on Saturday, May 24. Hon David Ochieng, the MP for Ugenya looks on.

Prime Minister Raila Odinga hails Senate



Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga signs the Visitors' Book in Speaker Kingi's Office.



Mr Odinga, flanked by Senators, addresses the press after the meeting that was organised by the Committee on Finance and Budget.

Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga has assured the Senators of his full support in empowering the House with proper powers and responsibilities to effectively execute its mandate.

Mr Odinga hailed the Senate for discharging its tripartite role effectively

and called for the House to be properly empowered akin to the United States of America Senate.

“Our Senate should work just like the Senate of the United States of America. We need to give it proper powers and responsibilities just like the National Assembly,” said Mr Odinga.

The former MP of Langata has over the years championed the devolved system of governance.

On Thursday, during a private meeting with the Senators at the invitation of the Committee on Finance and Budget, Mr Odinga urged the Senate to be innovative and develop legislations that

empower the youth in diverse areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) since they are a catalyst for growth if empowered.

Quoting the national anthem, Mr Odinga said Kenya’s collective vision is a country that has plenty within our borders, adding that the plenty must be created by the people of Kenya.

“In a successful country, the constitution is a vehicle that helps a country to achieve its vision. One of our vision is that plenty be found within our borders. The plenty has not been found; it must be created by the people of Kenya,” the former Prime Minister said.

He added that at independence, Kenya, Ghana and South Korea were at par in terms of the major economic indicators and sixty-two years later, South Korea’s economy is over 40 times bigger but the youth can change the tide.

“The youth can help us leapfrog and catch up with South Korea since they have got new tools like artificial intelligence (AI). We just need to empower them,” he said.

The Standing Orders obligates the leadership of House Committees to periodically submit status report to the House on activities related to their work. Last week a number of Committees made submissions on their activities during the first quarter of this year, that is, January to April, 2025.

The ICT Committee



Senator Allan Chesang

Senator Allan Chesang' has said the focus of the ICT Committee's legislative work was the Technopolis Bill, 2024,

He made the comments when he outlined the Committee's robust agenda, which included nine sittings, the review of one Bill, 14 statements and two major inquiries.

Initially passed by the National Assembly in November 2024, the Technopolis Bill was introduced in the Senate in December and committed to the Committee for further scrutiny.

The committee conducted extensive public participation, invited memoranda from the public and engaged key stakeholders, the chairperson said.

"The committee observed the need to enhance provisions on public participation, particularly concerning the gazette-

ment of areas designated as technopolises," said Senator Chesang'.

He added: "We believe this input will strengthen the legal framework and ensure inclusivity in implementation."

The committee also addressed several critical statements, including ongoing issues inherited from previous periods and seven new ones introduced this year.

Notably, it reviewed a statement by Senator Hamida Kibwana regarding the controversial sale of Telkom Kenya to the Infrastructure Corporation of Africa, which has been subsumed under a broader inquiry into telecommunication infrastructure and disputes involving American Tower Corporation (ATC) Kenya.

In its oversight capacity, the committee is actively seeking responses

from the Ministry of ICT and the Digital Economy, Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK), Safaricom Ltd and the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) to gain clarity on various regulatory and operational concerns.

The committee's inquiries further include a deep dive into the functionality and security of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), along with the efficiency of county-level revenue collection systems.

The committee plans to expand its field activities with scheduled visits to counties in the Coastal and Nyanza regions.

These visits aim to evaluate fibre optic network coverage in public institutions such as county offices, assemblies and schools to ensure universal access to e-Government services.

County Public Accounts Committee



Senator Moses Kajwang'

County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) held eight critical sittings, including its reconstitution, the adoption of its work plan and a series of interrogations into the Auditor-General's reports on county financial statements for the 2023/2024 financial year.

The committee's work was shaped significantly by a High Court ruling delivered on October 1, 2024, that declared that the audit timelines stipulated in the constitution are mandatory.

The case redefined procedural expectations for the committee, said the chair,

Senator Moses Kajwang'.

As a result, the committee expedited its reporting obligations and successfully tabled and secured Senate approval of its comprehensive findings by March 27, 2025 as required by the law.

Senator Kajwang' said the low attendance by governor calls for tougher sanctions.

He noted that despite issuing invitations to 18 county governors to appear before the committee, only four honoured the summons.

The committee decried the growing trend of non-compliance, labelling it

contempt of Parliament and called for amendments to the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act, 2017.

Senator Kajwang' highlighted the ineffectiveness of current penalties, stating, "Governors are happy to pay the Sh500,000 fine and go scot-free".

Massive fiduciary risk and budgetary concerns formed key highlight of the report as this was the revelation of widespread financial mismanagement.

A fiduciary risk analysis revealed that county governments are exposed to potential financial losses totalling Sh532.67 billion.

The committee identified frequent, unauthorised reallocation of development budgets to recurrent expenditures, often bypassing the requisite county assembly approvals.

The report further criticised the under-absorption of development funds, noting that the inefficiency has resulted in delayed service delivery and stunted local development initiatives.

On human resource and wage bill irregularities, the committee flagged rampant irregularities, including ghost workers, unlawful recruitment and inflated allowances.

Only 11 counties met the legal wage bill threshold of 35 percent, while 16 exceeded 50 percent, indicating an unsustainable fiscal trajectory.

Pending bills ballooned to Sh181 billion, with county assemblies that have limited development functions owing service providers Sh2 billion.

The report further exposed the illegal processing of payments outside the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), poor imprest management and unauthorised funding of the Council of Governors.

Senator Kajwang' characterised the situation as indicative of "systemic weaknesses in public financial management" and emphasised the urgency of reform to avert further financial haemorrhage at the county level.

Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industrialisation

Senator Issa Boy Juma has told the House that the Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industrialisation held 22 sittings in the three months where it considered 18 Statements and four key legislative proposals.

The most notable engagement was a detailed review of the 2025 Budget Policy Statement.

A significant recommendation arising from the Committee's deliberations was that the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry must ensure full implementation of the County Aggregated Industrial Parks (CAIPs) in the 19 Phase One counties before advancing to Phase Two of the programme.

The move is intended to consolidate gains and ensure effective use of public resources.

As part of its oversight and stakeholder engagement efforts, the Committee conducted visits to Mombasa and Kwale



Senator Isa Juma Boy and Senator Esther Okenyuri.

counties.

In Kwale, members toured the Shimoni Fishing Learning Site and the Kwale Aggregated Industrial Park and in Mombasa, the Committee visited the Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone and the East African Tea Trade Association, assessing the region's industrial and trade potential.

The Committee also facilitated a

mini-induction retreat for its new members, engaging directly with leadership from the Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro and Small and Medium Enterprises Development, as well as the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife.

A similar session with the Ministry of Investment and Trade is pending due to scheduling constraints.

On legislative matters, the Commit-

tee considered The Creative Economy Support Bill, 2024, The Start-up Bill, 2022, The Cooperatives Bill, 2024 and The Business Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The Committee has reviewed public submissions on the Bills and is in the process of finalising reports for tabling.

It also met with the Cabinet Secretary for Investment, Trade and Industry, who reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to fully implementing Phase One of the CAIPs Programme.

The Committee is currently addressing a growing backlog of pending Statements requiring direct engagement with Cabinet Secretaries and County Governors.

To expedite resolution, the Committee has scheduled sessions for relevant officials to appear and respond to the pending matters.

Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing



Senator Steven Lelegwe (left), the vice chair, Committee on Roads, submitted the report in the House. on the right is Senator Enock Wambua.

The Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing held 13 sittings, where it deliberated on 75 statements, one legislative proposal, one petition and one inquiry.

All the 75 statements were concluded, with 26 others currently under consideration with responses expected from relevant government agencies and county administrations.

Key engagements included meetings with the Governors of Bungoma, Nairobi and Mombasa counties.

The Committee met with Bungoma Governor Kenneth Lusaka to address a statement raised by Senator David Wakoli regarding the proposed construction of a bypass from San'galo junction to Kanduyi within Bungoma town.

It also met with Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja and discussed the city's urban regeneration and renewal programmes.

In Mombasa, the Committee followed up on the Senate's resolution regarding the allocation of new housing units to former Buxton Estate tenants.

A fact-finding mission to Buxton Estate is scheduled to verify the Governor Abdulsamad Nassir claims about the distribution of the newly developed houses.

In its financial oversight role, the Committee reviewed the 2025 Budget Policy Statement and engaged with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

Among its recommendations was the allocation of Sh13.9 billion from the Road Levy Fund as conditional grants to counties for road maintenance and rehabilitation in FY 2025/2026.

The Committee is also handling a petition related to compensation for sugarcane farmers in Pap-Oriang, Siaya County, whose crops were allegedly damaged by activities under the Department of Public Works, Roads, Energy and Transportation with a report on this matter expected soon.

On the international front, the Committee undertook a familiarisation mission to the East African Community (EAC) headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The visit aimed to gain insights into regional infrastructure projects being implemented under the EAC framework.

Despite its accomplishments, the Committee acknowledged facing delays in receiving responses to statements and petitions from government agencies.

The unavailability of key stakeholders, including Cabinet Secretaries, contributed to the rescheduling and postponement of several meetings.

Senator Steven Lumbesi, who submitted the report, said the Committee plans to invite more governors for updates on county-level road development projects and to conduct site visits to various affordable housing projects across the country.

Committee on Delegated Legislation

The Committee on Delegated Legislation tabled its activity report for the period spanning January 1 to April 30, 2025.

The report highlights an intensive legislative and oversight agenda that included the review of 24 statutory instruments, county oversight visits and regional diplomacy efforts.

The chair of the Committee, Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire, presented the report, outlining the Committee's progress and key milestones.

The Committee held 13 sittings, scrutinised 21 statutory instruments post-publication and undertook pre-publication reviews of three draft instruments.

Of the 21 instruments reviewed, the Committee approved 14, ranging from environmental regulations to digital health protocols.



Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo fire

Notable among these were several Pest Control Products regulations (Legal Notices Nos. 190–194 of 2024) and critical water resource regulations (Legal Notices Nos. 54, 57 and 58 of 2025).

Also approved were the Digital Health (Data Exchange Component) and (Health Information Management

Procedures) Regulations, 2025.

The Committee is in the process of completing its review of seven additional statutory instruments, including high-impact regulations on civil aviation safety, social health insurance tariffs and environmental management frameworks.

In its pre-publication review role, the Committee recommended the publication of two digital health regulations by the Ministry of Health but advised the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development to repeal the outdated 2014 National Construction Authority Regulations and craft new ones, as the existing framework was automatically revoked in June 2024 under the Statutory Instruments Act.

On the oversight front, the Committee conducted County Oversight Networking and Engagement Visits in

Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi and Tana River counties.

The engagements allowed for direct consultations with county governors and assembly committees on the development, publication, and public participation processes surrounding county-level subsidiary legislation.

Further extending its legislative collaboration across borders, the Committee undertook a parliamentary diplomacy mission to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) in Arusha, Tanzania.

These visits, conducted in March 2025, were aimed at strengthening regional integration efforts within the East African Community (EAC).

