



The SENATE

Safeguarding Devolution

Issue No. 0070

Weekly

Isiolo Governor acquitted

Governor Hassan survives attempt to remove from office after 31 Senators voted to uphold a preliminary objection on his impeachment at the County Assembly.



Senator Karungo Thangwa and Senator Peris Tobiko in the House during the impeachment hearing of Isiolo Governor Abdi Ibrahim Hassan. On the right is Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot moves the Motion on the Preliminary Objections.

Isiolo Governor Abdi Ibrahim Hassan has survived attempts by Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) to remove him from office through impeachment.

Like the Kericho Governor Eric Mutai before him, Governor Hassan’s trial in the Senate got stuck at the preliminary stage after the lawmakers rejected the validity of the impeachment Motion at the County Assembly and voted to acquit him.

In October, Governor Mutai survived through a similar technicality when the

preliminary objections by his lawyers was upheld by the House.

The Governor had argued that the two thirds threshold required to impeach him was not achieved by the MCAs. The House agreed with him and acquitted.

On Tuesday, the House once again agreed with the lawyers of the Isiolo Governor that the impeachment process was turned into a scheme that was characterised by “salient gaps” that eventually led to a “phantom impeachment” of the Governor.

After a daylong sitting, overshadowed

by legal argument, the House resolved that no valid Motion was ever filed in the County Assembly of Isiolo in respect of the impeachment of the Governor and that all the documents that the MCAs submitted in the Senate in support of the impeachment were “cooked and generated” outside the premises of the County Assembly.

A total of 31 Senators voted to save the Governor while 12 voted to reject the objections.

“The process is as important as the outcome,” observed Senator Enock

Wambua as he faulted the MCAs for failing the diligence test. “As a legislative House, the process must bear us out. We cannot circumvent the process and we must admit that the MCAs got the process wrong.”

Senator Danson Mungatana also weighed in, faulting the MCAs for a job not well executed and questioned why the House was discussing the matter in the face of gross abuse of the law by the MCAs.

“Let’s not disregard the process as we know it. We should stop debating this



Mr Paul Nyamodi, the County Assembly lead counsel.



Governor Abdi Hassan (right) is congratulated by his legal team after the House acquitted him on Tuesday, July 8, on a technicality.

matter because there was no sitting of the Assembly to impeach the Governor," he told the House.

"There is no evidence that a notice of Motion in respect of the impeachment was ever filed. The MCAs could not even submit to us minutes of the House Business Committee that scheduled the meeting.

The Governor, through his lawyers, had raised preliminary objections, urging the Senate not to proceed with the impeachment trial because there was no valid resolution from the County Assembly on impeachment that the Senate could consider.

Lawyer Eric Theuri, for the Governor, raised the objection urging the House to stop the trial as the Assembly never held a sitting to debate the impeachment, that there was no resolution and that Hansard submitted to the House as the record of the proceedings was a forgery.

While the Motion was tabled in the

Assembly on June 18, 2025 the Speaker had adjourned the debate on to June 26 at 2.30PM.

However, the Speaker later issued a Notice in the Kenya Gazette calling for a Special Sitting on June 26 at 9am instead of the 2.30PM as the House had resolved.

The invitation to the Governor to appear in respect of the Motion were dispatched indicating that the Motion was to be debated at 9am.

However, the Hansard report submitted to the Senate to support the impeachment proceedings show that the Motion was debated at 2.30PM.

"Is the Hansard on record genuine?" asked Mr Theuri, as he successfully moved the House.

"It records that proceedings happened at 2.30PM when the Special Sitting indicates that the sitting happened at 9am."

He further argued that once the

House had resolved to sit at 2.30PM, that position could only be vacated through another resolution of the House, not the Speaker issuing a notice in the Gazette.

Mr Elias Mutuma, also for the Governor, took the House through the contents of the Hansard, which he argued the proceedings fell short of what is required in parliamentary traditions and practices, proof that they were cooked.

He said was not clear who presided over the House, as the presence of the Speaker is not indicated. There was no calling of orders of business. When the House allegedly convened, it directly launched into the Motion on impeachment.

"The House was on auto pilot. Members were speaking without being given the opportunity by the Speaker. There is no indication that the question was put and how the members voted."

Lawyers for the County Assembly fought back arguing that the issues raised

by the Governor did not fall within the purview of the Preliminary objection.

Lawyer Paul Nyamodi said issues raised in the objections were serious that run deep into the trial. "

"The issues he has raised can only be canvassed through testimony of evidence and cross examination of witnesses. They are contested issues which should go to full trial," said Mr Nyamodi, arguing that the Governor's claim that there was no sitting of the Assembly was self-defeating.

Moving debate on the Motion on Preliminary Objections, Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot agreed that the matter should have gone to the full trial so that matters raised by the people of Isiolo be canvassed by the House.

"We owe it to the people of Isiolo to listen to them. The issues in the documents are not light. Let us give the people of Isiolo justice. It is not right to terminate the matter at this stage."

How counties will share revenue in new formula



Senator Shakila Abdalla and Senator Richard Onyonka compare notes during one of the sittings of the Finance and Budget Committee.



Senator Ali Roba, chair Finance and Budget Committee and Senator Tabitha Mutinda, the vice chair.

The House has approved the mediated version of the Division of Revenue Bill, 2025, paving the way for the allocation of Sh415 billion to counties as equitable shareable in this financial year, 2025/26.

The lawmakers approved the Bill during the two Special Sittings held on Friday and Monday last week. The move raises the allocation due to counties by Sh28 billion, from Sh387.5 billion the devolved units received in the 2024/25 financial year.

Senators describe the allocation as a big achievement, as it is the highest increment that counties have received since the 2020/21 financial year when the county allocation was raised by Sh50 billion.

“I am very proud that because of the Senate’s industry, we were able to leapfrog from Sh387.5 billion to the current Sh415 billion. It is a big achievement. I proudly request colleagues in this House that we support the figure because we have achieved so much,” said Senator Boni Khalwale, when he seconded debate on the report of the mediated Bill.

Senator Ali Roba, who was the co-chair of the mediation, defended the Sh28 billion saying it was a reasonable addition in the circumstances. “It is the highest increment in a five-year period,” he said.

