



# The **SENATE** Weekly

## Counties to get Sh415 billion in 2025/26 FY

**It has dawned on the Senate that beyond the Sh415 billion mark, we will be trying to milk a stone – Senator Ali Roba, Co-Chair, the Mediation Committee of Division of Revenue Bill, 2025**



Members of the Mediation Committee led by co-chairs, Senator Ali Roba and Hon Samuel Atandi, after they agreed on a mediated version of the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025.



Senator Ali Roba and Hon Samuel Atandi, the co-chairs of the Mediation Committee.

The Senate has proved its commitment to full implementation of devolution after it ensured that counties received Sh415 billion in equitable share for the 2025/26 financial year.

The figure is Sh10 billion more than the Sh405 billion the National Assembly had approved in the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025.

The figure is Sh27.5 billion of what the devolved units received in the 2024/25 financial year.

Senators cautiously hailed the deal as progress but insist that going forward, there is need for the National Treasury to strictly adhere to Articles 202 (1) and 203 (2) of the Constitution when determining the equitable revenue allocation between the two levels of government.

“It has dawned on the Senate that beyond the Sh415 billion mark, we will

be trying to milk a stone,” Senator Ali Roba, the Co-Chairperson of the Mediation Committee, said after the team settled on Sh415 billion.

Majority Whip Boni Khalwale described the deal as progress.

“After a week of back and forth, the National Assembly and Senate finally agreed to raise sharable revenue to county governments by Sh27.5 billion to Sh415 billion for the 2025/26 FY up from the Sh387.5 billion of the 2024/25 FY. Progress,” said Senator Khalwale on his X account, soon after the deal had been hammered on Wednesday.

In the 2024/25 financial year, counties received Sh387.5 billion and the new figure symbolises the effort and the determination by the Senate to ensure devolution succeeds.

In pushing for the adherence to Ar-

articles 202 and 203, Senators argue that this will ensure fair distribution between the two levels of government. They warn that it would be catastrophic to replace one Article with the other since it would lead to economic disparity.

Article 202 (1) provides that the revenue raised nationally shall be shared equitably among the national and county governments.

Article 203 of the Constitution provides that county governments receive at least 15 per cent of the nationally collected revenue, based on the most recent audited accounts as approved by Parliament.

When considering the Bill, the National Assembly had computed the allocation based the revenues collected in the 2020/21 financial year, amounting to Sh1.57 trillion.

In April, however, the National Assembly had approved the audited accounts for the 2021/22 financial year, totalling to Sh1.92 trillion.

Senators successfully pushed for the adoption of the audited accounts for the 2021/22 as the basis of the allocation in the 2025/26 financial year.

Out of the deal, the National Government will receive Sh2.75 trillion in the 2025/26 financial year in line with the submission of the National Treasury

The adoption of the revenues collected was a major step in the week when Senators adopted the fourth basis of sharing revenue and also invoked Article 203 of the Constitution on affirmative action when considering the formula.

In its report on the mediated version of the Bill expected to be tabled in the Senate, the Committee explains that the

Sh415 billion allocation was occasioned by the National Treasury's decision to revise projections for the shareable revenue.

The National Treasury revised its initial revenue forecast for 2025/26 fiscal year from Sh2.83 trillion to Sh2.56

trillion, saying this reflects the current realities on the country's revenue performance.

The Committee noted that the computation of the Equalisation Fund allocation resulted in an adjustment in the allocation from Sh7.85 billion to Sh9.6

billion, in line with Article 204 (1) of the constitution on the most recent audited revenues approved by Parliament.

The Mediation Committee allocates Sh2.75 trillion as the total shareable revenue for the 2025/26 financial year, Sh9.6 billion for the Equalisation Fund,

and Sh2.3 trillion for the National Government's Equitable Share.

"It is now our duty, as the Senate, to put governors under pressure and ensure that this money is utilised properly," said Senator Khalwale, who was a Member of the Committee.

## Senate: The case for Sh465 billion county equitable share

Once again, through sheer grit, the Senate has come through for devolution. It has fought hard to ensure that the county equitable share is increased in line with the prevailing financial circumstances facing the counties.

From the Sh405 billion as proposed by the National Treasury, and affirmed by the National Assembly, to Sh415 billion for the 2025/26 financial year, the Senate has proved that it is determined to ensure that devolution succeeds.

In proposing Sh465 billion, Senators argued that the figure was based on the policies implemented by the national Government but which have affected county governments. The policies include contributions to the Housing Levy, the increase of contributions to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), implementation of the Doctors Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and the counterpart funding of the Community Health Promoters (CHP)

The National Assembly has argued that its proposal for Sh405.1 billion was pegged on available resource envelope, given the limited fiscal space due to the public debt servicing and fiscal consolidation efforts that the government is pursuing to entrench fiscal sustainability.

During the consideration of the 2025 Budget Policy Statement (BPS), the Senate made some key financial recommendations with regard to Division of Revenue.

1. The Senate had argued that there has been marginal growth in the county equitable share from previous financial years, despite the substantive growth in shareable revenue. While shareable revenue is estimated to grow by 10.1 percent (Sh259.1 billion increase), in 2025/26 financial year, counties were being given a marginal figure, Sh17.7 billion, from this revenue growth. Similarly, over the years, the county equitable share has on average been 2.23 per cent of GDP, and 2025/26 financial year nominal GDP is projected to be Sh19,272 billion, Sh387.425 billion should be adjusted to ensure county equitable share percentage of GDP is maintained at the same level.

2. Out of the set target collection of



Senator Boni Khalwale and Senator Eddy Oketch, members of the Committee on Finance.