County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee



Senator Godfrey Osotsi

The County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee has continued to execute its oversight mandate despite recent judicial setbacks.

This is according to a statement delivered by Senator Godfrey Osotsi, the chair of the Committee, in the House.

Between January 1 and April 30, 2025, the Committee convened 26 sittings, both within and outside Parliament, amid challenges stemming from a court ruling affecting audit timelines

stipulated in the Constitution.

“We have remained steadfast in our oversight role, undeterred by the legal obstacles,” said Senator Osotsi.

The Committee examined audit reports from a wide range of county entities, including municipalities, hospitals and water companies across more than 20 counties.

These included Kilifi, Taita-Taveta, Nandi, Wajir, Murang'a, Makeni, Lamu, Nyamira and Elgeyo-Marakwet.

A total of 17 municipalities, five hospitals and 16 water companies were reviewed, with reports tabled and formally adopted by the Senate on March 27, 2025.

The reports identified several systemic and cross-cutting issues affecting service delivery and financial management, offering targeted recommendations to address them.

The Committee also conducted in-

spection visits to Kilifi, Mombasa and Kwale Counties between April 22 and 24, with plans to extend similar visits to other counties.

Senator Osotsi told the House the focus remains on scrutinising high-risk fiduciary investments, particularly within health, water and urban development sectors.

In addition, a stakeholders' engagement retreat was held in Mombasa on April 25 and 26, bringing together key partners including the Office of the Auditor General, the Controller of Budget and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

The retreat aimed to strengthen collaboration and acclimate new Committee members to the oversight framework.

Governors from the counties in question have been invited to appear before the Committee to address issues raised in the Auditor General's reports.

“Governors have shown commitment to political accountability, which is a positive development,” Senator Osotsi noted.

He thanked the Speaker for upholding the mandate of the Committee in the face of legal uncertainty, ensuring that the critical work of financial oversight continues uninterrupted.

“This House remains committed to transparency, accountability and the prudent management of public resources,” he affirmed.

Committee on Education

The Committee on Education held a total of four meetings between January and March 31 one of which it considered the 2025 Budget Policy Statement focussing on education sector priorities.

In a report to the House, Senator Betty Montet, the chair, said they recommended, among other things, a conditional grant to counties for the school feeding programme in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centers so as to improve enrolment of learners.

The Committee moved a Motion for adoption of the reports on the two petitions concluded by the Committee: the Petition concerning the discrimination by Teacher Service Commission on payment of hardship allowances and enhanced house allowance to some teachers in Kilifi County and the Petition on discrimination of payment of hardship allowance to some teachers in Taita Tav-

eta County.

“To address the concerns raised in the two petitions, the Committee recommended that the Ministry of Public Service, Performance and Deliverance Management prepares and submit an appropriate policy and statutory instrument on identification and designation of hardship areas,” Senator Montet told the House.

The committee is currently conducting an inquiry on the status of implementation of ECDE and technical and county vocational education and training policies in the country.

In conducting the inquiry, the Committee invited governors of respective county governments to meetings to respond to issues sought by the Committee. It has also undertaken county visits to oversight the status of implementation of ECDE and Vocational Training Centres (VTCs).

So far it has held meetings with the governors of Kajiado, Nyeri, Trans Nzoia and Kitui counties and visited facilities in Machakos and Kajiado counties.

“From preliminary findings, the Committee noted that county governments are implementing ECDE and VTC policies in an uncoordinated manner.

It also undertook a learning visit to the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) and East and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) in Arusha, Tanzania, in an effort to enhance regional integration of the East African Community (EAC).

The Committee is currently considering a resolution of the House on the State of the Nation in which it was tasked to liaise with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders with a view to resolving several issues.

They include concerns raised re-



Senator Betty Montet

garding Junior Secondary School (JSS) education, the new university funding model for university education and the acceptability of Competency Based Education (CBE). Senator Montet said the Committee has engaged the State Department of Higher Education and Research.

Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations

The Office of the County Attorney (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the County Government Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 are at the final stages of consideration by the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations.

Briefing the House on the activities of the Committee, Senator Margret Kamar said the Committee is at the final stages of considering and drafting its report on the two Bills.

The Committee received seven Statements that were sought from the Committee during the period, it considered and concluded four, leaving three pending.

Jointly with the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the committee considered the Petition on restraining county governments from hiring law firms to present them in court cases and tabled a joint report before the House on Thursday, April 3, 2025.

The Committee inquired on the performance of the counties on the implementation of county budgets and has been holding consultative meetings with stakeholders to deliberate on key issues arising from the county budget implementation review reports for the 2022/23 financial year and 2023/2024 financial year by the office of the Controller of Budget (CoB).

“The Committee has so far met with

governors from eight counties and deliberated on the low expenditure on development in the counties contrary to the Public Finance Management Act,” Senator Kamar said.

The Committee is currently conducting an inquiry into the matter of the county governments operating several commercial bank accounts contrary to the County Governments Regulation, 2015. “The Committee met with governors from nine counties and deliberated on the matter.

At the end of its consideration, the Committee held a retreat with the Council of Governors (CoG), the Controller of Budget, and the Auditor General to deliberate on the key issues that are emerging from the inquiry on the many commercial accounts that they have in commercial banks.

In assessing the state of devolution in the counties, the Committee visited Turkana County to inspect the development projects being implemented by the County Government.

The Committee noted that construction of some key projects had stalled, while others had taken too long to complete and resolved to convene a meeting with key stakeholders implementing some of the projects in order to address the challenges causing the delayed implementation.



Senator Margret Kamar

Committee on National Security and Defence

The Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations held nine sittings to evaluate Bills, statements, petitions and motions.

