



# The SENATE

## Weekly

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# Plan to bar Governors, MCAs images from projects

**Committee on Devolution observes that branding public projects and vehicles with individual images translates to personalisation of public resources.**

You must have seen them somewhere. Either a huge billboard bearing a County Governor's portrait branding a county project. A Member of County Assembly's name on a Boda boda shed, or a Member of Parliament image on a National Government – Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

The trend of elected representatives using their images or names on publicly funded projects has become fashionable and an ingrained element of national politics. However, as the leaders exploit such ventures in search of popularity, the future of such moves appear to be bleak.

The Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations has declared that the practice where elected leaders brand public projects with their personal images amounts to personalisation of public resources, warning that this is contrary to the principles of integrity as outlined in the law.

The committee wants public officers, including Governors, Members of County Assemblies, and state officials at both national and county levels to adhere to the laws guiding conduct of public officers when launching public projects.

"Using public funds to brand projects and vehicles with the names or images of public officers, amounts to misuse of public resources and goes against the principles of transparency and prudent financial management as set out in Section 79 and 162 of the Public Finance Management Act," says the Committee in a report tabled in the House.

It argues that proper addressing and naming of county infrastructure needs



*Senator Catherine Mumma, (vice chair) and Senator Mohamed Abbas, the chair, Devolution Committee.*

to be implemented to discourage Governors, MCAs and county officials from branding public projects with their personal identities.

The Committee, which is chaired by Senator Mohamed Abbas, has directed state regulatory agencies to enforce the law restricting the branding of public projects and government vehicles with names and images of politicians and state officers.

If the House adopts the report, the restriction will be achieved through adoption of the proposed guidelines in the Draft National Addressing Policy and the proposed framework for street naming and property addressing system in the Street Naming and Property Addressing System Bill, 2024.

On September 2, 2024, Mr Laban Omusundi, a resident of Nakuru County, and the Executive Director of Grassroot Civilian Oversight Initiative, expressed

concerns on habit where Governors and MCA brand themselves on public projects and county vehicles.

Mr Musundi argued that County funded projects across the 47 counties are emblazoned with portraits, images and names of Governors and Members of County Assemblies, as if the projects are funded by the officials, and not taxpayers.

He further argued that the political elite in the counties have been allowed to massage their political egos and use spaces of public funded projects to advertise and brand themselves for personal political course without checks and balances.

Citing Article 231 (4) of the Constitution, that disallows the portrait of any individual on the Kenyan currency, noting that historically, Kings used their respective portraits in that manner to be seen as gods and superior.

"This differs from provisions of Chapter 6 of the Constitution which refers to an elected leader as a selfless servant, not a small god or anything similar to a god," said Mr Musundi when he appeared before the Committee.

He challenged Senators to reject the self-aggrandisement of using taxpayers' money to brand political elites and perpetuate personal political egos, which is contrary to Article 75(1) of the Constitution.

He urged the Senate to amend the County Government Act, to insert a clause to permanently restrain the Governors and Members of County Assemblies from branding their respective portraits, images or names on public funded projects of the counties as it was done to the national currency by disallowing portraits of any individual.

He also wanted the House to develop regulations or amendments to any law in

the existence to make sure that all County Governments vehicles are branded with national colours to make them easily identifiable.

The Committee, which is chaired by Senator Mohamed Abbas, agreed with the Petitioner noting that such branding creates the impression of individual ownership.

“Such practices by Governors, Members of County Assemblies (MCA’s) and any other public officers are unethical and in contravention of the Constitution, the Public Service (Values and Principles) Act, the Public Officer Ethics Act,

and the Leadership and Integrity Act,” says the committee in its report.

The display of information on projects and buildings is guided by the Physical and Land Use Planning Act, the Urban Areas and Cities Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and its Public Health and Safety Regulations; the National Construction Authority Act and its Building Code 2024.

The Site Board Guide by the National Construction Authority explicitly highlights the required details to be displayed on project sites.

The Committee has directed the

Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), in collaboration with the Office of the Auditor-General, and the Controller of Budget to enforce strict compliance with constitutional and statutory provisions governing integrity, accountability, and the proper use of public resources.

“These oversight institutions should enhance monitoring, issue clear advisories to public officers on the proper use of public funds, conduct audits and investigations and take appropriate disciplinary action against misuse of public funds for personal branding.”

The committee further directed the EACC to, within 30 days upon tabling of the report, provide a report to the Senate on the status of the interventions and measures taken to restrain public officers from branding public projects, vehicles or assets with their names, images or personal symbols.

“In addition to the prescribed format and positioning of registration plates as provided for under the Traffic Act (Registration Plates) Rules all government-owned vehicles should have their official registration numbers clearly and permanently endorsed on the vehicle body for ease of identification.”

## House adopts fourth revenue sharing formula

The House has adopted the Fourth Basis of Revenue Sharing formula with amendments which ensures that minimum allocation to the smallest counties hits the Sh6 billion mark.

The amendment, proposed by Senator Okongo Omogeni, increased the total amount to be ringfenced for the 11 ‘small counties’ from Sh2 billion to Sh4.6 billion, offering the entities an opportunity to implement tangible development projects.

The Senator told the House that aim of the amendment is to carry along the 11 counties that are disadvantaged and which have traditionally received allocation that does not allow them to perform their functions optimally.

The 11 counties are Elgeyo Marakwet, Embu, Isiolo, Kirinyaga, Laikipia, Lamu, Nyamira, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi and Vihiga.

Adopting the amendment bolsters equity by increasing allocations to 11 counties through a more equitable simulation.