The last reasonable adjustment of county governments’ shareable revenue happened in 2020/21 financial year when the Third Basis of revenue sharing

was being discussed.

At that time, the allocation moved from Sh316 billion to Sh370 billion, which was about Sh54 billion increase.

Between 2021 to 2024/25 financial year, the total marginally increased from Sh370 billion to Sh387.425 billion.

Significantly, the passage of the Bill comes soon after the House approved the Fourth Basis of Sharing Revenue among counties.

The increase of Sh415 billion, from the Sh405 billion the National Assembly had proposed, means that counties will get enhanced allocations, thanks to the formula.

With the new figure, counties will share the allocation in line with the new fourth revenue sharing formula. The formula was designed in such a way that there will be no situation where any county will lose money, irrespective of the allocation in equitable share.

According to the formula, where the county equitable share is Sh415 billion and above, the baseline allocation will be Sh387 billion.

This means that all the 47 counties will share equally the Sh387 billion, then the balance (in this case Sh28 billion) will be subjected to the four parameters contained in the formula as approved by the House.

The parameters are Population, whose attached weight is 45 per cent, the Equal Share index (35 per cent), Poverty index (12 per cent) and Geographical Size index, whose index is 8 per cent.

The formula contains an Affirmative Action share of Sh4.446 billion, specifically ring fenced for 12 counties that have been adjudged as disadvantaged as they are not able to run their development programmes based on the revenues they are receiving.

The 12 counties are Elgeyo Marakwet, Embu, Isiolo, Kirinyaga, Laikipia, Lamu, Nyamira, Nyandarua, Samburu, Taita-Taveta, Tharaka Nithi and Vihiga.

The counties have not had the opportunity to have access funds sufficient to do meaningful development since the advent of devolution.

Each of the counties will enjoy an extra Sh371.7 million which has been captured in the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2025.

According to the Bill, which was introduced in the House last week, Lamu with Sh3.8 billion allocation in 2025/26 significantly lags behind and falling short of the Sh6 billion projected for a county to have meaningful development.

The Other 11 have made significant leaps. Tharaka Nithi will get Sh5.0 billion, Elgeyo Marakwet will receive Sh5.5 billion, Isiolo County (Sh5.6 billion) while Taita Taveta (Sh5.7 billion), translating to significant gains as they implement devolution.

Those that have crossed the Sh6 billion mark are Vihiga (Sh6.0 billion), Nyamira (Sh6.0 billion), Embu (Sh6.0 billion), Kirinyaga (Sh6.1 billion), Laikipia (Sh6.1 billion), Samburu (Sh6.3 billion), Nyandarua (Sh6.6 billion).

Counties are also receiving shares from the Equalisation Fund, Additional Allocation from the national Government and from donors in terms of grants and loans.

“The Senate is struggling hard to get more money for counties. Every day we were talking about the budget being increased, but whatever increase has been given, must be commensurate with development,” said Senator Mohamed Abbas in his contribution.

“All the money that has been increased should go to development. Money is being used for recurrent expenditure. Even some of the budget for development is used for recurrent expenditure through supplementary budgets, which is prohibited.”

Senator Joe Nyutu advised Governors that the enhanced allocation must be used for development and not on wage bills.

KEWOSA ratchets anti-femicide campaign



Senator Esther Okenyuri when she launched the anti-femicide campaign in Kisii County.

Concerned with the rising cases of femicide and gender-based violence, women Senators have decided to act, rolling out grassroots campaigns across various counties to tackle what they describe as national crises.

Through their fraternity, the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA),

the lawmakers have pitched tents in their respective counties, engaging communities through public forums, school visits, stakeholder dialogues, and media outreach as part of their collective, and individual, efforts to end the vices.

Under the theme “Komesha Dhuluma”, the campaign is tailored to address

the unique social dynamics in each region while fostering public awareness, prevention strategies, and community accountability.

“We are also advocating for reforms through pushing for legislative and policy changes to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators,” says Senator Veronica Maina, the Chair-

person of KEWOSA.

“We are promoting collective responsibility by emphasising that ending GBV and femicide is a national priority requiring the participation of all Kenyans.”

The campaign has been buoyed by President William Ruto’s personal commitment to the initiative, reaffirming the national government’s commitment to ending violence against women and girls.

The Kenya Kwanza administration has allocated Sh100 million specifically to combat femicide, established a Presidential Working Group to develop holistic approaches to address femicide, by bringing together stakeholders.

Senator Maina says the campaign aim is to not only raise awareness but also to spark 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.

The initiative also includes policy advocacy and calls for stronger enforcement of existing laws on gender-based violence, protection for victims, and justice for families affected by femicide.

KEWOSA is also pushing for reforms within the judicial system to ensure timely and survivor-centered handling of GBV cases, including training for judicial officers on gender sensitivity.

End GBV silence – Senator Omar



Senator Mariam Omar (left) gives a donation to participants during the event while on the right is her anti GBV poster.



Senator Mariam Sheikh Omar launched the Komesha Dhuluma campaign in Mandera County to raise awareness and combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

With over 400 GBV cases reported in the past year, the initiative calls for urgent action, stronger laws, and community empowerment. The Senator urged the public to report cases through police gender desks and condemned the misuse

of traditional systems like Maslaha to silence victims. Despite challenges, a slight decline in Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) cases was noted.

“The silence around GBV must end.

Women must rise and speak out. This is not just a women’s issue—it is a societal crisis that demands urgent action,” said Senator Mariam, who is the KEWOSA treasurer.

GBV is national crisis – Senator Maina

Senator Veronica Maina is the Chairperson of the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA). In the last couple of months, the Association has been running a campaign to raise awareness among communities on the dangers of GBV and femicide in the country. She spoke to The Senate Weekly about the campaign and what it is all about.

Question: What is the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA), and how is it different from Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA)?