Two draft Bills from the public — the Internal Security Devolution and County Empowerment Bill 2025 and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations Authority Bill 2025 — were received and are under stakeholder review.

The chair of the Committee, Senator Fatuma Dullo, said the Committee had also advanced its consideration of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Bill 2024.

While awaiting public participation sessions in Meru, Embu and coastal counties, the committee has reviewed written submissions from 12 stakeholders and anticipates tabling its final report this month.

Of the 29 statements received, seven have been concluded, while 22 remain

under active review.

The committee is also handling a critical petition regarding compensation for police officers injured in the line of duty — a matter transferred from the Labour and Social Welfare Committee.

Further consultations with petitioners and state agencies are planned, the chairperson said.

The committee has also focused on national policy, reviewing the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kenya and engaging with ministries including Interior and National Administration, Defence and Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

The discussions have centered on legislative gaps and inter-agency collaboration.

Investigations are underway into allegations of mismanagement at the Kenya National Police DT SACCO, which directly affects police welfare.



Senator Fatuma Dullo

Committees on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity



Senator Mohamed Chute

The Committees on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and Regional Integration has said it has had significant progress in stakeholder engagement, legislative review and national oversight since January 2025.

The committee conducted 19 sittings focusing on legislative matters, Senate motions and stakeholder engagement in the three months period from January 1 to March 31.

The Committee received four statements from Senators and has since reached out to relevant stakeholders for their input, with responses currently under review.

The committee held intensive engagement on the Senate resolution concerning the State of the Nation following the Gen Z protests of June 2024.

It convened 32 meetings, receiving oral and written submissions from 45

governors, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) and the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA).

A comprehensive report on the matter has been completed and is slated for tabling.

The committee is probing diversity representation in semi-autonomous government agencies and through 17 dedicated sittings, it has engaged 13 key stakeholders with a detailed report expected at the end of the inquiry.

From April 28 to 30, the committee conducted field visits to Homa Bay and Busia counties to assess the inclusion of women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and marginalised groups in county employment.

Accessibility audits of county offices were also performed to gauge accommodation for PwDs.

Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries



Senator David Wakoli

The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries held a total of 15 sittings during which it considered four Bills, ten Statements and one legislative proposal.

In the Statement to the House, Senator David Wafula, the chair of the Committee, said they held a consultative meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Water and Irrigation in which they deliberated on the proposed policies, programmes and expenditure ceilings of the respective state departments as contained in the 2025 Budget Policy Statement (BPS).

The Committee further sought information on the status of the 2024/2025 financial year budget and the key policies underlying the expenditure ceilings in the 2025 BPS.

The Committee participated in the consultative meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and all the SAGAs to consider the programmes and projects undertaken by the Ministry.

The Bills considered include the Nuts and Oil Crops Bill, 2024, The Cotton Bill Industry Development Bill, 2023, The Coffee Bill, 2023 and the Livestock Protection and Sustainability Bill, 2024.

“The Committee considered the Presidential memorandum on the Cotton Industry Development Bill, 2023,” said Senator Wafula, noting that the Committee observed that the Presidential memorandum on the Bill was not properly placed before the Committee owing to the stipulated timelines.

The Committee undertook pre-publication scrutiny on the Legislative Proposal on the Seeds and Plant Varieties (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and recommended its publication.

“During the next quarter, the Committee will undertake inspection visits to Turkana County on irrigation scheme projects and also undertake inspection visits to NCPB depots across the country on the status of availability of seeds and fertilizer,” he said.

Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources

The Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources has raised concerns over the continued non-responsiveness of the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development.

Senator Mohamed Faki, the chair of the Committee, told the House that the Ministry had failed to honor multiple invitations to address 27 pending statements and seven petitions.

In his submission, the Senator said the committee held 23 meetings, reviewed one Bill, considered seven petitions, and scrutinised one legislative proposal and 13 statements.

He highlighted key engagements with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry and the Ministry of Interior and National Administration.

The sessions, he said, facilitated the delivery of detailed responses to eight Senate statements, which were then communicated to respective Senators.

Additional responses from the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage were also circulated.

This situation has hampered the Committee's efficiency forcing the team to resolve to summon the Cabinet Secretary.

Among the legislative items considered was the Electronic Equipment Disposal, Recycling and Reuse Bill, 2024, sponsored by Senator Peris Tobiko.

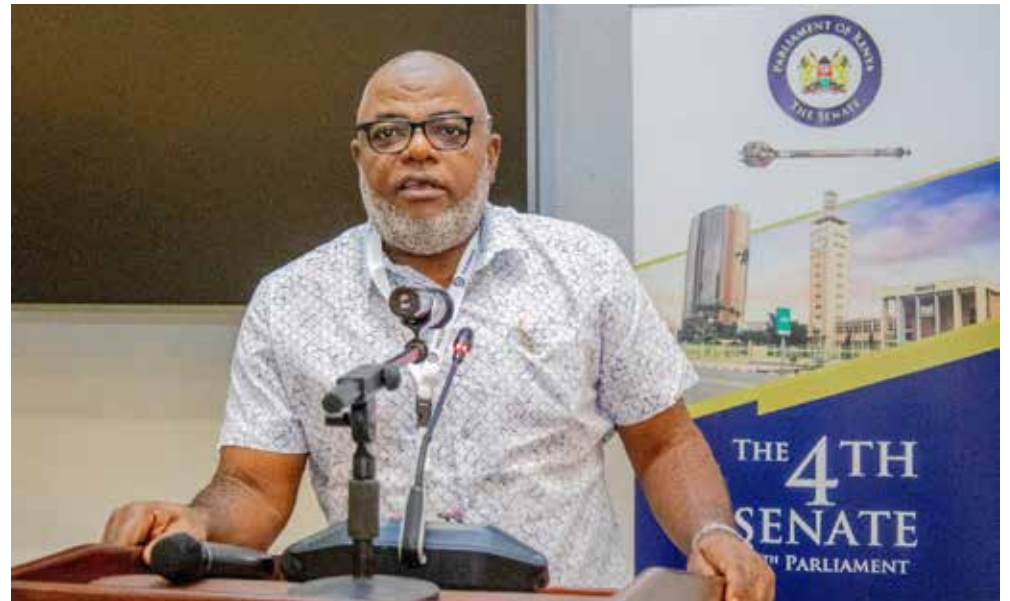
The Committee submitted its resolution to the Speaker on March 18, 2025.