“It is important that we be sure that the resources we allocate will support our devolved units to perform their functions. The spirit behind these amendments is to ensure that our big, rich counties carry along the smaller, poor counties so that we all move together,” he said, while moving the amendment.

With the adoption of the amendment, no county will be disadvantaged in executing development projects and each of the 11 counties will get an increase of Sh400 million.

The amendment introduced a hybrid model, combining a baseline allocation with weighted indices such as population, poverty levels, geographical size and an equal share component.

The model is designed to ensure bal-



*A sitting of the Senate.*

anced development across all counties by addressing both population needs and historical marginalisation.

If adopted, the sharing of revenue among counties will be calculated through equating the County Allocation to the baseline allocation ratio multiplied by Sh387.4 billion.

The result will be added to Sh4.46 billion to be shared equally among the 11 counties.

The Sh387.4 billion baseline is to ensure that when resources are shared or when the basis for sharing resources is considered, then no county ever loses what they have gotten.

The reason is because counties commit to different projects and non-discretionary and discretionary budgetary requirements. Therefore, any formula that makes any county lose a shilling, such a move inconveniences that county.

However, Senator Omogeni insisted that the success of his proposal is pegged on the understanding that the counties will receive Sh465 in equitable share in the next financial year, 2025/26.

“Senators who will represent us in mediation will push to ensure that we get an allocation of Sh465 billion,” he said, adding that allocating Sh405 billion as proposed by the National Assembly may undermine counties.

Other key factors to be included in the basis are the Population Index, Equal Share Index, Poverty Index and Geographical Size Index.

The Baseline Allocation Ratio will be derived from each county’s share in the 2024/2025 financial year while the Population data will be based on the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census.

The poverty levels will be informed by the 2022 Kenya Poverty Report by



*Senator Okongo Omogeni, who sponsored the amendment.*

the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) with the Geographical size factored in but capped at 10 per cent to ensure proportionality.

Senator William Kisang, who seconded the amendment, expressed satisfaction with the proposal for Sh4.6 billion, describing it as a good compromise that will assist the 11 counties get resources to do some development.

“Let us be firm and stand with the Sh465 billion, so that all counties can at least get a minimum of Sh6 billion in equitable share,” he said.

While supporting the amendment, Senator Ali Roba threw caution to the 11 counties, warning that the proposal could run into headwinds if the push to get Sh465 billion in equitable share is not achieved.

## Senate to strengthen County Assemblies – Speaker Kingi

The Senate is planning to amend the Constitution to strengthen the primary oversight within the 47 county assemblies, Speaker Amason Kingi has revealed.

The amendment, which seeks to entrench the financial autonomy of the assemblies into the constitution and enhance powers exercised by MCAs, insofar as carrying out their triple roles of representation, oversight and legislation, is meant to strengthen devolution.

“The Senate is mulling over the issue and the final text of the Bill will come out in due course,” said the Speaker on Monday, June 9, adding that the amendment will enable the devolved parliament manage their operational budgets, independent of county executives.

He was speaking when he hosted the leadership of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF), the coordinating body of the 47 County Assemblies.

The Senate Speaker acts as the Patron of the body.

The question of financial independence for the assemblies has been a sore thumb in the relationship between County executives and the ward representatives.

Oftentimes, the relationship has undermined accountability in counties as MCAs cannot access their funds unless the county executives allow it.

The Senate has already passed the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which will grant the autonomy if assented to.

The Bill has been submitted to the National Assembly for concurrence.

During the Monday meeting, CAF leaders, who are mostly Speakers, sought the support and protection from the Senate noting that a number of them have been removed from office at the instigations of governors.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Mr Seth Kamanza, the chairperson, cited the cases of Samburu, Migori, Taita Taveta, Turkana, Homa Bay, Kitui, Nyamira, Machakos where Assembly speaker have been impeached in what they believe was a result of the machinations of Governors.

“We as Speakers are in danger. Once you disagree or fail to sing the Governor’s tune you have to be removed,” said Speaker Kamanza.

He also asked the Senate to push for the formal recognition of CAF in the proposed amendments to the Intergovernmental Relations Bill, 2024 and the



*Speaker Amason Kingi and Members of the executive committee of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) in a group photo at the Senate. Senator Margret Kamar (third right) and Mr Seth Kamanza (third left)*



*Speaker Kingi presides over the session with CAF executive Committee members in the Senate Chamber.*

County Equitable Ward Development Fund.

“The aim of the amendment is to give more weight to your legislative mandate as county assemblies,” he explained on the push to amend the constitution.

The Senate has since passed the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and forwarded it to the National Assembly for concurrence.

The Bill seeks to give the county assemblies the much sought-after financial autonomy they have been seeking since 2015.

The Speaker revealed that the Senate is working hard to lobby the National

Assembly to conclude the Bill as quickly as possible. But he insisted that Senators have decided to seize on the current constitutional mood in the country to push for the entrenchment of autonomy into the country’s supreme law.

During the meeting, which was held in the Senate Chamber, the Speaker admitted that the relationship between the sides had not been good during the reign of the 13th Parliament.

This lapse, he noted, had allowed the ‘enemies of devolution’ to capitalise on the situation to undermine devolution.

He said most county assemblies were operating in total fear of the county ex-

ecutives. He cited a number of county assembly speakers who have been removed from office through impeachment in what he argued was the work of the Governors.

The Speakers of Samburu, Migori, Taita Taveta, Nyamira, Homa Bay, Turkana, Kitui and Machakos have on separate occasions been removed from office in a manner that CAF leadership argues assails devolution.

“Through this route, you will be able to execute your constitutional mandate without fear of being forced to kneel before somebody to access your exchequer.