Senator Tabitha Mutinda, the vice chair, Committee on Finance, and Senator Eddy Oketch.

Sh2. 8 trillion as shareable revenue for 2025/26 financial year, the Bill had proposed to allocate Sh2.41 trillion to the national Government, Sh405.1 billion to the County Governments, and Sh10.6 billion to the Equalisation Fund. Based on this projected shareable revenue of Sh2,83 trillion, the allocation to the National Government was equivalent to 85.3 percent, while that of the county governments was 14.3 percent. This trend is depicted in the previous allocations, where the share for the National Government has averaged above 85 percent, while that of the counties being between 14 and 15 percent on average.

3. That the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 had used the revenues collected in the 2020/21 financial year as the most recent audited and approved accounts which amounts to Sh1.5 trillion. On April 15, 2025, the National Assembly had approved the audited accounts of 2021/22 financial year, whose nationally collected revenue amount-

ed to Sh1.9 trillion, which meant that the allocation to counties should have gone up. Members of the Senate in the Mediation Committee on the Bill were successful in forcing the National Assembly to accede in using the 2021/22 financial year computation.

4. That the County government expenditure needs have sharply grown due to increase in non-discretionary expenditures such as contribution to housing levy, NSSF, Social Health Insurance Fund, contribution to County Aggregated Industrial Parks (CAIPs), annual wage drift among others. An analysis by the Committee on Finance and Budget estimates that cost of Housing levy deductions to counties averages Sh4.1 billion, enhanced contributions to the NSSF (Sh6 billion), matching allocation to the County Aggregate Industrial Parks (CAIPs) project (Sh11.8 billion), matching allocations for the Community Health Promoters (Sh3.23 billion), annual wage increments -IPPD annual adjustment- (Sh6.3 billion and the basic Salary

increment as per the Doctors CBA 2017/21; execution of the Return To Work Formula (RTWF)-(Sh3.5 billion.)

5. That in developing the Bill, the National Treasury did not consider the financial implications of recently delineated and gazetted functions between national and county governments. Senators want an urgent identification and transfer of attendant resources to counties, as required by previous summit resolutions, to ensure counties could effectively perform the additional functions.

6. The current baseline for counties has been reduced to Sh387.425 billion from the earlier Sh400.117 billion, even as the national government's allocation was restored through supplementary budgets. The Senate argues that the best place to start is to reinstate the counties' baseline allocation to Sh400.117 billion, in line with the Division of Revenue Act, 2024.

7. That county allocations did not reflect the expanded fiscal space or projected 5.3 per cent economic growth. Senators cite a five-year disparity where counties' share rose by only Sh70.9 billion compared to Sh702.6 billion for the national government. The counties continue to face unmet financial obligations and deficits due to previous budget cuts, with no additional allocations provided to address outstanding non-discretionary expenditures. Senators recommended that the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025, should provide for the expenditures arising from national government policies and projects.

8. That the issue of inflation will always catch up with counties. For instance, if you think about the wage drift that is a big consideration that adjusts itself by five per cent in county payroll systems every year automatically - if you deny a county a shilling from what they got in the previous allocation - then you end up being injurious to their planning purposes.

## Revenue mediations are dysfunctional – Senator Roba

**S**enator Ali Roba is the Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Budget, the position he has held since the inauguration of the 4th Senate of the 13th Parliament. During this period, he has presided over the enactment of four Division of Revenue Bills (DoRBs), including the 2024 case when the Bill was amended to reduce the allocation to counties from Sh400.1 billion to Sh387 billion. This was in the wake of the Gen Z protests.

Senator Roba spoke to the Senate Weekly soon after he led the Senate mediation team in settling for Sh415 billion in county equitable shareable revenue. He shares his frustrations with the accumulated matter of enactment of the Bill; his thoughts on devolution and the challenges he has encountered as he leads the Finance Committee in navigating the slippery terrain of resource sharing between the two levels of Government. Excerpts.



*Senator Ali Roba, chair, Committee on Finance and Budget.*

**Question:** Once again, the Division of Revenue Bill has been decided through mediation. How long will this have to go on?

**A:** This annual mediation has become a predictable constitutional dysfunction. It cannot continue indefinitely. Unless structural reforms are undertaken—either in law or in practice—to harmonise fiscal expectations across both Houses, we risk reducing this vital national process into a repetitive tug-of-war, year after year, at the expense of service delivery in counties.

**Q:** What is the main problem that faces the enactment of the Bill every other year?

**A:** The core problem is political posturing and lack of adherence to objective, evidence-based fiscal planning. The National Assembly often prioritises national executive priorities at the expense of counties, while the Senate—guided by our constitutional mandate—insists on adequate, equitable, and needs-based funding to counties. Until we operate from a shared framework of respect for devolution and economic data, this deadlock will persist.

**Q:** Your committee has done a lot in terms of ensuring proper funding for counties. Your reports are well grounded in facts supported by data

in both macro and microeconomic conditions, giving scientific justification for every position you take. How does it feel for all the good work you do to be dismissed casually by the national assembly?

**A:** It is deeply frustrating and unfortunate. Our committee invests months in data analysis, stakeholder consultations, macroeconomic forecasting, and ensuring constitutional compliance. To have such rigorous work casually dismissed purely for political convenience is disheartening—not just for us as senators, but for the millions of Kenyans whose livelihoods depend on effective county service delivery.

**Q:** Was the Senate push for the Sh465 billion informed by the desire to show might?

**A:** Absolutely not. The Sh465 billion proposal was not about flexing political muscle—it's about economic justice, sustainability of county functions, and fulfilling the promises of devolution. Our position is guided by inflation trends, increased national revenue performance, growing county responsibilities, and the principle of equitable sharing as per Article 203 of the Constitution.