Additionally, a report on the Environmental Law (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was tabled on February 20, 2025, following public submissions from stakeholders such as the National Gender and Equality Commission and the Coast Regional Budget Hub.

The Committee is currently reviewing the Real Estate Regulation Bill, 2023, having held consultative sessions with various stakeholders including the Council of Governors, Institute of Surveyors of Kenya and Kenya Property Developers Association.

A report on the Bill is expected before the next reporting cycle.

In mediation is the Natural Resour-



Senator Mohamed Faki

ces Benefit Sharing Bill, 2022, with plans for the inaugural meeting underway.

The Committee also addressed seven petitions and undertook five fact-finding visits to counties including Mombasa, Taita Taveta, Kisii, Homa Bay and Busia.

The petitions examined include those relating to historical land injustices, land

ownership disputes and delayed government resettlement programmes.

Of the 173 statements received to date, the Committee has concluded 113, translating to a 65 per cent resolution rate.

A total of 13 statements were acted upon and forwarded to respective Senators.

Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs

The Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights has tabled its progress report for the period between January 1 and May 13, 2025, outlining a busy legislative agenda that included 17 sittings and the consideration of key issues.

While addressing the Senate, Committee Chairperson Senator Wakili Sigei highlighted the Committee's efforts in promoting justice, legal reforms and human rights protection.

The Committee reviewed and concluded two major legislative proposals: the Draft Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2025, sponsored by Senator Okong'o Omogeni, and the Draft Counter-Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2025, by Senator Catherine Mumma.

Additionally, the Committee finalised its work on three bills carried over from the previous session.

The Bills were the County Civic Education Bill, 2024, the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the County Government Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The County Government State Offi-



Senator Wakili Sigei

cer's Removal from Office Procedure Bill (Senate Bills, 2024 remains under review with the Committee expected to conclude its deliberations soon.

The Committee also handled three petitions, including a joint effort with the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations that concluded the review of a petition by Mr Laban Omosundi concerning legal representa-

tion by county governments.

The remaining two petitions are nearing completion.

In terms of parliamentary oversight, the Committee addressed six statements, including two new ones related to Judiciary affairs raised by Senator Tom Ojienda and Senator Raphael Chimera.

The Committee is currently finalising

its engagements with relevant judicial officers.

The Committee commenced an inquiry into the status of indigenous people in Kenya following a request by Senator Catherine Mumma.

The Committee also reviewed Sessional Paper No.3 of 2023 on the Kenya Policy on Public Participation, underscoring Parliament's commitment to inclusive legislative processes.

It has also begun evaluating the implementation of the Senate Resolution of July 24, 2024, particularly regarding anti-corruption efforts in county governments.

Consultations with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) have already taken place, with more stakeholder engagements in the pipeline, Senator Sigei told the House.

In outreach activities, the Committee met with the Kenyans in Diaspora Technical Working Group to consider legislative measures that would enhance diaspora participation in national elections — an area expected to influence upcoming legislative amendments.

Committee puts Governor to task over pending bills



Senator Shakila Abdalla and Senator Richard Onyonka during the Committee on Finance tour of Kitui County.



Senator Tabitha Mutinda, vice chair, Finance Committee with Senator Mohamed Faki.



Members of the Committee on Finance led by Vice chair Tabitha Mutinda when they paid a courtesy call to Governor Julius Malombe office.



Governor Julius Malombe welcomes Senator Richard Onyonka to his office in Kitui town.

The Committee on Finance and Budget has expressed concern over the huge pending bills the County Executive owes to suppliers, urging Governor Julius Malombe to put up his house in order and settle the bills.

The county's total accumulated pending bills for the county stand at Sh2.6 billion

Out of outstanding bills, Sh1.4 billion were cleared for payment, while bills valued at Sh1.1 billion are being subjected to further verification, valuation and validation.

Governor Malombe explained that he had established a task force to review and authenticate the pending bills.

"My administration has tried to clear the pending bills but we have been undermined by delay in disbursement of

the exchequer, unrealised own source revenue targets and undisbursed grants," said the Governor.

During the meeting with the Committee in Kitui town, the Governor revealed that he had formed a pending bills review committee when he came into office to review and verify all pending bill claims to confirm their authenticity and accuracy.

However, members of the Committee were unhappy with the Kitui County Pending Bills Review Committee, 2022, claiming that the committee was operated outside the law.

They poked holes in the legality of the review committee's report, noting that it composed of members solely appointed by the Governor.

The committee advised the Gover-

nor to involve the Office of the Auditor General in verifying its findings before they are tabled in the county assembly for debate.

"Governors are free animals meant to run in a cage, which is the Constitution of Kenya. The Auditor General, an independent entity, should be involved in verifying these pending bills," noted Senator Boni Khalwale.

The Members argued that leaving the work of verifying the pending bills to the review committee puts the devolved units at the risk of paying some entities while leaving out those not aligned with the government of the day.