## Energy Committee to probe LPG facility handover

The Committee on Energy has launched a formal inquiry into the controversial handover of a 30,000-metric-tonne Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage facility in Mombasa to Nigerian firm Asharami Synergy Ltd.

The handover has raised major concerns about transparency, legality, and the sidelining of the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC), which had originally been tasked with developing the project.

The facility, situated on a 23-acre parcel of public land in Changamwe, was intended to be a public-sector initiative aimed at increasing clean energy access and reducing household fuel costs.

However, the decision by the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum to lease the land to Asharami Synergy — a subsidiary of Sahara Group — for 31 years has sparked criticism across political, professional and civic quarters.

Key issues raised include the Ministry's bypassing of KPC's mandate under the Companies Act, an opaque procurement process, and the lack of public engagement.

The Office of the Auditor General also flagged a potential loss of Sh192.6 million in taxpayer funds already spent by KPC on feasibility studies and engineering designs.

Local communities in Saragota, Changamwe have written to the Senate citing land injustices, lack of environmental assessments, and failure by key regulatory bodies like EPRA and NEMA to engage the public.

The residents are particularly alarmed about the impact on community safety and historical land ownership. Senator Okiya Omtatah presented the petition to the Senate on behalf of Sarasota residents.

The committee's visit to Mombasa has also opened up a broader debate on the management of energy infrastructure.

Mombasa Governor Abdulsamad Sheriff Nassir, in a sharp criticism of Kenya Power, said the utility does not meet its financial obligations to counties.

In response, Senator Oburu Oginga revealed that the Senate is preparing legislation to address the problem. "We are coming up with a Bill so that Kenya Power does not disconnect electricity in essential facilities like hospitals," said Senator Oburu.

Senator Ogolla offered a different perspective, noting that counties also



Senator Beatrice Ogola (centre) and Senator Danson Mungatana and Parliamentary official when the Committee on Energy paid a courtesy in the Office of Mombasa Governor.



Senator Oburu Oginga, chair, Energy Committee, signs the Visitors' book in the office of Mombasa Governor. From left, Senator Beatrice Ogola, Senator Danson Mungatana, Governor Abdulsamad Nassir and Senator Okiya Omtatah.

share blame in the standoff. "The county governments do not want to pay electricity bills that they owe to Kenya Power," she stated.

Adding to the dialogue, Senator Mungatana emphasised the need for legal reform to balance the responsibilities between county and national governments.

"What you are saying is what Governor Sakaja has been saying all along — we need to find a solution through amendments to the Energy Act," he said.

Senator Mungatana also argued that

the national government should assume responsibility for certain costs, particularly for infrastructure tied to security.

"The National Government should take over the electricity bill for street lighting since security is a national government function," he added.

Despite the controversy, the LPG project is expected to offer substantial benefits if implemented properly. These include a potential 30 per cent reduction in domestic LPG prices due to lower demurrage costs, increased environ-

mental protection by reducing charcoal and wood use, and the diversification of KPC's revenue streams.

Still, critics argue that without a clear framework for oversight and public protection, the benefits may remain out of reach — especially under a long-term private lease. The Senate Committee is expected to table its findings in the coming weeks and may recommend legislative or administrative interventions to restore public confidence.

## Security Committee in Embu, Meru over miraa Bill



Senator Okongo Omogeni and Senator Fatuma Dullo address Muguka farmers in Mbeere South.



Senator Kathuri Murungi speaks to a farmer during a public engagement with miraa farmers in Laare, Meru County.

The Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations has assured residents of Embu and Meru counties it is determined to ensure that Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is approved in the shortest time.

The Bill, which is sponsored by Senator Kathuri Murungi, seeks to remove cathine and cathinone, as naturally found in Miraa, from the list of psychotropic substances. Synthetically produced cathine and cathinone will still be under the ambit of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic (Control) Act, even if the amendment is upheld.

During public participation meetings

on the Bill, the Committee led by chairperson Fatuma Dullo, listened to the views and received memorandum from the residents of Embu and Meru County, who supported the enactment of the Bill.

Residents described miraa (qhat) as food and pushed back efforts made in the past to make the crop a drug.

“We want the Bill adopted as it is. Muguka has never been a drug. For us, it is food,” said Mr Murithi Nyamu, during the meeting held in Kiritiri, Mbeere South on Friday.

In particular, the residents of Embu expressed satisfaction with the Bill, noting that their variety of the crop, Muguka, has never been part of the national

agenda. “It is through this Bill that Muguka has gotten a place in the national agenda,” he said, even as he thanked Senator Murungi for initiating the Bill.

Mr Nyamu said that throughout their lives, the people of Mbeere have known muguka as food. “Claims that it is a drug have been peddled by our enemies,” he said, saying that he had consumed the leaf since his childhood, in the 1960s.

“I started eating this leaf since 1964. I am now 71 years, I don’t look sick or mentally deranged,” he told the Committee.

Others who spoke said that the crop has always provided residents with the

energy that has been critical in their daily lives.

Senator Murungi thanked the people who showed up for the engagement, insisting that he was determined to ensure the Bill is passed.

“Miraa has no negative effects on human life. I have 10 acres of this crop on my farm. I chew it daily and the decisions I make are very rational,” he said.

Senator Dullo assured the residents that the views they had presented will be incorporated in the final text of the Bill when it comes for the second reading.

## Senate pushes for stronger oversight role by County Assemblies

The Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation has called on County Assemblies to step up scrutiny of statutory instruments, saying stronger legislative oversight at the grassroots is key to protecting devolution and public interest.

Speaking during the Committee’s consultative forum with Members of the Kajiado County Assembly, Senator Mwenda Gataya, the chairman, stressed the need for enhanced collaboration between the two levels of government in handling delegated legislation laws made by agencies under authority granted by Parliament or County Assemblies.