**Q:** Briefly, explain the justification for the Sh465 billion.

**A:** The Senate's push for Sh465 billion is grounded in fairness. National revenue has grown by over Sh400 billion, yet the allocation to counties remains stagnant or grown marginally. Counties are on the frontline of health-care, agriculture, water, and early education. Without adequate funding, essential services collapse. This is a push for dignity—not power.

**Q:** You describe revenue sharing formula as “predictable constitutional dysfunction”. In your opinion, is there another option for sharing funds between the two levels that will avoid this annual ritual of mediation?

**A:** Yes. We need a multi-year revenue-sharing framework based on a rolling medium-term expenditure plan—approved jointly by both Houses—so that allocations are predictable, stable, and shielded from political interference. We must also anchor the Senate's recommendations more firmly in law to prevent unilateral alterations by the National Assembly.

**Q:** Given a chance, what changes would you propose in the allocation

of revenue between the two levels to avoid having mediation every year?

**A:** I would propose constitutional amendments or legislative reforms to set a binding minimum threshold for county allocations based on a percentage of the audited national revenue, institutionalise a joint technical committee between Treasury, Commission on Revenue Allocation, the Senate, and National Assembly to harmonise figures before tabling. Such an amendment will prohibit unilateral reduction of Senate-approved figures without a formal justification and review process.

**Q:** Any message to the National Assembly on the accumulated matter of devolution?

**A:** I want to tell our colleagues in the National Assembly and devolution is not a favour from the national government—it is a constitutional right of the people of Kenya. Stalling county funding undermines development, peace, and progress. Let them rise above politics and honour our shared responsibility to protect and empower every Kenyan, wherever they live.

## Committee rejects President's reservations on Bill

The Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee has recommended that Parliament rejects nine of the twelve reservations President William Ruto cited while refusing to assent to the Conflict of Interest Bill, 2023.

Senator Veronica Maina, the committee's vice-chairperson, tabled the report detailing the committee's scrutiny of the President's memorandum. The committee accepted only three of the amendments proposed by the President and rejected the rest as either excessively broad or impractical.

The Bill, under parliamentary consideration since April 2023, seeks to establish comprehensive regulations on conflicts of interest for public officers. After mediation, both houses passed it, but the President refused to sign and returned it with concerns about definitions, enforcement mechanisms, and disclosure requirements.

The most significant committee rejection involves the proposed expanded definition of "relative," which senators deemed too broad and difficult to enforce. They also rejected the extension



Senator Veronica Maina

of gift and complimentary treatment prohibitions to relatives of public officers.

"The clause as worded was very broad. A public officer may not have a way of knowing if a distant relative has

accepted complimentary treatment, raising privacy concerns," noted the Committee, in the report before the House.

The committee further opposed the removal of the "good faith" exception for public officers granting preferential treatment, emphasising judicial discretion in evaluating individual cases. Similarly, Senators rejected the President's proposed broad prohibition on public officers acquiring interests in government-contracting companies, citing concerns over its vague and restrictive nature.

However, the Committee agreed with the President on three points related to procedural clarity: removing conflicting parliamentary recusal language, defining "material change" in asset declarations, and empowering the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to verify asset declarations.

They also supported expanding EACC's mandate to include asset forfeiture, provided coordination with the Asset Recovery Agency is clarified to avoid conflicts.

The House will debate the report and

vote on the reservations. To override the President's memorandum, the House needs a two-thirds majority of 35 out of 47 senators. Failure to attain this majority will prompt another vote, requiring a simple majority of 24 senators to approve the President's amendments. If the Senate approves the Committee's reservations, the Bill collapses, effectively going to purgatory, though it can be reintroduced by the executive after six months.

The rejection highlights deeper legislative-executive tensions regarding conflict-of-interest management. While the President advocates for broader, stringent regulations, Senators caution against creating an impractical legal framework that risks criminalising routine activities and breaching privacy.

This Bill seeks to reinforce Chapter Six of the Constitution by repealing the existing Public Officer Ethics Act, introducing rigorous standards for managing public-sector conflicts, mandatory asset disclosures, gift restrictions, and clear recusal procedures.

## Senators to scrutinise loans contracted in 2025

The House has started scrutinising the report by the National Treasury and Economic Planning detailing all new loans contracted by the Government between January 1 and April 30, 2025.

Kenya's total external debt stock as of March 31, 2025, was Sh11.36 trillion, which is equivalent to 65.7 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is an increase of Sh966.3 billion from the previous year.

Domestic debt, including Treasury bonds and bills, reached over Sh6.15 trillion, external debt, comprising loans from multilateral institutions and bilateral partners, also increased during this period.

The government prioritised concessional financing, leading to a high proportion of debt from multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the African Development Bank, and from bilateral partners.

Between January and April 2025, the Kenyan government borrowed approximately Sh64.8 billion through five new loan agreements which were sourced from various bilateral and multilateral creditors.

The loans were part of the government's strategy to finance the budget deficit and manage the country's debt.



Speaker Amason Kingi.

Multilateral lenders, including the World Bank, account for 53.9 percent of the external debt, while bilateral and commercial lenders hold 21.4 percent and 24.7 percent, respectively. The government-guaranteed debt for state corporations such as the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen), and Kenya Airways stands at Sh100 billion.

The National Treasury submitted the document whose contents were com-

municated by Speaker Amason Kingi in line with Section 31(1) of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act and Article 211(2) of the Constitution.

The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury is required to submit to Parliament a report on all loans entered into by national and county government entities every four months.

In his communication, Speaker Kingi noted that the report contains key information, including the names of lending

parties, loan amounts and currencies, interest rates and repayment terms, disbursed amounts, the intended purpose of each loan and the projected benefits to the country.