"Governors are taking the power of auditing pending bills from the Auditor General. Nobody else can authorise the findings of these pending bills commit-

tees except the Auditor General," observed Senator Richard Onyonka.

The Committee was in Kitui to follow up on a request for a Statement from Senator Enoch Wambua who wants the Senate to be furnished with a report on the total value of pending bills currently owed by the County Government of Kitui.

Senator Wambua also wants the Committee to outline the mechanisms that the County Executive have put in place to verify the authenticity of the bills and prevent fraudulent or inflated invoices.

The Committee also met with the Members of the County Assembly led by the Speaker Kevin Katisya.

The Committee hailed the Assembly for clearing all their pending bills.

Women Fund reverts to manual operations – CS Cheptumo



Cabinet Secretary Hanna Cheptumo

Gender, Culture, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Hanna Cheptumo says the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) has reverted to manual operations following the under-performance of its digitisation initiative launched in 2023.

CS Cheptumo revealed that the digital lending platform, introduced on January 1, 2023, had not achieved its intended outcomes.

“Instead of improving access and loan affordability for women entrepreneurs, the platform experienced high default rates and operational bottlenecks,” said CS Cheptumo.

The Cabinet Secretary spoke on Wednesday while responding to a question by Senator Catherine Mumma who wanted to know how the Fund had performed in providing affordable and accessible loans since the digitisation exercise.

She also wanted the Cabinet Secretary to provide data per county on the number of women groups and individuals who have benefited since the inception of the new system, Increase in the disbursement of loans to Chamas/ Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMSEs) over the last two financial years.

She also wanted the Cabinet Secretary

to explain increase in the on-boarding of new Chamas into the Fund’s database since the inception of the digital system, number of groups that have dropped out of the Fund due to challenges they encountered during on-boarding into the new system and what the Ministry is doing to restore them.

The Cabinet Secretary told the House that the pilot phase of the digital roll-out disbursed Sh941.9 million to nearly 19,000 women groups nationwide.

As of September 2024, the loan balance stood at Sh695.7 million, signalling repayment challenges.

The CS acknowledged that while

digitisation aimed to modernise loan disbursement and tracking, it faced significant hurdles, prompting the Ministry to revert to a manual model.

Since the return to the traditional approach, Sh457.4 million has been disbursed to over 1,180 groups, positively impacting more than 12,500 women.

“This renewed momentum is a testament to the effectiveness of human-centred approaches in supporting grassroots women’s enterprises,” she said.

On onboarding new groups, CS Cheptumo noted that the digital system’s brief operational window hindered comprehensive data collection.

Nonetheless, since the Fund’s inception, over 136,500 groups have registered — though a portion opted out due to dissatisfaction with loan amounts and repayment terms.

The manual process, she said, has allowed the re-integration of many previously active groups, particularly those with strong repayment histories.

In response to concerns about the loss of long-standing credit scores, the Cabinet Secretary said the Ministry has taken steps to protect the creditworthiness of legacy groups. Measures include the integration of historical loan performance data, reinstatement of prior loan tiers, and fast-tracked approval through physical verification.

A communication strategy is currently underway to enhance transparency and keep beneficiaries informed throughout the transition.

The Ministry is developing new individual loan products tailored to women in varied business sectors.

The products will utilise alternative forms of collateral and income verification, moving beyond the traditional group-lending model. Policy reforms are being explored to diversify the Fund’s portfolio to include asset-based and agricultural financing.

“We are committed to creating an inclusive financial environment that acknowledges the unique challenges and aspirations of Kenyan women entrepreneurs,” said CS Cheptumo.

Kitendawili cha malipo ya Sh19.7 bilioni

Seneta Okiya Omtatah amezua maswali makali kufuatia kile alichokitaja kuwa dosari kubwa ya kifedha baada ya kufichuka kuwa kiasi cha shilingi bilioni 19.7 kilichotolewa kutoka kwa Hazina ya Kitaifa mnamo Januari 2025 chini ya kipengele cha bajeti cha Mishahara na Marupurupu ya Maafisa wa serikali, kilikuwa karibu mara tano zaidi ya mgao wa kila mwaka wa kipengele hicho.

Katika ombi la taarifa kwa Kamati ya Fedha na Bajeti, Seneta huyo alitaka maelezo kuhusu kile alichokiita “malipo yasiyo na maelezo wala msingi wowote” yaliyofanyika chini ya kipengele kilichoorodheshwa kama Mishahara, Marupurupu na Mengineyo ya Maafisa wa Serikali.

Kulingana na takwimu zilizochapishwa na Hazina ya Kitaifa kupitia Tangazo la Serikali Nambari 1864, jumla ya bajeti kwa kipengele hicho katika mwaka wa kifedha wa 2024/2025 ni shilingi 4,209,674,431, sawa na mgao wa kila mwezi wa wastani wa shilingi milioni 350.8.

Hata hivyo, kufikia mwisho wa Januari 2025, kiasi kilichokuwa kimetolewa kilikuwa kimepanda hadi shilingi 21,718,109,025, ongezeko la kushangaza ikilinganishwa na makadirio ya malimbikizi ya jumla ya shilingi bilioni 2.01. Kulingana na Seneta Omtatah, hatua hiyo inaashiria kuwa

kulikuwa na malipo ya ziada ya shilingi 19,707,023,574 katika mwezi mmoja pekee. “Hili ni suala nyeti la kitaifa. Lazima kuwe na uwazi kuhusu pesa hizi, zilikoenda, nani aliziidhinisha na iwapo taratibu zilifuatwa,” Seneta Omtatah aliiambia Seneti.