Answer: KEWOSA and KEWOPA are both associations of women legislators in Kenya, but they differ in their scope. KEWOPA is the broader association that includes all women Parliamentarians, encompassing both those in the National Assembly and the Senate. Its primary goal is to strengthen the individual and collective capacities of members to develop gender-responsive legislation and advance gender equality. KEWOSA is a more specific association that comprises only women Senators. While they share similar objectives with KEWOPA, regarding gender equality and legislative advocacy, KEWOSA focuses specifically on the roles and responsibilities of women within the Senate.

Q: KEWOSA is currently running an anti-femicide campaign. Briefly, explain what is this campaign about?

A: The campaign runs around the theme called “Komesha dhuluma” and seeks to raise awareness by educating communities on the dangers and prevalence of GBV and femicide; engaging communities at the grassroots level through forums and sensitisation activities through direct engagements and providing support systems and encouraging survivors to seek justice through a system of empowering survivors. We have also advocated for reforms through pushing for legislative and policy changes to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators and promoted collective responsibility by Emphasising that ending GBV and femicide is a national priority requiring the participation of all Kenyans.

Q: How is the campaign being implemented across the country?

A: The “Komesha Dhuluma” campaign is being implemented by KEWOPA’s (and by extension, KEWOSA’s) members, who are leading tailored community sensitisation forums in their respective constituencies and counties. Key aspects of implementation include community sensitisation where female legislators are directly engaging with their communities to deliver critical messages on femicide and GBV. There is targeted outreach where the lawmakers directly engage thousands of individuals, including women, men, youth, and persons with disabilities, at the grassroots level. We have also had media engagement where we have utilised digital platforms and other outreach programmes to reach a wider audience across the country. Through stakeholder collaboration, we have worked with key stakeholders such as the Judiciary, law enforcement agencies, women’s rights organisations, and

traditional/religious leaders to ensure comprehensive support systems for survivors and to challenge harmful cultural norms.

Q: What do you hope to achieve by the end of the campaign?

A: We hope for increased public consciousness where we shall have widespread awareness about the severity of GBV and femicide, fostering a societal shift in attitudes towards these issues; we expect to have empowered communities, particularly women and girls, who understand their rights, report abuses, and access support services just as we advocate for faster, more effective investigations and prosecutions of GBV and femicide cases, ensuring perpetrators are held accountable through a strengthened Justice System. We also expect to push for stronger laws and policies that offer better protection for women and girls, with stricter

that about a third of all women aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical violence since age 15, and 13 per cent have experienced sexual violence. Due to uneven news coverage and data limitations, actual femicide cases are likely much higher than reported.

Disturbingly, a significant percentage of femicide cases (reportedly 60%) occur within the family unit, the very space presumed to offer safety. Femicide, in particular, is the most extreme form of gender-based violence, deeply rooted in gender inequality, discrimination, and misogyny.

Q: Has the government done enough to address some of the challenges you have identified?

A: While the government has initiated some interventions, there is a consensus that more needs to be done. President William Ruto has allocated Sh100 mil-

lions in police stations may not be adequately resourced or staffed with trained officers and the misuse of traditional systems like “Maslaha” to resolve GBV cases outside formal legal processes often silences victims and denies them justice.

Q: From a legislative standpoint, have Parliamentarians done enough to address these issues?

A: Parliamentarians have made some efforts, but the ongoing crisis indicates that more robust legislative action is required. Women legislators, through KEWOPA and KEWOSA, have been vocal advocates and have launched national campaigns like “Komesha Dhuluma” to raise awareness and push for action. There’s an ongoing recognition of the need to review current laws to ensure they are robust enough to prevent GBV and femicide and hold perpetrators accountable. Legislators have called for stricter penalties for perpetrators of femicide and domestic violence.

However, the key legislative gap remains. The most significant legislative challenge is the lack of a specific law recognising femicide as a distinct crime. This omission hinders effective data collection, consistent prosecution, and perpetuates impunity.

Q: What legislative interventions are you currently pursuing to combat femicide and GBV?

A: As women Senators, in collaboration with KEWOPA and other stakeholders, we are actively pursuing several legislative interventions. The primary focus is advocating for the enactment of a specific law that recognises and defines femicide as a distinct crime. This would ensure proper classification, data collection, and targeted legal responses. Reviewing and proposing amendments to existing laws related to gender-based violence to enhance their effectiveness in prevention, protection, and prosecution. This includes pushing for harsher penalties for GBV offenses. We are also advocating for increased budgetary allocations for institutions and programmes dedicated to combating GBV, including shelters, legal aid, psychological support, and specialised police units.

We are pushing for reforms within the judicial system to ensure timely and survivor-centered handling of GBV cases, including training for judicial officers on gender sensitivity. We have started working towards harmonising national laws with international and regional instruments on gender equality and violence against women, such as the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG).

While not strictly legislative, our efforts extend to promoting legislative interventions that support and fund public education and awareness campaigns aimed at changing cultural norms that perpetuate GBV.



penalties for offenders; reduced incidents of Femicide and GBV. Ultimately, the overarching goal is to contribute to a significant reduction in the rates of violence against women and girls in Kenya, fostering a safer and more equitable society.

Q: How serious is the issue of femicide and gender-based violence (GBV) in Kenya?

A: Femicide and GBV in Kenya is gravely serious and constitutes a national crisis. Reports indicate that hundreds of women and girls have been murdered by intimate partners or other individuals in recent years. For instance, between 2016 and 2024, at least 678 women and girls were reportedly murdered by intimate partners. A 2022 national survey revealed

lion specifically to combat femicide, a Presidential Working Group has been established to develop holistic approaches to addressing femicide, bringing together various stakeholders. The government, through the Presidential Technical Working Group on GBV, has engaged in public participation exercises across the 47 counties to gather views and recommendations. The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has been directed to take decisive action against perpetrators.

However, challenges remain. Kenya currently does not legally recognise femicide as a distinct crime, often viewing it simply as murder. This leads to inadequate data collection and inconsistent prosecution. Cases of GBV often take too long in courts to be concluded. Specialised GBV

GBV war is collective responsibility – Senator Lemaletian



Senator Lemaletian and some of the participants who attended her anti-GBV campaign in Samburu County.

Senator Hezena Lemaletian, KEWOSA vice chair, led a high-impact Anti-Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Anti-Femicide campaign in Baragoi, Samburu County.