“We have a constitutional duty to ensure that all statutory instruments, from regulations to by-laws, are subjected to proper scrutiny, especially since many of them touch directly on counties,” Senator Gataya said during the session held at the Kajiado Assembly chambers.

He noted that while primary responsibility for public participation lies with regulators issuing the instruments, it is the responsibility of legislative arms including County Assemblies to ensure the processes are people-centred and legally



Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire, chair, Committee on Delegated Legislation, with Members of Committee on Delegated Legislation of Kajiado County Assembly.

sound.

The lawmaker warned against regulatory overreach and challenged Members of the County Assemblies to be vigilant in identifying instruments that violate constitutional thresholds or infringe on public rights.

“If unchecked, delegated legislation

can become a tool for undermining public interest,” he cautioned.

Kajiado Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the County Assembly, hailed the engagement as timely and insightful, promising stronger legislative vigilance going forward. “This dialogue has deepened our understanding of our oversight role and

broadened our approach to policy analysis,” he said.

Both sides pledged continued partnership to reinforce legislative accountability and deepen the impact of devolution through inclusive, transparent law-making.

## Reject Petition, Governor Orengo pleads with Committee

Siaya Governor James Orengo has urged a committee of the Senate to dismiss the petition presented by a resident seeking compensation for destruction of his crops he claims were destroyed by county employees.

The Petitioner, Mr Otieno Otieno, alleges that a contractor under the instruction of the County Government's Department of Public Works, Roads, Energy, and Transport damaged his crops along Bar-Osimbo and Pap-Oriang roads.

However, the County Government strongly denies any involvement in the alleged works.

In a detailed submission to the Committee on Roads, Transportation, and Housing, Governor Orengo insisted that his administration did not engage, instruct or authorise any individual or firm to undertake roadworks along Bar-Osimbo and Pap-Oriang roads or adjacent to the parcel of land.



*Senator Mohamed Faki, chair Lands Committee, addresses residents of Muthanthara, Mbeere North Subcounty.*

“We respectfully urge the Committee to dismiss the petition in its entirety,” said the Governor, when he appeared before the Committee.

He said no official contract, procurement document or completion certificate

exists linking the Department of Public Works, Roads, Energy and Transport to such works.

The Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) issued a determination on August 1, 2024. The CAJ directed the

county to report on steps taken toward implementing remedial action warning that it could report to Parliament which shall take an appropriate action.

But the County maintains the claims are baseless, stating that the allegations contained in the petition lack any legal or factual basis, and the petitioner has not presented any admissible evidence to support his claim.

The County further revealed that the complainant had been asked to submit a copy of a purported written agreement with the alleged contractor by November 2023.

However, the complainant had not responded by the time of reporting.

Citing public resource stewardship and the absence of formal procurement processes, the County argues it cannot act on private compensation agreements unrelated to authorised government projects.

## Lands Committee to probe Mbeere North land injustices

The Committee on Lands, Environment and Natural Resources last week conducted consultative meetings with residents of Muthanthara in Mbeere North Subcounty, Embu County, following a petition on alleged land injustices.

The meeting, convened at the request of the local community, brought out grievances from residents—predominantly from the Tharaka ethnic group—who claim they were unfairly excluded during past land allocation processes.

Petitioners alleged that significant tracts of land were awarded to individuals not indigenous to the area through opaque and questionable means, leaving legitimate residents either landless or with insufficient land.

“This is the only home we’ve ever known,” a resident emotionally told the committee during the visit. “We were born here and have nowhere else to go. It’s painful to see strangers come and take over what is rightfully ours.”

Senator Mohamed Faki, the chair of the Committee, assured the community the matter would thoroughly be investigated.

“We are here to listen, and we will act. Every Kenyan deserves fairness—especially when it concerns land, a vital resource,” he stated.

Senator Joe Nyutu echoed the sentiments, pledging to summon individuals suspected of acquiring land irregularly. “No one is above the law,” he affirmed. “We will ensure this matter is handled



*Senator Mohamed Faki, chair Lands Committee, addresses residents of Muthanthara in Mbeere North Subcounty, Embu County, as they committee investigated the petition on alleged land injustices in the area.*

transparently and conclusively.”

Senator Mariam Omar emphasised constitutional protection for all, including minority groups.

“We are committed to finding a lasting solution and ensuring justice for the people of Muthanthara, including the 103-year-old man who now has no place to call home.”

The committee is set to invite all relevant stakeholders before tabling a comprehensive report in the House for debate.

The Committee has also visited Uhuruma IDPs Camp following a petition filed in the Senate by Nyandarua IDPs regarding delayed compensation and occupation of land parcels purchased for their resettlement between 2010 and 2013.



*Senator Mohamed Faki and Senator Mariam Omar (left) during the Committee on Lands tour of Uhuruma IDP camp in Nyandarua County.*



*Senator Mohamed Faki, Senator Munyi Mundigi and Senator Joe Nyutu during the public engagement in Nyandarua County.*

## Committee cautions Governor Arati on pending bills

The Committee on Finance and Budget has cautioned the Governor Simba Arati of Kisii County against paying unverified pending bills.

The Committee warned that such a move would put the County Executive at the risk of litigation which in turn would jeopardise public funds.

The Governor had informed the Committee that there are outside forces who are forcing his administration into paying unverified pending bills contrary to the law.

“Most of the people with claims have been given a chance to appear before the pending bills committee but they have refused,” he told the Committee when it visited him in his office.

“They want to be paid without verification,” said Governor Arati said.