"This report underscores the importance of transparency and accountability in public borrowing," said Speaker Kingi, adding that in line with the Public Finance Management framework, he had committed to the Committee on Finance and Budget for detailed scrutiny.

The 2025 Medium-Term Debt Strategy (MTDS) launched in March outlines measures aimed at minimising the cost and risks of public debt while ensuring sustainability over the next three years.

The strategy, covering the period from 2025 to 2028, seeks to gradually reduce the stock of Treasury bills while lengthening the maturity of public debt instruments. It also prioritises deepening the domestic debt market and securing a balanced mix of concessional and commercial external financing.

The Committee is expected to review the report and table its findings to the House for consideration.

Speaker Kingi said this will offer Parliament and the public insight into the government's recent borrowing activities.

## Committee to embark on 2027 poll priority reforms



The Committee on Justice, led by the chair, Senator Wakili Sigei, pose for a picture with the stakeholders during the meeting in Machakos County.



Senator Wakili Sigei speaks during the meeting.



Senator Okiya Omtatah



Senator Sigei presides over one of the sessions during the meeting.

The Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights (JLAHRC) convened a consultative meeting with key stakeholders in the electoral landscape to deliberate on priority reforms ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The meeting, held in Machakos County, brought together representatives from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP), the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), and civil society organisations under the Uchaguzi Platform.

The aim was to harmonise legislative, administrative, and operational reforms to strengthen Kenya's electoral integrity and democratic governance.

Senator Wakili Hillary Sigei, the chair of the Committee, reaffirmed Parlia-

ment's commitment to timely electoral reforms, noting the need to heed lessons from previous polls.

"Our presence here bears testimony to the importance we attach to electoral integrity. We must ensure our laws and institutions reflect the spirit of Article 81 of the Constitution, which mandates free, fair, and credible elections," he said.

The reforms must be enacted at least two years before elections to avoid the pitfalls of last-minute legislative amendments.

"We cannot afford to make the same mistake as in 2022, where key Bills like the Referendum Bill and the Political Party Primaries Bill lapsed due to poor timing. The window for reform is closing fast," warned Senator Sigei.

IEBC Deputy CEO Obadiah Keitany

assured the Committee of the Commission's readiness to implement reforms but cited serious financial and legal bottlenecks.

"We are currently facing a Sh7.2 billion shortfall for the 2027 elections and Sh3.7 billion in pending bills. Without adequate funding, it is impossible to maintain our election technology, train staff or conduct by-elections," Mr Keitany said, calling on Parliament to facilitate the replacement of outdated KIEMS kits and operationalise the IEBC Fund.

The NGEC, through its representative Mr Paul Kuria, urged the Committee to prioritise the adoption of frameworks to actualise the two-thirds gender principle and better representation for persons with disabilities.

"This Committee must fast-track the NADCO proposals and the report of the

Multi-Sectoral Working Group on gender parity. Inclusion is not negotiable," Mr Kuria asserted.

Uchaguzi Platform, representing civil society voices, pushed for reforms in voter education, campaign finance transparency, and legal frameworks for digital and AI use in elections. "We need statutory guidelines for AI use, secure result transmission protocols, and a reformed political party nominations process. Citizens must trust the system," said a representative from the platform.

Senator Sigei pledged the Senate's proactive role. "This Committee is listening. Where Bills are before Parliament, we will push for timely passage. Where gaps exist, we shall introduce new legislation. We owe it to the country to secure electoral justice, peace, and participation for all."

## County Assemblies additional cash plea



Members of the Finance Committee led by Senator Ali Roba, the chair, with the delegation from Mombasa County Assembly after the meeting.



The meeting of Finance Committee and Mombasa County Assembly over budget ceilings.

Six county assemblies have defended their recurrent expenditures ceilings for the 2025/26 financial year before the Finance and Budget Committee.

The ceilings were proposed by the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA).

The Commission had submitted its recommendations on the ceilings to the Senate for both county assemblies and county executives in line with Article 216 (2) and (3) of the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act.

In developing the ceilings, the Commission relies on the Salaries and Remuneration Commission's (SRC) circulars and gazette notices, various court determinations, IEBC gazette notices on election outcomes, and the Senate's and stakeholders' feedback.

Mombasa County Assembly Speaker Aharub Ebrahim Khatri informed Senators that the Sh732.8 million budget ceil-

ing proposed by CRA is too low for the proper functioning of the Assembly.

He argued that Mombasa County's total revenue has been steadily rising due to the enactment of several bills that opened up and enriched the county's revenue streams, increasing the Assembly's oversight scope and the need for a commensurate increment of resources.

The Public Finance Management County Regulations state that the approved expenditures of a county assembly shall not exceed seven per cent of the total revenues of the county government or twice the personal emoluments of that county assembly, whichever is lower.

Mombasa County Assembly's budget ceilings have always been below the two parameters as set out in the law. "We humbly submit that you allocate us Sh929.2 million to help us function efficiently and effectively," submitted Speaker Khatri

Speaker Emmanuel Situma of Bun-

goma County Assembly argued that the revised County Allocation of Revenue Act, 2024, puts its recurrent budget ceilings at Sh1.01 billion, varying with the CRA recommendation of Sh969.2 million.

"The County Assembly of Bungoma is facing serious financial constraints in its efforts to carry out its mandates as provided for in law. I urge you, Senators, to allocate Kshs1,019,575,196 to the assembly to enable us to discharge our mandate," said Speaker Situma.

He pleaded with the Senate to reinstate the Sh93 million that it had granted the assembly in the 2024/2025 financial year, but was affected by the amendment of the Finance Bill 2024, to enable them to implement the programmes that they had intended to accomplish.