The sensitisation and outreach effort brought together community members, local leaders, and stakeholders united to protect women, girls, and Persons With Disabilities (PwDs).

“It’s our collective responsibility to safeguard the dignity of our women and girls in the community,” observed Senator Lemaletian during the event.

The campaign focused on awareness on the rights of vulnerable groups, the legal consequences of violations, and the urgent need for protection and accountability. Together with a team of

experts and leaders, Senator Lemaletian educated the community on penalties tied to violations of the rights of women, girls, and PwDs.

She expressed her appreciation to President William Ruto for making the campaign possible.

“We cannot keep re-inventing the wheel. The current women leaders must take the lead in ensuring the rights and lives of women, girls, and vulnerable persons are protected. A woman is gifted with a nurturing spirit—may we amplify this gift across our nation,” she explained.

She added: “I appreciate the Office of the President and the Ministry of Interior and National Coordination at large. Thank you for making this a great success. God bless Samburu.”

Seek help, Senator Maina tells GBV survivors



Senator Veronica Maina joins participants in anti-femicide jig in Murang'a County.

Senator Veronica Maina, the Chairperson of the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA), spearheaded the Anti Gender Based Violence campaign in Murang'a county.

The event was held on June 9, at the ACK Mothers Union Hall in Kiharu Constituency.

Dubbed “The Komesha Dhuluma Campaign”, the initiative engaged over 900 women aged between 20-70 years.

The forum addressed critical issues such as physical violence, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, FGM, and psychological violence, all prevalent in the County. The campaign also tackled emerging forms of violence like cyberbullying and online defamation, particularly among young people.

Community mobilisation was achieved through collaborative efforts with local chiefs, village elders, and

women and youth group leaders, utilising social media, house-to-house visits, market visits, and “tell a friend” initiatives.

Policy and advocacy efforts included consultative meetings with key sub-county administration and law enforcement officials, emphasising the need to combat substance abuse (especially alcohol) and mental health issues as driving factors for GBV and femicide. The campaign

advocated for legal recognition of offences such as marital rape, mishandling of GBV and femicide victims by police officers, attempts to settle GBV and femicide cases, and workplace victimisation.

The Veronica Maina Foundation also encouraged survivors to seek help from her office for legal representation, empowerment programmes, shelter and protection, and psychosocial support.

GBV not women issue – Senator Montet



Senator Betty Montet addresses participants in Kajiado County.



Senator Montet dances with women community leaders before the start of her anti femicide campaign in Kajiado County.

Senator Betty Montet presided over a one-day road show awareness campaign on ending Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide in Kajiado West, Kajiado County. She focussed on strengthening awareness on causes, prevention, response on GBV and Femicide, survivor protection and initiated

collective action towards elimination of GBV.

The roadshow was flagged off from Kibiko’s Chiefs Office, all through Kibiko Osupuko, Kemuka, Oloishoibor, Iingaruj, Kisamis, Corner Baridi and terminated at Kiserian ACK church.

Participants varied from men, wom-

en, PwDs, youth, boys, girls, community leaders and faith-based leaders.

Awareness was created on the various forms, underlying causes, consequences, far reaching impacts on individuals and society as a whole and prevention strategies on GBV and Femicide.

In the spirit of partnership, the Senator

distributed foodstuffs (rice and beans) and sanitary pads to the participants.

Participants agreed that deep rooted patriarchal norms that foster GBV should be minimised and eventually eradicated.

GBV & Femicide is not just a ‘women’s issue’—it is a national crisis demanding collective responsibility.

TFGBV is problem for all



Senator Asige listens to a participant during the meeting in Nyali, Mombasa County.



Senator Asige speaks to participants.

By Senator Crystal Asige

If you have spent any time online, chances are that you’ve witnessed someone being harassed, shamed, or silenced. What may look like “just comments” is often a form of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV). From mental health struggles to physical harm, the consequences don’t end online.

Sometimes it’s being harassed in the DMs.

Sometimes it’s someone tracking your social media posts in order to find you.

It could also be someone downloading your photos to photoshop them, flooding your WhatsApp with abuse, impersonating you, or bloggers spreading malicious narratives about you.

This is called ‘Technology Facilitated Gender-Based Violence’ (TFGBV)—and it’s happening every day to all genders, but predominantly to women and young girls.

TFGBV is the digital world used to impact your physical world. For a lot of people, it appears harmless - amounting

to nothing. Being targeted online can easily spill into physical violence and might look like “just posting content”, but can lead to abuse, being tracked online, impersonation, and in the worst cases as you saw with Albert - violence, or even death.

I talked to over 1500 youth in Nyali constituency, Mombasa and reminded them that they don’t have to be the target before they see it necessary to take a stand, then told their parents and teachers that their young people don’t always

come forward. Often, it’s the sudden change in behaviour — anxiety, withdrawal, or a dip in school performance that should raise red flags.

Supporting youth and protecting them in today’s digital age means empowering them with empathy, not fear, paying attention when they confide in you, and standing firmly by their side when you see things going wrong.

PUSH to interrupt it, report it, and support someone. Because everyone has a role to play in ending TFGBV.

GBV, femicide not isolated cases, Senator Okenyuri

Senator Esther Okenyuri says Gender based violence and femicide are not isolated cases. “They are intertwined at the hip and one of them is a culmination of the other,” she explains, adding that the two are systemic evils deeply seated in silence, subservience, inequality and impunity.

She warns communities against normalising the abuse, the systems that shield perpetrators from the whip of Karma and justice and the silence that allows violence to thrive.

“For every life lost, it should be a reminder that justice delayed is justice denied.”

The lawmaker argues that the fight against Gender Based Violence and Femicide is a collaborative effort of men and women, not a fight of women against men.

Together with members of civil societies and other stakeholders, men and women, she led a solidarity walk that culminated at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital.

“Our message was centred on putting an end to Gender Based Violence and its fruit of Femicide.”

The walk was a shared act of conscience. The participants walked not only for women and girls who have been disproportionately affected by violence but also for men and boys who have suffered in silence or witnessed perpetuation of insensitive acts.