Governor Arati informed the Committee that his administration formed a Pending Bills Committee in November 2022 to review outstanding obligations for the 2021/22 financial year

The exercise found bills amounting to Sh231.4 million eligible, which have since been settled fully and declared Sh1 billion worth of bills ineligible due to non-compliance and lack of supporting documentation.

A second internal committee re-evaluated the ineligible bills and found that Sh185 million were conditionally eligible for payment, pending further compliance.

During the meeting in Kisii Town on June 9, Senators emphasised the need for transparency, respect for institutions, and the seriousness in governance, urging the county boss not to succumb to the pressure of paying pending bills without proper verification.

They, however, cautioned the county boss against verifying pending bills indefinitely and advised him to consult with the Controller of Budget and the Office of the Auditor General to ensure contractors who complied with the law are paid their dues.

“It’s unfair to use the excuse of one document missing when the contractor has incurred the expenditure on the project, the project can be identified physically.

“Try consulting the Auditor General and the Controller of Budget to manage the situation so that the contractors are not tormented,” Senator Ali Roba advised.

The Committee directed the Kisii County Executive to write to the specific contractors whose claims have elements



*Governor Simba Arati when he appeared before the Committee on Finance in Kisii town.*



*Senator Esther Okenyuri makes her submission when the Committee on Finance toured Kisii County. Senator Boni Khalwale looks on.*



*Senator Ali Roba, chair Finance Committee and Senator Tabitha Mutinda, the vice chair, during the meeting in Kisii town.*

of suspected fraud, informing them that their contracts cannot be processed for payment and allow them to prove the legitimacy of their contracts.

Governor Arati agreed with the directions but insisted that he “cannot pay any air projects.”

“I’m in my early forties, I have a whole life ahead of me. I cannot go down simply because some people wanted me to pay them for no work done,” the county boss said.

He insisted that all pending bills must be verified before they are paid to estab-

lish whether the procurement process was commenced properly, there was an award for tender, and there was a properly signed contract.

## Kamati ya Sheria Andamizi yakutana na Waakilishi Wadi wa Embu

**K**atika juhudi zinazoendelea za kuimarisha mihimili ya kisheria ya serikali za Kaunti, Kamati ya Sheria Andamizi iliandaa kikao cha mashauriano na Waakilishi wa Wadi kwenye Bunge la Kaunti ya Embu kilicholenga kukuza ubadilishanaji wa maarifa, ulinganifu wa sera na ufanisi wa sheria kati ya ngazi za serikali.

Kikao hicho kilichofanyika katika Majengo ya Bunge jijini Nairobi, kilijikita katika kujenga uwezo wa taasisi na kuingua ubora wa sheria ndogo zinazotungwa na mabunge ya Kaunti. Mwenyekiti wa Kamati hiyo Seneta Mwenda Gataya, alisisitiza umuhimu wa kuimarisha mikakati kabambe ya kisheria kama nguzo muhimu ya kuendeleza ugatuzi.

“Ugatuzi umepiga hatua kubwa katika muongo uliopita, lakini ili kufikia uwezo wake kamili, ni lazima tuekeze katika nyenzo za kisheria na rasilimali watu zinazochochea utawala wa Kaunti,” alisema Seneta Gataya. “Mkutano huu sio wa ishara tu, bali ni dhahirisho la wajibu wa pamoja kuhakikisha kwamba sheria zinazotungwa katika ngazi ya Kaunti ni thabiti, zinafuata sheria na zinafungamana na malengo ya kitaifa.”

Masuala muhimu yaliyojadiliwa ni pamoja na uandishi, uchapishaji na ute-



Seneta Mwenda Gataya (wa pili kulia) Seneta Betty Montet (wa tatu kulia) wakiwa na Waakilishi Wadi wa Bunge la Kaunti ya Embu baada ya mkutano wa pamoja

kelezaji wa sheria andamizi katika ngazi ya Kaunti na umuhimu wa kuhakikisha kuwa nyaraka zote za kisheria zinaambatana na sheria asilia na misingi ya Katiba. Maseneta walisisitiza jukumu la Seneti katika kutoa mwongozo wa kitaalamu na usimamizi kwa Mabunge ya Kaunti, hasa wanapokabiliwa na mazingira tata ya kisheria.

Seneta Betty Montet aliwapongeza waakilishi wadi wa Kaunti ya Embu kwa kuchukua hatua ya kutafuta ushauri na

mafunzo, akibainisha kuwa ushirikiano wa aina hiyo ni muhimu katika kuboresha ubora wa sheria na ufanisi wa utawala. “Uwazi wa Mabunge ya Kaunti kujifunza na kushirikiana ni ishara njema kuwa ugatuzi unakomaa kwa njia nzuri,” alisema.

Ujumbe kutoka Bunge la Kaunti ya Embu, ukiongozwa na Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Sheria Andamizi, uliomba kuwepo kwa mikutano ya mara kwa mara na ya kuhusisha pande zote na Se-

neti, ukisisitiza haja ya mazungumzo ya kudumu ili kuziba mapengo katika utunzi wa sheria na ulinganifu wa sera.

Viongozi kutoka pande zote walikubaliana kuhusu umuhimu wa kupanua mikutano ya aina hii hadi katika Kaunti nyingine, ili kugeuza juhudi hizo kuwa mfumo wa kitaifa wa ukuzaji wa sheria na usimamizi.

## Seneta Ojienda ataka majibu kuhusu shughuli ya ubomoaji Kaunti ya Kisumu

**S**eneta Tom Ojienda, amezitaka Kamati mbili za Bunge la Seneti kushughulikia masuala tata yanayowaandama wenyeji katika Kaunti mbali mbali kote nchini hasa katika Kaunti ya Kisumu.

