



The SENATE

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Counties to get Sh23B from fuel levy

With the proposed allocation, the total figure counties will receive in additional allocation will increase to ShSh93.5 billion in the 2025/26 financial year.



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

County Governments are set to receive Sh23 billion in this financial year from the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF) following the decision of the High Court delivered in June.

The funds have been included in the County Governments Additional Allocations Bill, 2025 which is due for debate this week.

Should the House adopt the resolution, the total aggregate counties are set to receive in additional allocation will increase to ShSh93.5 billion in the 2025/26 financial year.

The Bill, which was introduced in the House on June 27, 2025, contains Sh69.8 billion as additional allocation from both the National Government and development partners.

However, in its consideration of the

Bill, the Committee on Finance and Budget has submitted a report to the House that includes a proposal to amend the Bill that could see the total additional allocation go up by Sh24 billion, to Sh93 billion.

The Committee, which is chaired by Senator Ali Roba, has proposed the introduction of a new Schedule to the Bill to provide for an additional allocation of Sh23.6 to County Governments from Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF).

Counties have been excluded from the RMLF allocations since September 2023 when the National Assembly removed the devolved units from the list of beneficiaries to the Fund.

But in a judgement delivered in June, the High Court ruled that the decision of the National Assembly was unconstitutional as it undermined the principles of



Senator Esther Okenyuri and Senator Boni Khalwale, members of the Finance Committee.

devolution.

The Sh23.6 billion is the total allocation that was due to counties for two financial years, 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Counties should have received Sh10.5 billion in the 2024/25 financial year and Sh13.1 billion in 2025/26 financial year.

When it appeared before the Committee over the Bill, the National Treasury proposed that the allocation of the monies should be based on the criteria developed by the Kenya Roads Board which is the administrator of the Fund.

Counties have also received Sh93.4 million from the Affordable Housing levy kitty.

Section 11 of the Affordable Housing Act gives the Affordable Housing Board the power to allocate monies for the development and off-take of affordable housing programmes and projects,

development of institutional housing and social and physical infrastructure.

The provision further provides that not less than 0.5 per cent of the monies should be allocated to the county committees for the administration of the County Committees as may be approved National Treasury Cabinet Secretary.

In a letter dated May 26, 2025, the Cabinet Secretary approved Sh93.4 million to be shared equally among all the 47 County Rural and Urban Affordable Housing Committees for the 2025/26 financial year.

The figure is 0.5 per cent of the total Sh18.7 billion audited housing levy receipts for 2023/24 financial year.

The money will be shared by all the counties based on the schedule that to be submitted by the State Department for Housing and Urban Development.

Out of the aggregated amount of Sh69.8 billion, Sh2.9 billion is from the 20 per cent share of mineral royalties and proceeds of Court fines emanating from contravention of County Government legislation, Sh9.5 billion from national Government share of revenue and Sh57 billion from proceeds of loans and grants from development partners.

The Bill proposes to allocate Sh11.5 million to 10 counties from court fines collected in 2023/24 financial year from contravention of the county laws. The allocation is based on actual collection of court fines from these particular counties by the judiciary.

The Mining Act entitles counties to mineral royalties stipulated at 20 per cent of all mineral royalties paid to the

State. The Bill has proposed to allocate Sh2.93 billion as the share of mineral royalties due to specific counties for this financial year.

The allocation comprises an allocation of Sh1.055 billion for 2024/25 financial year which was not disbursed to the beneficiary counties and sh1.88 billion proposed for 2025/26 financial year.

The funds will be shared across 32 counties, being the total sum of mineral royalties for counties to 2023/24 financial year. With an allocation of Sh1.167 billion, Kwale will receive the highest amount followed by Kilifi Sh950 million and Kajiado Sh660.2 million.

The Bill also includes Sh1.759 billion for the payment of doctors' salary arrears in the 47 counties. The return-to-work

formula between the Government and Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dental Union (KMPDU), the outstanding arrears of Sh3.2 billion was to be settled in two equal instalments of Sh1.759 billion each in 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.

The first instalment under the agreement was done through the County Government Additional Allocation Act, 2025.

"This means that the Sh1.759 billion contained in the Bill is the second and final allocation towards payment of basic salary arrears of Sh3.52 billion owed to doctors by counties between 2017 and 2024," says the committee in a report tabled in the House.

The allocation is based on the aver-

age number of doctors per county between 2017/2018 and 2023/24 financial years.