The County Assembly of Garissa requested a ceiling adjustment of Sh168.4 million in addition to CRA's recommendations to address outstanding pending

bills that hinder their financial operations, a halted staff rationalisation process, and a human resource audit for the staff rationalisation.

"We have experienced a reduction of Sh231.7 million in our budget, resulting in pending bills amounting to Sh33.5 million that must be carried forward.

We are also intending to undertake staff rationalisation as proposed by the County Public Accounts Committee. The total estimated cost for this initiative is Sh58 million," said Mr Abdi Gure, the Speaker of the County Assembly.

The Committee acknowledged the familiar stories from all the county assemblies and pledged to address the requests and give their best, considering the budget constraints and the number of assemblies seeking funding.

Other county assemblies that submitted their budget ceiling proposals include Kakamega, Tana River and Uasin Gishu.

# KEWOSA launch County-Based Anti-Femicide Campaign



1. Senator Beth Syengo during the launch of the campaign in Kitui County.
2. Senator Beatrice Ogola
3. Senator Betty Montet distributes relief food to residents who attended the launch in Kajiado County.
4. Senator Catherine Mumma in Kakamega County.

5. Senator Catherine Mumma poses for a group picture after she distributed sanitary pads to learners who attended the launch of her anti-femicide campaign.
6. Senator Hamida Kibwana follows the discussions during the launch of the campaign in Nairobi County.
7. Senator Kibwana delivers her remarks.
8. Senator Betty Montet

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 vi-

olence 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 strategies, 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.

## Seneta Methu ataka majibu kuhusu ukuzaji wa viazi

Seneta John Methu amefichua wasiwasi kubwa kuhusu usalama wa viazi vinavyozalishwa katika Kaunti hiyo, akisema kuwa utafiti wa hivi karibuni unaodaiwa kufanywa na watafiti kutoka Chuo Kikuu cha Egerton umeibua taharuki kuhusu uwepo wa kiasi kikubwa cha mabaki ya dawa za kuua wadudu katika viazi hivyo.

Seneta Methu alieleza wasiwasi hiyo alipowasilisha ombi la Kauli kwenye Bunge la Seneti akitaka hatua za hima kuchukuliwa kuliangazia saula hilo kwa kina.

“Kaunti ya Nyandarua ni nguzo kuu ya usalama wa chakula nchini na inachangia pakubwa katika ustawi wa maisha ya vijijini. Hata hivyo, ripoti hiyo inaieleza kuwa wakulima wanatumia dawa kupita kiasi, jambo ambalo linaweza kuhatarisha afya ya mlaji,” alifafanua Seneta Methu.

Aliongeza kuwa iwapo madai hayo hayatashughulikiwa kwa wakati, yanaweza kudhoofisha imani ya walaji,



Seneta Richard Onyonka

kushusha soko na kuathiri vibaya mapato ya wakulima.

Katika ombi lake, Seneta Methu aliitaka Kamati ya Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi kuchunguza Uhalisia na usahihi wa kisayansi wa madai hayo, kubaini iwapo mashirika husika kama KEPHIS, KEBS, KALRO na Wizara ya Kilimo wamewahi kufanya tathmini ya usalama wa viazi kutoka kaunti ya Nyandarua.



Seneta John Methu

Aidha kiongozi huyo aliitaka Kamati ya Kilimo kuweka wazi hatua zinazochukuliwa kudumisha imani ya walaji na soko.

Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Wafula Wakoli kadhalika imetakiwa kubaini mikakati ya kuwasaidia wakulima kama mafunzo ya matumizi salama ya dawa, ukaguzi wa bidhaa na uthibitishaji wa ubora.

Kwingineko Seneta Richard Onyonka amewasilisha ombi la Kauli kwenye Seneti akitaka majibu kutoka kwa Kamati ya Haki, Masuala ya Sheria na Haki za Kibinadamu kuhusu zoezi la utathmini wa mipaka ya maeneobunge kote nchini Kenya.

“Tume Huru ya Uchaguzi na Mipaka, (IEBC) kama inavyotakiwa na Kifungu cha 89(2) na (3) cha Katiba, ina jukumu la kuhakikisha utathmini wa mara kwa mara wa mipaka ya maeneobunge na wadi kwa muda usiopungua miaka minane na usiozidi miaka 12,” alikariri Seneta Onyonka.

Kamati hiyo kwenye taarifa yake imetakiwa kubaini hatua zinazochukuliwa kuhakikisha kukaguliwa au kugawanywa mara moja kwa maeneobunge makubwa katika Kaunti kama Kisi, Nyamira na Migori, miongoni mwa zingine na tume ya IEBC, kabla ya uchaguzi mkuu wa mwaka 2027 ili kukuza uwakilishi sawa na vitengo vya uchaguzi vinavyoweza kudhibitiwa kulingana na kifungu cha 89 na 95 vya Katiba.

## Mashine za saratani na mradi wa BRT vyazua maswali mazito

Seneta Hamida Kibwana, amewasilisha maombi ya Kauli yanayogusia afya na miundomsingi mijini, akitaka majibu ya hima kutoka kwa Serikali kuhusu hali ya vifaa vya tiba ya mionzi maarufu kama radiotherapy katika Hospitali ya Kitaifa ya Kenyatta (KNH) na utekelezaji wa mradi wa mabasi ya mwendokasi (BRT) jijini Nairobi.

Akizungumza kuhusu hali ya mashine za kutibu saratani, Seneta Kibwana alisema kuwa wagonjwa wengi wamebaki katika hali ya majonzi kutokana na kukuwama kwa mashine hizo muhimu.