“Gender Based Violence is not a women’s issue, rather a human rights issue, a societal crisis that calls for our collective attention,” she argues, adding that men play an important role in the fight by ensuring that survivors are supported.

Men also act as advocates for the respect of women and preservation of their dignity.

“The most definitive change is when men and women collaboratively stand, break the silence and speak against archaic cultural tendencies and beliefs that could lead to the fragmentation of the society.”



Senator Esther Okenyuri leads the way during the anti-GBV campaign in Kisii town.

Nyakach unites against GBV Crisis



Senator Catherine Mumma presides over the campaign in Nyakach, Kisumu County.

“In light of the escalating crisis of gender-based violence nationwide, President William Ruto called on women members of Parliament to lead anti-GBV campaigns in their constituencies and mobilise stakeholders for a united response.

Mirroring the urgency of the call was data showing Kisumu County recording the highest HIV prevalence in Kenya, with Nyakach sub-county recording the county’s highest rate of teen pregnancies.

Against this backdrop, I spearheaded a series of campaign events in Nyakach Constituency, bringing together public institutions, civil society organisations, and a broad cross-section of the com-

munity. The campaign launched with a community dialogue that included local leaders, adolescent mothers, boda boda riders, widows, youth, teachers, health workers, police, government officials, and representatives from organisations such as NSDCC, FIDA, KELIN, KMET, and the county government. Discussions delved into the complex realities facing the community, including the exploitation of widows in property disputes and the persistent vulnerability of young girls.

The campaign also reached five secondary schools—Kabondo, Guu, Naki, St Hilarius, and St George’s Special School for students with physical disabilities—where students and staff



openly discussed and confirmed ongoing cases of SGBV. These conversations highlighted the urgent need for targeted, comprehensive security and wellness interventions for both girls and boys. The campaign concluded with a firm call from all stakeholders to work close-

ly with government agencies to provide real support and protection for all persons affected or at risk.

This is not just a Nyakach issue but a national crisis—one that demands coordinated, community-driven solutions.”

GBV scar of society – Senator Mutinda

“Gender-based violence and femicide continue to scar our society, but the fight is no longer one-sided. Today, boys are stepping up, standing shoulder to shoulder with girls to say enough is enough. Through powerful poetry, artists are using their voices to break the silence and speak truth to power.

I brought together Male and Female Champions from mainly slum areas in Nairobi County, poets, artists, and students’ Leaders from Young Aviators Club of Africa from Technical University of Kenya, East Africa School of Aviation Embakasi, Kenya School of flying, Kenya Aeronautical College and Kenyatta University in a vibrant discussion and Training proving that the youth are ready to lead the charge against GBV and create a safer and more equal Kenya for all. Let’s say no to GBV.”



Senator Tabitha Mutinda at the launch of her campaign in Nairobi County.



The Senator listens as a participant makes comments during the event.

GBV cases worrying - Senator Kavindu



A demonstration in Machakos County as Senator Agnes Kavindu launched the campaign. Below, the Senator speaks to participants.



“Machakos County has experienced a worrying increase in cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide between 2024 and 2025.

A total of over 170 cases of domestic violence, 60 cases of defilement, and multiple femicide incidents have been officially documented. However, actual numbers are believed to be higher due to underreporting, cultural stigma, and fear of retaliation.

The rise in GBV and femicide in Machakos County is a national concern that demands urgent, coordinated, and well-resourced intervention. As the Senator for Machakos County, I call upon all relevant stakeholders, including national and county governments, development partners, religious and community leaders, to stand in unity and act decisively to protect the lives and dignity of our people—especially women and girls.”

Dialogue key to end GBV, Senator Kibwana



Senator Hamida Kibwana during the launch.

Senator Hamida Kibwana, in collaboration with (KEWOSA), spearheaded a community sensitisation forum under the Komesha Dhuluma Campaign on June 20, in Kamukunji Constituency, Nairobi County.

The event mobilised over 200 residents in a united stand against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), femicide, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and early marriage.

During the forum, residents were educated on legal frameworks including the Sexual Offences Act, the Protection against Domestic Violence Act, and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act. Clear reporting procedures

were shared to empower the community in seeking justice.

Senator Kibwana facilitated safe spaces and referrals for counselling and psychosocial support, while calling for the establishment of GBV courts, strengthened gender desks at police stations, and safehouses for survivors. The campaign also emphasized interfaith dialogue to challenge retrogressive practices like FGM and child marriage.

The event brought together stakeholders from the Judiciary, police, youth groups, and local leadership, reinforcing a collaborative approach to tackling GBV. Through this initiative, Senator Kibwana reaffirmed her commitment to grassroots-led, inclusive action to end GBV in Kenya

CPISFC inspects projects in Bomet County



Senator Wakili Sigei and Governor Hillary Barchok during the tour of the CPISFC in Bomet County.



Senator Godfrey Osotsi, the chair of the Committee, and Senator Agnes Kavindu in Bomet.

The Committee on Public Investments and Special Funds has uncovered financial malfeasance at the Bomet Water and Sanitation Company (BOMAWASCO).

While employees of the utility company have not been paid for 19 months, there are concerns that the company is technically insolvent.

The revelations emerged during the Committee's field visit to Bomet County, even as it emerged that Longisa County Referral Hospital has made significant improvement in addressing auditor general's concerns.

The visit was a follow-up to the March 28, 2025 meeting in Nairobi between the two entities regarding Auditor General findings for the 2023/24 financial year.

BOMAWASCO's dire situation became clear when Committee members discovered the water company's liabilities far exceed its assets.

With a company worth of Sh275 million against salary arrears and statutory deductions totalling Sh250 million, the water utility faces possible insolvency, unless serious interventions are made.

Monthly salary obligations stand at Sh6.5 million, yet the company collected only Sh6.8 million in February, Sh3.8 million in March, and a paltry Sh1.2 million in April.

"What makes you come to work? What motivates you to be here every

morning yet you have not been paid for over 19 months?" Senator Godfrey Osotsi, the chair of the Committee, asked BOMAWASCO employees during the inspection.