Kiongozi huyo alifichua kuwa mgao wa mwezi wa Februari 2025 ulipungua ghafla hadi shilingi milioni 301.4, hali inayoashiria kurejea kwa hali ya kawaida. Seneta Omtatah sasa anaitaka serikali kuweka wazi waliopokea malipo hayo makubwa, ikiwa kuna waajiriwa wapya au mabadiliko ya madaraja na iwapo Sheria ya Usimamizi wa Fedha za Umma na Katiba zilizingatiwa. Pia alitaka kujua hatua ambazo Hazina Kuu imechukua kurejesha fedha hizo na kuwawajibisha waliohusika.

Katika suala tofauti, Seneta Omtatah aliomba taarifa kutoka kwa Kamati ya Nishati kuhusu kukabidhiwa kwa mradi mkubwa wa gesi ya kupikia (LPG) kwa kampuni binafsi na kuipuuza Kampuni ya Mabomba ya Mafuta ya Kenya (KPC).

Alieleza kuwa awali, KPC ilikuwa imeanza ujenzi wa kituo cha kuhifadhi tani 30,000 za LPG kwenye Kaunti ya Mombasa kwa lengo la kupunguza gharama ya gesi ya kupikia na kuongeza upatikanaji wake. Hata hivyo, mradi huo sasa umekabidhiwa kwa Asharami Synergy, kampuni ya Nigeria in-



Seneta Okiya Omtatah

ayohusiana na Sahara Group, kwa mkataba wa ukodeshaji wa miaka 31 uliotolewa na Kampuni ya Kusafisha Mafuta nchini Kenya (KPRL), inayomiliki kipande cha ardhi cha ekari 23.19 ambapo mradi huo utajengwa.

KPC, ambayo tayari ilikuwa imetumia shilingi milioni 192.64 kwa kazi za awali ikiwemo tathmini ya mazingira, upembuzi

yakinifu na michoro ya uhandisi, imeachwa bila lolote.

Seneta Omtatah ameitaka serikali kufafanua kigezo kilichotumika kuichagua Asharami Synergy, uhalali wa mkataba wa ukodeshaji wa ardhi na hatua ambazo serikali inapanga kuchukua kuhakikisha fedha za umma zilizotumika na KPC zinarejeshwa.

This Week in History - On May 27, 2015

House seeks answers on President Obama's upcoming visit



Senator Fatuma Dullo said:

On May 7, 2015, Senator Boni Khalwale requested for a Statement from the Majority Leader regarding the forthcoming visit to Kenya by President Barack Obama. The Chairperson of the Committee on National Security and Foreign Relations was requested to state what official function President Obama intends to perform during the visit. On behalf of the Committee, Senator Fatuma Dullo told the House in reply that President Obama will be attending the Global Entrepreneurship Summit which was launched by him in the USA in 2009. The first summit was held in Washington DC in 2010 and has since been held in Istanbul in 2011, Dubai in 2012, Kuala Lumpur in 2013, Marrakech in 2014 and in it will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2015. “As is ordinarily the practice with presidential visit, it is expected that President Obama will hold a bilateral meeting with the President of Kenya on various areas of interest including trade and investment, security, energy among others,” she said.

The Government will use the visit to improve the trade between USA and Kenya. The Global Entrepreneurship Summit is a pre-eminent annual gathering that provides emerging entrepreneurs with exceptional networking, insight and investment opportunities. It is one of the most powerful global platforms for connecting emerging entrepreneurs with leaders from business, international organizations and governments.



Senator Boni Khalwale said:

“The arrival of the President of the USA in Nairobi will attract a lot of interests. I would like the Chairperson to clarify to the youthful entrepreneurs of Kenya what deliberate affirmative support they will give to the youth to ensure that they benefit from this important conference. In this historic visit, we might be very lucky to be the only Parliament probably in the next 50 years to be addressed when a visiting President of the USA is in the country.”



Senator James Orengo said:

“We appreciate the coming of President Obama to Kenya but as we all know; his tenure is coming to an end next year. Luckily, in that part of the world, people do not try to manufacture a third or fourth term like in this region. It would be very unfortunate, going by precedence that President Obama does not come to Kenya on an official state visit. I want a clarification whether the Government of Kenya has actually sought and given invitation for President Obama to come to Kenya on an official visit.”



Senator Anyang'-Nyong'o said:

“My understanding is that the President of USA is coming to Kenya for a conference on entrepreneurship. The conference happens to be in Nairobi which also happens to be the homeland of his father. No clear statement is being made by the Government on this issue because as far as I understand it, while he is here, he will spare time to meet our President. That is the only information available. So, all these other proposals that are being made are completely flying in the face of the facts. If, indeed, Kenya wanted President Obama to come here for a much more extensive visit, it should not be prefaced on his visit for a purely international conference. I think we are missing the point.”



Senator Mutahi Kagwe said:

“The President of the USA may want to discuss with our President the possibility of heightened security support both in terms of hardware and software. As you are aware, the implementation of CCTV by Safaricom is becoming very effective but I believe with the support of the USA Government, companies such as Motorola will fast-track the connectivity of this nation in its totality in terms of CCTV and other security apparatus.”

Senator Okenyuri represents Senate at Commonwealth meet



Senator Esther Okenyuri and Hon Beatrice Adagala (third left) and other delegates at the meeting in Kigali.

Senator Okenyuri follows proceedings at the meeting.



Delegates at the conference pose for a picture.

Senator Esther Okenyuri last week represented the Senate at the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Workshop which was held in Kigali, Rwanda.

The theme of the conference was: “Promotion of Gender Equality and

Women Empowerment in Africa”.

The meeting focussed on women contribution in national and regional development. The delegates resolved that gender equality and women empowerment are the indispensable prerequisites key to the full realisation of sustainable

development.