Akiwasilisha maombi kwenye bunge, Seneta huyo ameitaka Kamati ya Barabara, Uchukuzi na Makazi kutoa ufafanuzi kuhusu ubomoaji unaoendelea Korando-Tiengre na maeneo mengine katika Kaunti ya Kisumu.

Seneta Ojienda ameitaka Kamati hiyo kuchunguza mamlaka ya kisheria iliyo husika na ubomoaji huo, hali ya ardhi iliyoathiriwa, iwapo waathiriwa walipewa taarifa kabla ya ubomoaji kufanyika na iwapo wananchi pamoja na wadau husika walishirikishwa kikamilifu kwa mujibu wa katiba.

Kadhalika, Seneta Ojienda ameitaka kamati hiyo kueleza iwapo kuna mipango ya fidia au makazi mapya kwa wakazi waliovujiwa nyumba na mali zao na kufafanua iwapo ubomoaji ulifanyika kwa



Seneta Tom Ojienda

mujibu wa sheria.

Chini ya Kamati ya Kudumu ya Ugatuzi na Mahusiano ya Kiserikali, Seneta huyo aliibua wasiwasi kuhusu mienendo na viwango vya kitaaluma vya vitengo vya utekelezaji wa Kaunti. “Ingawa vitengo vya sheria vya Kaunti ni muhimu katika kutekeleza sheria za ugatuzi, malalamiko ya mara kwa mara yameibuka kuhusu unyanyasaji wa wafanyabiashara na umma,” alisema Seneta Ojienda.

Seneta huyo ameitaka Kamati hiyo kueleza iwapo kuna mfumo wa kitaifa unaoongoza mafunzo, uajiri na utekelezaji wa wafanyakazi wa Kaunti. Aidha, ameiomba Kamati hiyo kutathmini iwapo Taasisi ya Mafunzo ya Serikali imeunda masomo ya kawaida ya mafunzo kwa maafisa wa utekelezaji katika Kaunti zote. Ameihimiza Kamati hiyo kuhakikisha kuwa sheria za Kaunti zinazingatia utu na maisha ya binadamu, huku matumizi mabaya ya mamlaka ya-

kidhibitiwa.

Kuhusu ustahimilivu wa miundombinu ya kitaifa dhidi ya mabadiliko ya hali ya hewa, Seneta Ojienda ameitaka Kamati hiyo kufafanua mikakati ya kukabiliana na mabadiliko ya tabianchi iliyojumuishwa katika upangaji, usanifu, ujenzi na matengenezo ya miundombinu ya kitaifa.

Seneta Ojienda vilevile ameitaka Kamati hiyo kutoa maelezo kuhusu taratibu za ufadhili na ugawaji wa rasilimali zinazolenga kuimarisha ustahimilivu wa miundombinu dhidi ya athari za mabadiliko ya hali ya hewa tangu mwaka wa fedha wa 2021/22. Kadhalika, ameiomba Kamati hiyo kufafanua changamoto zilizojitokeza katika utekelezaji wa hatua za kustahimili mabadiliko ya tabianchi na kutoa mapendekezo ya kuimarisha uwezo wa kitaifa wa kurekebisha miundombinu ili kuhimili hatari zinazotokana na mabadiliko ya hali ya hewa.

## Committee advises Governor Orenge on audit failures

The Committee on County Public Investments and Special Funds has directed Siaya Governor James Orenge to address the long-standing audit failures affecting the Siaya County Referral Hospital and Siboi Water and Sanitation Company Limited.

The meeting between the two sides focused on unresolved financial mismanagement and operational inefficiencies documented in the financial report of the Auditor-General for the county in the 2023/24 financial year report.

Among the most glaring issues was a 13-year delay in securing a land title for the county referral hospital—a lapse lawmakers described as unacceptable.

“A facility this critical lacking basic land ownership documents for over a decade is unacceptable,” noted Senator Raphael Chimera, adding that immediate and practical steps must be shown.

Similarly, the Committee, which is chaired by Senator Godfrey Osotsi, expressed concern over revelations of staff shortages at and the fact that the Hospital is deploying telemedicine in its diagnostic services.

Governor Orenge acknowledged staffing shortages at the hospital but defended its use of telemedicine as a stopgap measure. “We currently depend on telemed-



Senator Godfrey Osotsi

icine partnerships,” he explained. “For instance, in radiology, our CT scans are interpreted remotely by doctors from Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching Hospital and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, providing real-time diagnosis.”

While the Committee clarified that it had no objection to the use of telemedicine, Senator Osotsi noted that the audit template used by the Office of the Audi-

tor-General was developed by the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU).

Until KMPDU updates the template to reflect modern service delivery models like telemedicine, he said, staffing gaps would continue to appear as unresolved audit queries.

“We have no issue with the model you are using,” Senator Osotsi said. “But until KMPDU amends the template to accommodate telemedicine, the shortage of physical staff will always show up as an audit problem. Stick to the current guidelines until then.”

In the case for Siboi Water and Sanitation Company, the Committee noted that losses had only slightly decreased—from Sh37 million to Sh27 million—despite repeated warnings. Non-revenue water remained unacceptably high, with prior reform recommendations largely ignored.

Senator George Mbugua expressed frustration. “Non-revenue water remains excessively high. The measures previously recommended remain largely unimplemented. Where is the urgency?” he asked.

Senator Oburu Odinga confronted the company’s CEO for doing little to resolve the issues. “What do you want

us to do? When you bring yourself here knowing very well that all the issues have not been addressed, what do you expect us to do?”

The audit also revealed Sh19 million in unrefunded customer deposits and poor financial disclosures threatening the utility’s long-term viability.