The water crisis runs deeper than unpaid salaries. Non-revenue water has skyrocketed to 68 percent annually, translating to Sh89 million in losses each year. Bomet residents have endured prolonged water shortages, receiving supply only three days before the committee's visit - a timing that raised eyebrows among the lawmakers.

Senator Agnes Kavindu exposed another alarming irregularity: the illegal use of customer deposits totalling Sh2.6 million.

"It is illegal to use customer deposits without approval of the County Assembly. You should not borrow more than five percent and all borrowing should be refunded within a year," Senator Kavindu explained.

The company violated both provisions, borrowing 100 percent of deposits without County Assembly approval and failing to refund the money.

BOMAWASCO Managing Director Kipngetch Towet acknowledged the company's struggles, explaining that county executive subsidies including electricity bill payments and solar installations at pumping stations have enabled only intermittent water supply to areas

around town.

The committee's findings contrast sharply with progress at Longisa County Referral Hospital, where officials demonstrated substantial improvements addressing auditor concerns.

Dr Joyce Laboso Hospital stands at 97 percent completion and will ease overcrowding at Longisa hospital, which currently operates at 140 percent bed capacity, forcing patients to share beds while others receive treatment in corridors.

Governor Hillary Barchok expressed confidence in the hospital's quality during the committee visit. "Whenever I fall sick, I am treated at this facility. All my relatives including my mother are treated here. I use the same laboratory with other patients. Why would I want to be treated elsewhere or even abroad when my people are treated here? I'm working hard to improve the hospital because we all use it. The fact that I'm treated here is proof enough that it's a good hospital and we will make it better with time," Barchok stated.

The new hospital will address critical shortages identified by the auditor, including increasing newborn wards to five and adding ICU and HDU facilities to meet required standards.

Hospital management has also procured a new food contractor to resolve catering issues and appointed a drugs disposal committee to handle expired

medications according to legal requirements.

Senator Hillary Wakili Sigei emphasised the need for immediate technological upgrades at the hospital. "They should make M-Pesa collection real-time so any payment is reflected in the hospital's Equity account instantly, and fix the CT scan that's currently not working, forcing patients to go to Kapkatet hospital for that service," said Senator Sigei.

The hospital has addressed staffing shortages by having a surgeon who was on study leave back, engaging another on contract, and advertising for additional positions. For unavailable specialists, the facility now leverages telemedicine services.

However, the Committee identified areas requiring immediate attention at the hospital. They recommended gazetting the hospital board to regularise appointments, full automation of revenue collection, and upgrading the 60-kilogramme capacity incinerator that cannot handle the hospital's waste volume.

The committee gave hospital management 30 days to resolve waste disposal issues and address the pollution. Additional recommendations included installing CCTV cameras and biometric doors at the drug store to replace old wooden doors, creating additional shelves, and proper labeling to avoid drug mix-ups.

ICT Committee hails Kajiado revenue reforms

The Committee on Information, Communication, and Technology has directed the Kajiado County Executive to accelerate efforts toward modernising its revenue systems and strengthen digital governance to support devolution.

The Committee, in particular, singled out the automation, integration with national platforms such as the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS), and improvement of own-source revenue (OSR) management.

The meeting was on an inspection tour in the county as part of the ongoing nationwide inquiry into the status of digital financial systems across counties.

The Committee was led by Senator Miraj Abdulahi, who was accompanied by Senator Hezena Lemaletian, Senator Beatrice Ogola and Senator Samson Cherarkey all of whom engaged the local leadership on the challenges facing the county's digital transformation journey.

Kajiado Governor Joseph Ole Lenku received the Committee and welcomed the engagement while reaffirming the county's commitment to financial modernisation.

"We are strategically located with growing economic activity, yet challenges such as delayed transfers from the National Treasury, legal disputes over property taxes, and technical inefficiencies continue to limit our revenue performance," Governor Lenku told the Committee.

The County team presented the County's digital revenue system, WebTrak, which facilitates online billing, invoicing, and payments through mobile money, banks, and agent platforms.

Despite some progress, the system has faced persistent technical and contractual issues.

Key modules like debt tracking and enforcement monitoring remain inactive. Vendor delays and limited system flexibility have held back delivery of services.

The Governor said the County is seeking a more robust platform that can be customised to the local needs.

Senator Hezena Lemaletian stressed the importance of data security, while Senator Beatrice Ogola called for stronger staff engagement and training.

"Technology alone won't deliver change. We need a culture of accountability to reduce leakages and inefficiencies," said Senator Ogola.

A key point of concern was the National Treasury's push for a centralised



Governor Joseph Lenku, members of the ICT Committee and Parliamentary staff after the meeting between the two sides.



Senator Miraj Abdulahi (left) who led the Committee to Kajiado County, Senator Samson Cherarkey, Senator Beatrice Ogola and Senator Hezena Lemaletian.

national revenue system. Senator Miraj questioned its practicality for diverse county environments.

Governor Lenku echoed this view, stating: "Harmonisation is important, but counties must retain the autonomy to

adopt systems that match their local realities while meeting national standards."

The county is awaiting an audit report from the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), which is expected to guide future system reforms and procurement.

Senator Miraj praised Kajiado's openness and reaffirmed the Senate's support in enabling counties to deliver efficient, accountable, and citizen-focused services.

Ready for DevCon 2025

Preparations for the 2025 Devolution Conference have entered the final stage with less than a month before the event.

The conference, which brings together stakeholders in the devolution space, is organised by the Senate in conjunction with the Council of Governors and the Office of the Deputy President.

The conference will be held in Homa Bay County between August 12 to 15, 2025. The theme of this year event will be: For the people; For prosperity; Devolution as a catalyst for Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice.

The sub-theme: Re-engineering County Governments to Accelerate Development and Close the Socio-Economic Divide.

Part of the preparation was the Devolution Sensitisation Week which started on Tuesday, July 1 as the countdown to the conference.

The organisers use the week to promote the event, raise awareness and sensitise the local community on everything about devolution.

Senator Beatrice Ogola and Senator Catherine Mumma represented the Senate at the event even as they hailed devolution as the biggest source of inclusivity, prosperity for all and assured the people of the County that the Senate will ensure devolution works for equitable development.