They also acknowledged that women legislators bear the gravitas that is central to national and regional development.

Their energy is of essence in policy making, promoting gender inclusion and advocating for key policies that benefit

their respective communities.

They can also play a major role in having an increased representation of women in decision making tables subsequently powering poverty eradication and inclusiveness.



1. Members of the Committee on Finance, from right, Senator Mohamed Faki (purple shirt), Senator Shakila Abdalla and Senator Richard Onyonka during their meeting with Kitui Governor Julius Malombe in Kitui town.

2. Mr Kinengo Kitisya, Speaker Kitui County Assembly, welcomes Members of the Finance Committee to the Assembly.

3. Senator Boni Khalwale and Senator Richard Onyonka are received at the County Assembly of Kitui by Speaker Kinengo Kitisya.

4. Senator Tabitha Mutinda, the vice chair of the Finance Committee, with Members of County Assembly of Kitui.

5. Senator Tabitha Mutinda compares notes with Senator Mohamed Faki in Kitui.

6. Governor Julius Malombe hosts Members of the Finance Committee in his office when they paid a courtesy call.



1. Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot welcomes Mr Raila Odinga, the former Prime Minister, when he arrived in Parliament for a meeting with Senators at the invitation of the Committee on Finance and Budget. Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye looks on.
2. Speaker Amason Kingi receives Mr Odinga in his office before the meeting with Senators.
3. Speaker Kingi speaks to Mr Odinga as House leaders look on. They include Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot (second right), Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo (second left), Minority Whip Edwin Sifuna (right) and Senator Godfrey Osotsi (left).
4. Speaker Amason Kingi and the House leadership join other Senators in a photo session with Mr Odinga.
5. Speaker Amason Kingi leads Mr Odinga into the meeting with Senators accompanied by Senator Karen Nyamu, Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina and Senator Agnes Muthama.
6. Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot shares a light moment with the former Prime Minister and other Senators.
7. Speaker Kingi leads the way out of the meeting between Senators and Mr Odinga. Others are Senator Eddy Oketch (left), Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina, Senator Peris Tobiko and Senator Edwin Sifuna.



1. Students of St Francis Mangu, Kiambu County, listen to a Parliamentary Communication Officer during their tour of Parliament.
2. Students and teachers of Huho-ini Comprehensive School, Nyeri County, at the Senate.
3. Pupils from Chania Primary School, Nyeri County, follow proceedings in the Senate Chamber during their tour of Parliament Buildings.

COMMITTEE ROUND UP

Roads Committee assures Buxton tenants



Senator Peris Tobiko, Senator John Kinyua and Senator Steven Lelegwe, Vice Chair, Transport and Housing Committee, during the tour of Buxton Housing project, Mombasa County.



Senator Eddy Oketch, chair Transport and Housing Committee, Senator Miraj Abdulahi and Senator Mohamed Chute (second left) listen to the concerns of former residents of Buxton Estate when the Committee toured the proposed Housing Project.

The Committee on Roads and Housing has assured former residents of Buxton Estate in Mombasa town that it is working to ensure they get their houses. “We are determined to ensure the matter is resolved conclusively and residents get their promised apartments which will be completed in two years,” said Senator Eddy Oketch, the Committee chair.

He made the comments after a tour of the Buxton Housing Project and a consultative public hearing with the former residents of Buxton Estate at Kenya School of Government in Mombasa on Saturday.

The project was launched in November 2023 as a beacon of urban renewal, offering affordable housing through a rent-to-own model for long-standing tenants.

More than 18 months later, many residents say they are still in the dark and feel betrayed by the Government.

“The Senate passed recommendations which were to be implemented within 60 days,” said a resident representative John Tsuma during the public hearing. “To this day, there has been no official report or indication that the county government has acted on the instructions.”

Residents say the only documents

that have been made available pertain to redevelopment plans, a resettlement action plan, and a list of conditions, described as “unbearable.”

The Joint Venture (JV) agreement, which is supposed to govern the partnership between the county government and the private developer, has never been shared publicly.

“Our fear is that the project is cloaked in secrecy,” said Mama Amina, a former resident of Buxton Estate. “The county appears focused in the interests of the developer rather than those of its own people.”

Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad

Nassir said his administration is committed to giving the former residents the 184 units allocated to the county government by the developer as soon as the houses are handed over to the county.

As frustrations mount, the Buxton community continues to call for justice and inclusion in a project that was meant to uplift them but is increasingly seen as leaving them behind.

Senator Lelegwe Ltumbesi (vice chair), Senator Enock Wambua, Senator John Kinyua, Senator Mohammed Chute, Senator Peris Tobiko and Senator Mohamed Faki were present.



A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

© Copyright 2023

Email: Senate.weekly@parliament.go.ke

Editor: Ibrahim Oruko

Team Leader: Lucianne Limo

Writers

- Otiato Andayi
- Njeri Manga
- Josphat Ngeno
- Derick Luvega
- Stanley Gikore
- Nandemu Barasa

- Juliet Masinde
- Violet Nalianya
- Lemeteki Lorinyu
- Kevin Lomenen

Hansard: Erick Kipkoech

Photographers:

- James Kimiti Nyambura
- Job Owaga
- Russells Kipngetich
- Alex Fondo

Designed by:

KENYA LITERATURE BUREAU

Publishers and Printers

Belle-Vue Area, KLB Road, Off Popo Road

P. O. Box 30022-00100, GPO Nairobi,

Telephone: +254 (20) 3541196/7,

Mobile: +254 711 318 188/ +254 732 344 599

Email: info@klb.co.ke

Website: www.klb.co.ke