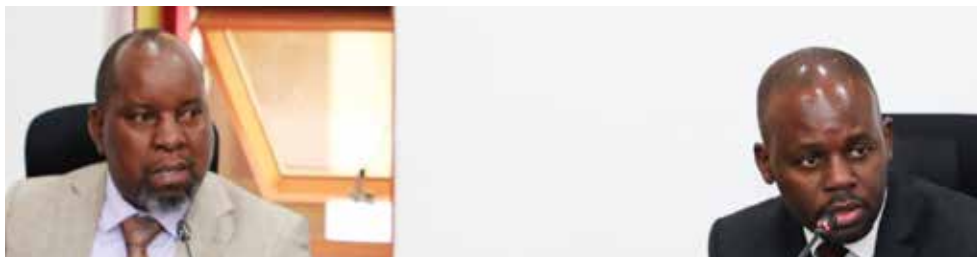
Governor Orenge admitted progress has been slow. “Strategies like smart metering and infrastructure repairs are underway,” he said, “but we recognise that much remains incomplete.” His suggestion that clean water supply should take priority over profitability drew strong pushback.

Senator Peris Tobiko responded firmly. “If your goal is supplying free services or making your county a social enterprise, make it official.” Senator George Mbugua supported her position, urging the governor to seek formal approval from the Siaya County Assembly if he intended to offer free water services.

The Committee Chair told the Governor that partial measures are insufficient and granted him six months to correct the situation.

“Siaya residents deserve better management of their health and essential services. Accountability and swift corrective actions must be prioritised urgently.”

## CPAC unhappy with EACC operations



Senator Moses Kajwang, the chair, CPAC, and Senator Johnes Mwaruma, the vice chair during the meeting with Governor Mohamed Ali



Senator Edwin Sifuna, Senator Enock Wambua and Senator Mwenda Gataya in one of the CPAC sessions.

The County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) last week hosted three Governors as it ratcheted up its oversight role on financial accountability in the 47 counties. The committee hosted Governors Mohamed Ali (Marsabit), Nadhif Jama (Garissa) and Kenneth Lusaka (Bungoma) to establish the steps they have taken to implement the resolutions of the Senate over their expenditure and revenue accounts for the 2023/24 financial year.

Marsabit Governor Mohamed Ali has told a watchdog committee of the Senate that he is keen to know the

reasons for his arrest by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).

Detectives from the anti-graft agency raided the County headquarters in March 2024 and arrested the Governor on allegation of multi billion corruption in the county.

Governor Ali’s office was raided just a week after he had appeared before the Committee.

Other County Bosses who have been summoned to EACC are Governor Kimani Wamatangi (Kiambu) and Governor George Natembeya (Trans Nzoia).



Governor Mohamed Ali during the meeting.

However, more than one year later, the Governor has neither been arraigned nor been told the reason why he was arrested.

The matter became an issue of heated debate when the Governor appeared before the County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) on Monday, June 9, 2025.

The Committee, which is chaired by Senator Moses Kajwang, sought to know from the Governor why he was arrested and the status of the investigations, wondering how long it will take to conclude investigations, more than a

year later.

“We ask because our credibility as a committee is being threatened by lack of action from the EACC,” he told the Committee even as he warned that the Commission had politicised the war on corruption.

“They announce arrests for optics and we would like the EACC to tame its appetite for shouting,” he added, noting that EACC should focus on cases that it can win.

Senators Edwin Sifuna, Enock Wambua and Okongo Omogeni wondered how long it takes for EACC to investigate matters.

The Committee resolved to invite the Commission leadership to appear so as to explain the challenges they are facing and which appear to undermine investigations.

“After more than one year, it is only fair that the EACC settles this matter and lets the world know whether the Governor is corrupt,” said Senator Kajwang.

The Governor agreed saying that he found the raid at his office unfair, unprocedural and out of tune with the best practices.

“I am also waiting to know why the EACC did what they did to me.”

## Campaign against Gender-Based Violence



1. Senator Shakila Abdalla during the launch of the campaign in Lamu County.

2. Senator Peris Tobiko in Kajiado County.

3. Senator Esther Okenyuri in Kisii County.

4. Senator Veronica Maina in Muranga County.

5. Senator Joyce Korir in Bomet County.

6. Senator Agnes Muthama in Machakos County.

7. Senator Tabitha Mutinda in Nairobi County.

8. Senator Miraj Abdullahi in Mombasa County.

The Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA) has officially rolled out grassroots campaigns across various counties to tackle the escalating cases of femicide and gender-based violence.

The campaign received a major boost when President William Ruto offered financial support, reaffirming the national

government's commitment to ending violence against women and girls.

Some KEWOSA members have kicked off activities in their respective counties, engaging communities through public forums, school visits, stakeholder dialogues, and media outreach. The campaigns are tailored to address the unique social dynamics in each region while fostering public awareness, prevention strat-

egies, and community accountability.

The campaign aims to raise awareness while also sparking urgent conversations around harmful cultural norms, law enforcement gaps, and the role of men in championing women's safety.

KEWOSA is working collaboratively with civil society groups, youth, faith leaders, county governments, and survivors to ensure the efforts are inclusive,

impactful, and sustained.

In the coming weeks, more Senators are expected to launch their county campaigns. The initiative will also include policy advocacy and calls for stronger enforcement of existing laws on gender-based violence, protection for victims, and justice for families affected by femicide.