Kiambu county has the highest allocation of Sh120 million, Nairobi City County (Sh112.3 million), Mombasa County (Sh108.9 million) and Nakuru County (Sh90.4 million).

The Community Health Promoters (CHP) Project has been allocated Sh3.2 billion, another sh454 million for the construction of county headquarters in five selected counties and Sh4.5 billion for 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.

House supports continental migration laws



Senator Danson Mungatana

Time has come for Africa to seriously consider developing migration laws for labour that make it easier for Africans to work in other parts of the continent as opposed to going to Europe, Senators have said.

The lawmakers warn that gone are the days when Europe was the glamorous place that people used to hope to visit.

"Europeans are also experiencing lots of problems. President Donald Trump has put very serious taxes on the importation of their goods," said Senator Danson Mungatana.

The lawmaker was commenting on the Statement delivered to the House by Senator Margret Kamar regarding the recent continental consultations on the draft model law on labour migration in Africa, held in Nairobi from June 16 to 18, 2025.

The consultation was convened by the Committee of Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and supported by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Senator Kamar, who is one of Kenya's

representative to the continental legislative body, sits on the Committee.

The meeting brought together Parliamentarians, government officials, international partners and civil society actors to review and refine a harmonised legal framework to guide African Union Member States in managing labour migration in a coordinated and rights-based manner.

The draft model law has been in development for the past two years. Its core objective is to provide a uniform legal tool to guide Member States in enacting or aligning national labour migration laws to promote the protection of the migrant workers' rights, encourage fair recruitment practices, support gender-responsive policies and align national systems with international labour standards.

The meeting underscored the urgent need for legal frameworks that protect the dignity of migrant workers, while positioning labour migration as a driver of socio-economic development.

"The updated model law includes enhanced provisions on fair and ethical re-



Senator Margret Kamar

cruitment, recognition of skills and qualifications, integration of migrant workers in the host countries and non-discrimination and equal access to social protection for the migrant workers as it is in the host country," said Senator Kamar in the Statement in the House on the outcome of the meeting.

She hailed Senator Tabitha Mutinda, for sponsoring a Labour Migration and Management Bill, 2024 and asked her to pick some lessons from the document that is coming out.

"Our migrant workers, many of whom serve in precarious environments abroad, deserve a law that protects them comprehensively. Fast-tracking the Bill will not only safeguard the Kenyan workers overseas, but also reaffirm our leadership and commitment to the African integration agenda," she said.

Supporting the Statement, Senator Mungatana, who is also a member of PAP, noted that Europeans are having their own economic problems and they are trying to find a way of answering them by making it look like it is the migrant labour force that is bringing the

problems to Europe.

"It is time Africa rises up to make it easy for all of us who want to work in various parts of Africa to do so without a problem.

As a country and Africa, we need to support this labour migration law that is being developed through the PAP. It has already gone through the consultation. In the meeting held in Nairobi, a resolution was made to bring it to the plenary of the Parliament of Africa, which will be done beginning this July."

Senator Mutinda challenged the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare to expedite its consideration of the Bill, the Labour Migration and Management Bill, 2024.

"I request that the Bill be prioritised because matters affecting migrant workers across the country are critical.