Speaking at the launch of the events that ran all through last week, Senator Ogola explained that the Senate is not just a legislative body but an exemplary ambassador of the devolved governance system in the country, which strives to ensure equity, fairness, and accountability across the country.

“Our Constitution envisioned devolution as a bold step toward equity, inclusion, and prosperity for all. Twelve years on, we gather here not just to reflect on what has been achieved, but to recommit ourselves to ensuring that no Kenyan is left behind.

As the Senate, we are keen to ensure that national revenue reaches our counties so that services are brought closer to the people,” Senator Ogola said.

Senator Mumma reminded Homa Bay residents of the country’s ugly past, where development was deployed politically, urging them to embrace devolution as a tool for equalisation and social justice.

“We are coming from a history where development was deployed politically, usually to the regions of those at the top



1. Senator Beatrice Ogola plants a commemorative tree.
2. Senator Mumma also planted a tree.
3. Members of the public at the Senate stand in Homa Bay County.
4. Senator Mumma speaks during a panel discussion on the status of implementation of devolution.

of governance. Because of that, this region has suffered a lack of development.

At the centre of the fight for the 2010 Constitution, the greatest tool for equity and equalisation was devolution. Devolution guarantees that development funds go to all counties,” Senator Mumma submitted.

Governor Gladys Wanga supported

the Senators’ calls to strengthen devolution by elucidating some of the gains that Homa Bay County has achieved due to decentralisation of governance.

“Earlier this year, we launched the Health Rapid Results Initiative, a program designed to drive immediate and visible improvement in health service delivery. This explains the important role

that devolution plays in counties; bringing services closer to the people,” Governor Wanga said.

Devolution Sensitisation Week is a precursor of the Devolution Conference, tailored to deepen the public’s understanding of how devolution works and what it means for ordinary Kenyans.



1. Senator Catherine Mumma and Governor Gladys Wanga dance to a local tune during the devolution Sensitisation week in Homa Bay County.
2. Senator Beatrice Ogola and Homa Bay Deputy Governor Oyugi Magwanga.
3. Parliamentary officials speak to a member of the public who visited the Senate stand during the devolution awareness week in Homa Bay County.
4. Governor Gladys Wanga led county officials in a group photo with Senators Catherine Mumma and Beatrice Ogola alongside Parliamentary staff during the devolution Sensitisation week.
5. Senator Beatrice Ogola and Senator Catherine Mumma in Mbita, Homa Bay County.
6. Senator Mumma and CoG CEO Mary Mwita in Homa Bay County.



1. Parliamentary staff at the Senate stand during the Sensitisation week of the 2025 Devolution Conference in Homa Bay County.
2. Members of the Senate's Planning Committee for the 2025 Devolution Conference pose for picture in Homa Bay County last week.
3. Dr Patrick Buchere, the chairman of the Devolution Conference Planning Committee of the Senate speaks during a public sensitization on devolution as Senators Beatrice Ogola and Senator Catherine Mumma listen keenly.

4. Senator Beatrice Ogola speaks during one of the events to commemorate the Devolution Sensitisation Week in Homa Bay County. Senator Catherine Mumma and Council of Governors CEO Mary Mwiti (second left) look on.
5. Senator Beatrice Ogola and Senator Catherine escort Governor Gladys Wanga to the Senate Stand in preparation of the 2025 Devolution Conference.
6. Senator Catherine Mumma and Senator Beatrice Ogola join Governor Gladys Wanga in planting a commemorative tree ahead of the 2025 Devolution Conference.

Counties to get extra Sh69 billion

County Governments are poised to get Sh69.8 billion in additional allocation in the 2025/26 financial year to finance critical social services programmes.

The amount is captured in the County Governments Additional Allocation Bill, 2025, which was introduced in the House during the Special Sitting held last week.

The funds constitute funds agreed upon by the National Assembly and the Senate during the consideration of the 2025 Budget Policy Statement.

Out of the aggregated amount, Sh57 billion is conditional allocations financed by proceeds of loans or grants from development partners to each county government.

Another Sh2.9 billion is an unconditional allocation emanating from the 20 per cent share of mineral royalties and from proceeds of Court Fines emanating from contravention of County Government legislation.

The Bill also contains Sh9.9 billion as conditional allocation to each county government for the settlement of doctor salary arrears, for the Community Health Promoters (CHP) Project, the

construction of county headquarters in five selected counties and the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) Programme.

CAIPs is one of Kenya Kwanza's flagship projects which is part of the national effort to boost manufacturing and agriculture in all the 47 counties.

A total of 18 counties have partly benefited from the initial allocation with each county receiving Sh250 million to implement the project.

In the Bill, the National Government has allocated Sh4.5 billion to CAIPs, another Sh3.2 billion has been allocated to support the Community Health Promoters (CHPs), emphasising the commitment to universal health coverage.

The two levels of government have recruited 100,000 community health promoters to provide primary healthcare services, focusing on preventive healthcare in an initiative that aims to transform healthcare delivery, especially at the grassroots level, enhancing community well-being.

The plan is to hire 103,000 community health promoters, each responsible for about 100 households, equipped



Members of the Finance and Budget Committee, Senator Shakila Abdalla and Senator Mohamed Faki, when they inspected implementation of development projects in Kitui County.

with modern medical tools.

The Bill has also allocated Sh454 million to five counties for the construction of county headquarters offices. The counties are Isiolo, Tana River, Tharaka Nithi, and Nyandarua and Lamu.

The five counties inherited inadequate facilities that could not accommodate the new administration at the onset of devolution, and their construction is at different levels of completion.

The other critical allocation is the basic salary increment as per the doctors Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), which amounted to Sh3.5 billion. However, the National Government has allocated Sh1.8 billion.

The Bill was committed to the Committee on Finance and Budget which will conduct public participation and report back to the House within 30 days of its introduction to the House.