“KNH ni hospitali ya rufaa ya kitaifa na inapaswa kuwa mfano wa kutoa huduma bora. Ni jambo la kusikitisha kwamba mashine muhimu hazifanyi kazi na wagonjwa wanahangaika kupata matibabu kwa wakati,” alisema Seneta Kibwana.

Alinukuu taarifa rasmi ya hospitali hiyo iliyotolewa tarehe 28 Mei 2025 na Kaimu Mkurugenzi Mkuu, ikikiri kwamba mashine ya ‘linear accelerator’ haifanyi kazi.

Katika taarifa yake kwa Kamati ya Afya ya Seneti, alitaka kujua hali ya vifaa vyote vya tiba ya mionzi maarufu kama radiotherapy katika hospitali ya Kenyatta, sababu za uharibifu wa mara



Seneta Hamida Kibwana

kwa mara na kama kuna mipango ya ku-karabati au ununuzi mpya wa mashine hizo.

Pia aliitaka Kamati kueleza iwapo kuna mipango ya kusambaza huduma za

tiba ya mionzi maarufu kama radiotherapy hadi katika hospitali za umma mae-neo mengine ili kupunguza msongamano kwenye hospitali kuu ya Kenyatta.

Katika ombi la pili, Seneta Kibwana

aliitaka Kamati ya Barabara, Uchukuzi na Makazi inayoongozwa na Seneta Eddy Oketch kueleza hatua zilizofikiwa kuhusu utekelezaji wa mradi wa mabasi ya mwendokasi (BRT), ambao ulitara-jiwa kuleta mageuzi katika usafiri wa mijini.

“Mradi huu uliahidi kuboresha usafiri, kupunguza msongamano na utoaji wa hewa chafu. Hata hivyo, miaka kadhaa baadaye, ujenzi wake kwenye barabara kuu kama ya Thika, Mombasa na Ngong unajikokota ama umekwama bila mafanikio,” alieleza kwa masikitiko.

Aliitaka Kamati kueleza sababu za kuchelewa kukamilika kwa BRT, kiwango cha fedha kilichotengwa na kutumika, majukumu ya mashirika kama NAMATA na KURA na kuwepo kwa changamoto zozote katika mchakato wa kandarasi au ununuzi.

“Wananchi wanazidi kuteseka kwenye foleni, huku wakikosa imani na serikali. Tunahitaji uwazi, uwajibikaji na mipango madhubuti ya kuukamilisha mradi huu,” alisema Seneta Kibwana.

Maseneta wengine waliunga mkono maombi hayo wakisema afya ya wananchi na miundombinu bora ni msingi wa maendeleo ya taifa.

## Call for swift action on boundary review



From Left, Senator Esther Okenyuri, Senator Samson Cherarkey and Senator Richard Onyonka.

Lawmakers have raised concerns over delay by the electoral Commission to review constituency boundaries and want the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to expedite the process ahead of the 2027 General Election to ensure equitable representation across the country.

Senator Richard Onyonka called on the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights to provide clarity on the measures in place to ensure a timely and constitutional review of electoral

boundaries.

He cited Article 89(2) and (3) of the Constitution, which mandates IEBC to review constituency and ward boundaries at intervals of not less than eight years and not more than twelve.

“The IEBC must take immediate steps to subdivide large constituencies, particularly in counties such as Kisii, Nyamira and Migori, to ensure manageable electoral units and equitable representation in line with the Constitution,” said Senator Onyonka.

The statement was read on his behalf

by Senator Esther Okenyuri.

Senator Samson Cherarkey supported the Statement and emphasized the need for comprehensive guidelines to govern the boundary review process.

He expressed optimism following the gazette of new IEBC commissioners and the presentation of the national budget, noting that the two developments should enable the commission to commence its constitutional mandate effectively.

“I hope that as we review constituency boundaries, we remain cautious in

protecting the status of certain constituencies classified as protected, such as Lamu,” Senator Cherarkey remarked.

He added: “We must take into account the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) population census data to ensure these constituencies continue to receive appropriate representation.”

Senators stressed the importance of conducting the boundary review transparently, guided by data and the principles of fair representation.

## Concern over paralysis in the NPSC

Two senators have raised concern regarding the functionality of the National Police Service Commission (NPSC) and the conduct of county enforcement officers.

In a session marked by calls for urgent institutional accountability, Senator Okiya Omtatah sought a comprehensive statement from the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights on the operational paralysis of the NPSC after more than two months without a constitutionally required quorum.

The Senator told the House that as currently constituted, the Commission is unable to execute its core mandates, including the transfer, promotion and discipline of police officers, a matter he said is deeply troubling.

He questioned the validity of decisions made during the period and urged the Committee to clarify contingency mechanisms in place to prevent such governance gaps in the future.

“This situation raises serious concerns about the management of transi-



Senator Okiya Omtatah and Senator Beatrice Ogola.

tions in independent commissions,” he told the House, warning of the broader implications on police oversight and public confidence in the system.

The lawmaker’s request comes amid growing public and parliamentary scrutiny of institutional effectiveness and adherence to constitutional mandates,

especially in the security sector.

Senator Beatrice Ogola expressed concern on allegations of misconduct by county enforcement officers, particularly against informal traders.

She asked the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations to investigate and respond to widespread claims of heavy-handed enforcement.

The legislator wants clarity on whether a national framework exists for the recruitment, training and deployment of county enforcement personnel and whether the Kenya School of Government (KSG) has developed standard training modules to guide counties.

She also urged the Senate to consider legislative safeguards to uphold human rights, protect informal livelihoods and prevent abuse of power.