1. *Teachers and students of 7 Folks Primary School, Embu County follow proceedings in the Senate Chamber.*
2. *A Parliamentary protocol official speaks to learners from St Angela's Girls, Kitui County during their tour of Parliament.*
3. *Senator Mariam Omar interacts with teachers and students of Midland international school, Machakos County, at Parliament Buildings.*
4. *Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot gives teachers and students from Kibugat Mixed Secondary School, Kericho County, tips on law making at Parliament Buildings.*



1. Speaker Kingi poses with members of the Kenya Women Senators Association, KEWOSA, to express solidarity with the ongoing campaign against Gender Based Violence (GBV).
2. Senator Aaron Cheruiyot leads the Bunge FC in observing a minute of silence in honour of the late Albert Ojwang' who was killed in police custody at Central Police Station. This was before the friendly match against Kibra Legends FC.
3. Parliamentary officials welcome to Parliament Mr Kipchumba Murkomen, the Interior Cabinet Secretary, when he appeared before the Committee of the Whole to explain the mysterious killing of blogger Albert Ojwang at Central Police Station.
4. Inspector General of Police David Kanja, CS Murkomen and Mr Edwin Cheluget, the acting chairman of the National Police Service Commission, walk to the Senate Chamber to face Senators over the death of blogger Albert Ojwang'.
5. Senator Joseph Githuku and a security official follow proceedings in the of the Office of Mbeere South Deputy County Commissioner when the Committee on National Security paid a courtesy call.



1. *Senator Okongo Omogeni and Senator Munyi Mundigi in Embu County.*
2. *Members of Energy Committee led by Chairman Oburu Oginga when they paid a courtesy call to Governor Abdulswamad Nassir in Mombasa County.*
3. *Senator Richard Onyonka welcomes Senator Boni Khalwale when the Committee on Finance paid a courtesy call to Governor Simba Arati's office.*
4. *Governor Simba Arati receives Senator Tabitha Mutinda in his office. Senator Richard Onyonka looks on.*



1. Senator Ali Roba and Hon Samuel Atandi, the co-chairs of the Mediation Committee on Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 during the first meeting of the committee.
2. Members of the Mediation Committee on Division of Revenue Bill, 2025, consult during the first meeting. They are led by co-chairs, Senator Ali Roba and Hon Samuel Atandi (centre). Others are Senator Eddy Oketch (right), Senator Boni Khalwale (in pink) and Hon Owen Baya (in yellow).
3. Part of the Senate team to the Mediation Committee on Division of Revenue Bill, 2025. From left, Senator Boni Khalwale, Senator William Kisang and Senator Eddy Oketch

## This Week in History - On June 16, 2016

# Senators question GSU on killings in Kajiado county



**Senator Peter Mositet**

Senator Peter Mositet presented a Petition to the House on behalf of the people of Kajiado North Sub County. They were seeking the Senate intervention to ensure that the services they are crying for from the national Government or the county government, reach them. Their prayer was that the Senate conducts its own investigation with a view to directing the respective county or national Government to take necessary steps, including budget provision, to ensure the realisation of the matters raised in this Petition and ensure they cause the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of the national Government via the Nairobi Metropolitan Transport Authority to integrate Bomas-Ngong-Kiserian, Ngong-Karen Junction corridor in the design of the bus rapid transport and passenger rail system. This will address the perennial traffic jam in Kajiado North Sub County, particularly at Ongata Rongai and Ngong. They also caused wanted the Senate to direct the county government and the national Government to come up with an implementable work plan to issue the title deeds in the informal settlement in the county, including the villages of Kware, Gishagi in Ngong, Mathare in Ngong, Ole Kasasi in Ongata Rongai, Bulbul in Ngong and Line Saba in Kajiado North Sub County which have in the past been exploited during political seasons due to lack of security of tenure for their properties. "The capacity of the county government cannot allow them to clear the current work load as may be desired," Senator Mositet told the House.



**Senator Mutahi Kagwe said:**

As you are aware, Kajiado County forms part of the Nairobi Metropolitan area. Many people who work in this town live in Kajiado Town, Ngong, Kiserian, Ongata Rongai and so on. The residents of Kajiado County can be referred to as the residents of Nairobi. It, therefore, makes sense that in order for us to make Kajiado County exploit its economic potential, it is important for it to become part of Nairobi through a properly organised transport system. That transport system could be the Nairobi Metropolitan Transport system that is being designed."



**Senator Wilfred Machage said:**

"The Petition by the people of Kajiado is a confirmation of a cry by the whole country on the total failure of the Jubilee Government to offer services to the people of Kenya. According to the Constitution, a number of roads are supposed to have been relinquished to the county government system. However, the national Government has persistently refused to do so. It is a pity that they have intentionally refused to offer services to the citizens despite the fact that year in, year out, we allocate a lot of money to roads construction in this country. What does this money do? Who is keeping it? Will it be used in the next election?"



**Senator Daniel Karaba said:**

"The Petition should have come earlier than today because it seems that Kajiado, as has always been said, is geographically not in Rift Valley but in Nairobi. To make it worse, it borders the Nairobi National Park. I know you have travelled along that route, along the National Park, as you drive towards Magadi. There is a very careless way of operating because lions pass through the fences because the highway is just next to the road. The Petitioners are asking that the road be made wider for use; this will even save the lions from being crushed by vehicles and contain them in the National Park. The road is dangerous to use, narrow, steep, rugged and potholed. With all those adjectives, therefore, it is necessary to come up with an upgrade of good concessional road works so that we can get to Lake Magadi, where soda ash and salt fish are found. The road will also enable us to get to Kitengela and Namanga, our border town with Tanzania. That is missing and lacking because of the kind of road and infrastructure which is between Kajiado and Nairobi



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**Email:** [Senate.weekly@parliament.go.ke](mailto: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](mailto:info@klb.co.ke)

Website: [www.klb.co.ke](http://www.klb.co.ke)