This week in History – July 12, 2016

House debates MSME (Amendment) Bill, 2015



Majority Whip Kimani Wamatangi

On July 12, 2016, the House debated the Micro and Small Enterprises (Amendment), 2015. The Bill was moved by the Majority Whip Kimani Wamatangi who told the House that the Bill will benefit thousands of Kenyans, especially in the urban areas where there are major challenges in crime and lack of employment. "There is also lack of employment and challenges in facilitating alternative methods of employment for the youth. It is important that we recognise that we have left a very important sector for the growth of this country and the economy on its own," he said. The Bill is meant to address challenges that many Kenyan players in the informal sector face which stem from the lack of recognition in legislation. Under the Constitution, such people deserve to be provided with an enabling business environment. Among the challenges that are faced by the small scale traders and MSEs, one would list lack of access to proper structured financial services which include credit and savings. Other challenges are the inability to access training in business and technical skills, inadequate linkages with the formal business sector and suppliers as well as lack of access to basic services such as work places, water and limited access to business related infrastructure such as manufacturing space for those that want to do so; closeness to others involved in similar activities where pooling of similar resources by similar businesses is an advantage. "The low awareness and understanding of Government regulations which affect the people, particularly how public space is regulated is also a challenge as well as lack of or limited and uncoordinated communication strategies and channels."



Senator Beatrice Elachi said:

"I rise to support this Bill. It comes at a time when we are just about to have the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which deals with trade. It comes at a time when the Chamber of Commerce is about to do their elections which deals with issues of small enterprises and trade. Therefore, I thank the Senator for Kiambu for coming up with this amendment, which is critical because, first; this is a key sector that has employed thousands of Kenyans and secondly, it is a sector that has contributed so much to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but has never been given an opportunity to be vibrant. It has never been given an opportunity to participate even in the different sectors that we have like the Kenya Private Sector Association (KEPSA) and the rest."



Senator Johnston Muthama said:

"We fought for our Independence and got it. The focus of Kenya was diverted to white collar jobs and the politics of the day. From that time, Kenyans spent so much time trying to see how someone can become a general manager, a pilot, a politician or generate money with no source, whatsoever, to show where that money is coming from. That has tilted the minds of Kenyans. Today, we are referred to as able people with the ability that it takes to do our things with good knowledge. Kenyans are respected everywhere in the world. There is one black spot that is painted on us. That is; we are ready to steal at any given time. There are great sons and daughters of this country who have managed to change the face of this country. I had a special friend of mine, the late Njenga Karume, who was a great leader in this country. His leadership emanated from the fact that he organised himself as an individual. He did not have degrees. However, he had the wisdom that had been given to him by the Creator and he used it properly."



Senator Hargura Godana:

"This Bill captures an important part of our citizenry, which as much as they work hard, do not access facilities and are not recognized. This Bill puts them under a particular authority, which will take into account provision of the necessary support. For example, through this authority, they will access capital. Right now, we have several funds, for example, the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), the Women Enterprise Development Fund (WEDF) and Uwezo Fund. However, it is difficult for people to access these monies. We should have an authority that could easily register groups and channel the funds in an accessible way, instead of doing it through constituencies, where other factors like politics come into play."

Senators plea to green energy players: demystify the sector



1. Members of the Parliamentarians Caucus on Climate Change, led by Senator Moses Kajwang' (centre) pose with stakeholders during the meeting in Mombasa County.
2. From left, Senator Hamida Kibwana, Senator Tabitha Mutinda and Senator Beth Syengo during the meeting on renewable energy in Mombasa County.
3. Senator Dan Maanzo and some of the participants at the meeting.
4. Senators and Members of National Assembly who sit on the Parliamentary Caucus on Climate change and stakeholders in Mombasa County.
5. Senator Danson Mungatana (second left) and other participants during the meeting.

Members of Parliament have called on investors in the energy sector to highlight the cost-effective and environmental advantages that motivate people to adopt sustainable practices.

The legislators, drawn from both Houses of Parliament, noted that the awareness can be done through partnering with legislators at constituency level as well as conducting public participation on more suitable and practical initiatives before launching projects and demonstrating success stories of the past projects.

The call was at a meeting held in Mombasa County between the legislators and stakeholders in the renewable energy. The meeting, dubbed Green Investment Dialogue, was organised by Climate Parliament, an international multi-partisan network of legislators working to combat climate change and protect the living planet.

Senator Danson Mungatana singled

out the Sleeping Warrior Special Economic Zone, one of the investors, who have a technology to capture carbon dioxide from the air, to create more awareness on what they do because they offer an alternative to clean energy that is more practical than tree planting.

The Kenyan Caucus, Parliamentarians for Climate Change, led by Senator Moses Kajwang' also challenged the captains of green industry to prioritise the micro economy sectors to benefit local communities stating that carbon credit funding has increased internationally and results need to be felt by the public.

"I want to ask all the actors in this renewable energy to focus on women as much as they are focusing on the young people. In Kenya and Africa, women are the primary users and managers of household energy and when they are empowered with clean cook stoves and solar lanterns to replace firewood and kerosene, they will lead this shift from



fossil fuels and transform livelihoods and communities in general," said Senator Veronica Maina.

Mr Sergio Missana, the Secretary General, Climate Parliament emphasised on new legal proposals that help transition to green energy citing benefits as increased jobs, stable and predictable energy prices, lower energy costs while stating that 1% of the world is already unliveable to due excessive heat.

"The game has changed, therefore the rules have to change. With renewable energy costs falling, green investment is increasingly private-driven, calling for specific regulations and frameworks

to attract climate finance," observed Mr Sergio.

In their defence, the Green Climate Fund called MPs into action over community green energy zones (CGEZ) which are areas abundant in renewable energy and co-designed to be owned by communities.

They urged the MPs to recognise CGEZ in electricity regulation and planning, standardising contracts for investors, strategic use of public budget, access to concessional loans for investors, tax incentives for financiers among other legal frameworks.



A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

© Copyright 2023

Email: Senate.weekly@parliament.go.ke

Editor: Ibrahim Oruko

Team Leader: Lucianne Limo

Writers

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

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

Hansard: Erick Kipkoech

Photographers:

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

Designed by:

KENYA LITERATURE BUREAU

Publishers and Printers

Belle-Vue Area, KLB Road, Off Popo Road

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

Telephone: +254 (20) 3541196/7,

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

Email: info@klb.co.ke

Website: www.klb.co.ke