“Enforcement should not come at the expense of human dignity,” she emphasised even as she advocated for a structured approach that balances law enforcement with the rights and welfare of vulnerable groups.

## Uproar over breakdown of KNH cancer machine

Concerns over the persistent breakdown of critical cancer treatment equipment at Kenya's largest referral hospital have prompted Senator Hamida Kibwana to seek urgent intervention from the Senate.

The lawmaker wants a comprehensive statement from the Committee on Health regarding the operational state of radiotherapy machines at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH).

This follows a public outcry and an official admission by the hospital itself that key cancer treatment equipment, including a linear accelerator, is currently out of service.

"The Kenyatta National Hospital plays a vital role in cancer diagnosis and treatment. However, frequent machine failures have left hundreds of patients without access to timely radiotherapy,



Senator Hamida Kibwana

putting lives at risk," said the Senator.

In a statement, KNH through Acting

Chief Executive Officer had confirmed the breakdown of its linear accelerator — a core component in cancer treatment.

The Senator highlighted that such failures compromise patient care and amplify the strain on the country's already stretched healthcare infrastructure.

Senator Kibwana urged the Committee to provide clarity on several critical issues, among them the current operational status of all radiotherapy equipment at KNH and the root causes of their frequent failures, whether due to poor maintenance, outdated technology, or insufficient funding.

The Senator also wants the committee to address the immediate and long-term measures being taken to repair, replace, or upgrade the affected machines, including details on budget allocations for radiotherapy services in the current

financial year.

Senator Kibwana further wants the committee to address plans to decentralise radiotherapy services to other public health facilities to ease congestion at KNH and improve access for patients in underserved areas.

Further to the demands, the lawmaker wants the probe team to address contingency strategies put in place to ensure continuity of cancer treatment during equipment downtimes and proposed long-term solutions to strengthen oncology infrastructure across both national and county hospitals.

"This is a matter of life and death," Senator Kibwana emphasized, adding, "We must ensure that our healthcare system is equipped to meet the needs of every Kenyan battling cancer."

## BILLS

### House starts debate on Social Protection Bill

The Senate has commenced debate on the Social Protection Bill, 2025, a legislative proposal aimed at overhauling the country's social safety net to better serve the vulnerable and marginalised populations across Kenya.

Moving the debate, Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot described the Bill, which originated from the National Assembly, as one of the most consequential pieces of legislation he has ever championed in his tenure.

"From someone who is socially conscious of the needs of the vulnerable, I must say this is perhaps the most important Bill I have ever moved," he told the House, even as he criticised the current "one-size-fits-all" approach to social welfare, routing for more structured, equitable and targeted interventions.

He lamented that the voices of the poor and marginalised are often overshadowed by elite policymakers in urban centers. "Too often, social intervention policies are shaped by the well-off, articulate elite in Nairobi, while the real needs of rural and underprivileged citizens go unheard," he stated.

The Bill is designed to bridge existing gaps in social protection, addressing issues such as fragmented legislation, lack of coordination, and insufficient funding. It outlines entitlements to social protection, eligibility criteria, rights and obligations of beneficiaries and various provisions related to social assistance, social health protection, income security, fair labour market practices and complementary programmes.



Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot

The Bill further establishes the social assistance fund, National Board for Social Protection, detailing its functions, composition and powers, along with provisions for county governments, civic education and multi-agency committees.

The proposed law has been recognised as a potent strategy to combat poverty and promote inclusive growth.

The current social protection interventions, predominantly social assistance programmes, are implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of East African Community, Arid and Semi Arid Lands, and Regional Development under the National Drought and Management Authority (NDMA).

The initiatives, including cash transfers for orphans and vulnerable children, older persons and persons with severe disabilities and the Presidential Secondary School Bursary have contributed

to improved household food security, school retention rates, access to healthcare and enhanced social support networks.

"Motivated by the need for coherence and coordination, the Bill seeks to address the lack of legislation for shock-responsive social protection," the Bill says in its memorandum of objects.

It also seeks to extend social protection to individuals working outside informal employment, acknowledging the diverse nature of employment in the country.

Senator Cheruiyot highlighted the disparities in existing welfare programmes, including inconsistent support for the elderly and persons with disabilities arguing that many deserving individuals "fall through the cracks" due to the lack of a defined framework and stratified approach.

"You'll find one 70-year-old receiving government support and another, equal-

ly needy, not benefitting — without any clear criteria guiding this distribution," he said.

He advocated for a system that distinguishes between different economic realities, particularly between urban and rural populations, to ensure that social assistance reaches the most deserving.

Senator Beatrice Ogola, while seconding the Bill, recalled her early experiences with Kenya's initial social protection programmes during the Grand Coalition Government.

At the time, she represented Homa Bay District in national policymaking forums.

"I was part of the original committee that helped establish the elderly cash transfer programme. That's why I am thrilled to support this Bill. It represents the evolution and improvement of an idea that started many years ago," she noted.

She praised the Bill's attempt to build on the lessons of the past, including the importance of piloting and tailoring programs to meet local needs.

Reminiscing about the initial pilot areas of Nyeri and Bondo — home counties of then President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga — which kickstarted Kenya's social welfare journey, the lawmaker said time was ripe to ensure the programme is entrenched with clear guidelines on the beneficiaries.

Debate on the Bill to continue when the House resumes from recess.



1. Senator William Kisang and Hon Samuel Atandi consult during the Mediation on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025.
2. Mr Charles Situma, Speaker Bungoma County Assembly, makes presentation when he appeared before the Finance Committee.
3. Speaker Aharub Khatri of Mombasa County Assembly listens as a member of his team makes submission on budget ceilings during an appearance to the committee on Finance.
4. A parliamentary official speaks to Senator Ali Roba and Hon Samuel Atandi during the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025 mediation process.
5. Senator Tabitha Mutinda, Senator Danson Mungatana and Hon Leah Sankaire during the mediation on the Bill.
6. Senator Boni Khalwale talks to the delegation from the County Assembly of Kakamega at Parliament Buildings.
7. Speaker Abdi Gure of Garissa County Assembly before the Committee on Finance.
8. Senator Margret Kamar during the Conference on Continental Consultation on the Draft Model on Labour Migration in Africa in Nairobi.
9. Senator Danson Mungatana speaks during the Conference on Continental Consultation on the Draft Model on Labour Migration in Africa

## Clerk advice to staff in leadership offices

Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye has said the Directorate of the Speaker's Office plays a critical and unique role in anchoring the institutional leadership of the Senate and challenged staff in the directorate to break silos, encourage innovation and promote a culture of excellence.

"As the custodian of the Speaker's strategic priorities and coordination hub of various internal and external functions, the effectiveness of this office is a direct reflection of the professional synergy among its officers," said the Clerk.

He challenged the staff to ensure that the Speaker's Office, the Directorate and indeed the entire Senate, continue to serve as a model of institutional coordination, integrity, and professionalism.

He observed that in a complex and dynamic parliamentary environment, success is never the result of individual effort, but rather the product of seamless teamwork, mutual respect, and shared values.

"Professional relationships built on trust, open communication, and mutual accountability are essential to the attainment of our organisational objectives,"



Senate Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye (centre) shares a light moment with Deputy Clerk Mohamed Ali and Ms Bibi Fondo, the Deputy Director, Senate Speaker's Office, during the meeting.

he noted, adding that the retreat presented a valuable opportunity for the staff to reflect on the strengths, examine areas of improvement, and engage in candid conversations on how collectively can better collaborate — not just within the Directorate, but across departments and with our stakeholders.

He told the gathering that the retreat was a moment of re-alignment. "Let us challenge ourselves to break silos, encourage innovation, and promote a culture of excellence. Let us take full

advantage of this retreat to strengthen our bonds, refine our practices, and re-commit to the mission of the Senate of Kenya.

Besides staff in the Media Relations Department, the Public Communications Department others employees in the directorate officers deployed in the Office of the Speaker, the Office of the leaders – Majority and Minority leaders, Deputy Majority and Minority Leaders, the Majority and Minority Whips and their deputies and the officers serving

Members of the Speaker's Panel.

Mr Nyegenye said the retreat was organised to reflect "our collective commitment to improving institutional cohesion, performance, and service delivery within the Senate.

This year's theme, "Building Collaboration and Professional Relationships to Attain Organisational Goals," was not only timely but also deeply aligned with the Senate's broader vision of fostering a strong, people-centered, and accountable legislative institution.

## This Week in History - On June 25, 2013

### House debates Motion on equipping of educational institutions



Majority Leader Kithure Kindiki

Majority Leader Kithure Kindiki moved the Motion on the agreement between the national and County Governments on infrastructure development and equipping of educational institutions. The Motion recognised that the respective functions and powers of national and county governments are provided for in Article 186 and the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, and that under paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 of Part 1 of the Fourth Schedule, education policy, including promotion of sports, is a function of the national government. Article 187 of the Constitution provides for the transfer of functions and powers from one level of government to the other, particularly if the function or power can be more effectively performed by the receiving government. The Motion aims at testing very new ground in the constitutional dispensation in terms of the relationship of the national governments and county governments. "What this Motion is trying to achieve is to allow for the functions of providing infrastructure and equipment to primary and secondary schools be transferred to county governments from the national government," said Senator Kindiki.

He said the transfer of such functions will provide an exciting test for inter-governmental relationships between the two levels of government because there are two extremes which are emerging. "One extreme is where you have two levels of government appearing to operate as if they are in competition with one another and yet Article 6(2) of the Constitution says that the two levels of Government are interdependent and must operate on the basis of cooperation as opposed to competition. If this Motion is passed, we will have put to test a very important relationship issue between the two levels of government."



Senator GG Kariuki said:

"We are all aware that this function belongs to the national government. However, we also know that the national government has limitations. We have schools all over our counties; we have primary and secondary schools scattered all over the country. We are aware that many times the national government positioned in Nairobi is not familiar with the conditions of some of the institutions in the counties. Therefore, if we developed relationships where these functions could be transferred to the counties, that would represent the perfect situation where at the county level, people own the schools. They would know the inadequacies and challenges which the institutions face. It is only logical that we transfer these functions to the county governments where they would be best handled."



Senator Wilfred Machage said:

"This Motion is a bit complicated. It is too early to start thinking that county governments are capable of handling this big responsibility. We all know that county governments have not settled yet in terms of personnel and ability to deal with the functions which are in their hands. I support this Motion, but I think the Mover needs to consider its terms because if we transfer this big responsibility to county governments very soon they will not handle it. If we are going to deal with it immediately, then I think that we will land this country into a bigger problem. But eventually, this kind of responsibility will have to be transferred to the county governments where they will be handled effectively."



Senator Martha Wangari said:

"I would like to note that when we look at the efficiency or performance of roles more effectively, it will take maybe a whole week or more, even to procure a piece of chalk because of the processes followed in the national Government. These county governments are settling down and they need to be supported. At the same time, we cannot dismiss them and say that they lack capacity. When we were discussing the Division of Revenue Bill, the Committee on Devolved Government and the Committee on Finance had a lot of reservations. It is true that counties do not have the capacity or they are not ready to shoulder some of these responsibilities at the moment. They need time to reorganize themselves."



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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)