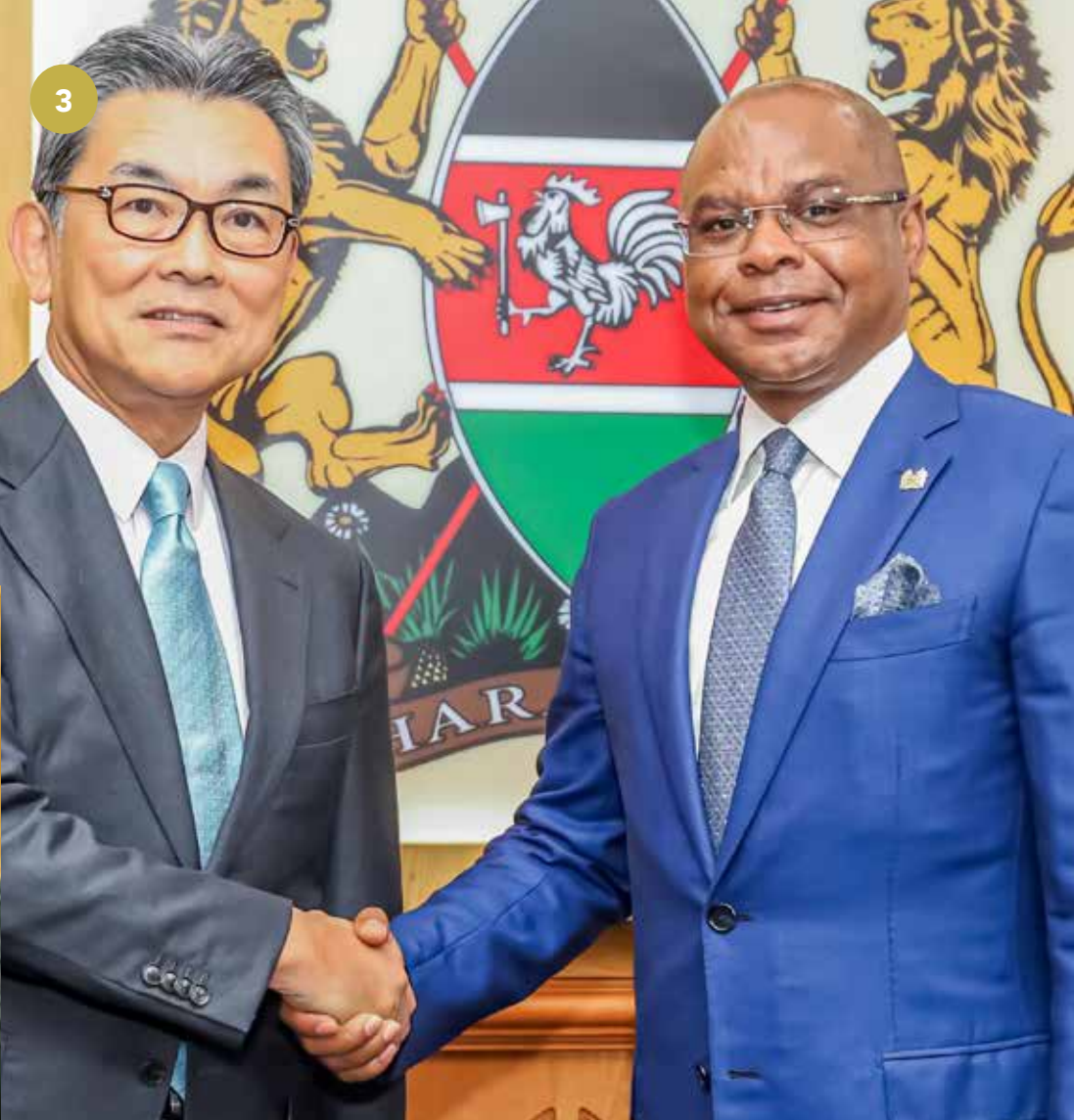
It is a Bill that will give Kenyan migrant workers an opportunity to be treated fairly; the same way people from other African countries are treated."



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1. Speaker Amason Kingi in a meeting with the leadership of the Kiambu County which was led by Governor Kimani Wamatangi and the County Assembly Speaker Charles Thiong'o who paid him a courtesy call.
2. The Speaker welcomes Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi in his office. The Governor led Kiambu County leadership in paying a courtesy call to the Speaker after the proceedings on the day the House started considering the county's request to confer city status on Thika Municipality.
3. Speaker Amason Kingi welcomes His Excellency Matsuura Hiroshi, the Ambassador of Japan to Kenya who paid him a courtesy call.
4. The Speaker and Ambassador Matsuura Hiroshi pose for a photo with, from left, Senator Wakili Sigei, Senator Ledama ole Kina and Senator Fatuma Dullo.
5. Speaker Kingi speaks during the meeting with the delegation from Japan which was led by Ambassador Matsuura Hiroshi who paid him a courtesy call.

‘Backroom ladies and gentlemen’



Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye consults Speaker Kingi during one of the sittings of the House. The Clerk is the chief procedural advisor to the Speaker.



Mr Njenga Ruge (left) and other clerk assistants follow proceedings as Speaker Kingi presides over the House.

It is 2.30PM on a Tuesday afternoon. Speaker Amason Kingi makes his way into the Chamber, signalling the start of the Senate business for the week.

Each of the sitting days, the House starts its plenary sessions with the Speak-

er's procession – a ceremonial walk that starts in the Speaker's office, through the corridors of Parliament, into the Chamber.

The military style procession is usually led by officers from the Directorate

of Serjeants-At-Arms, one of who carries the Mace; the ceremonial staff that symbolises the authority of the Speaker and that of the House.

There are other parliamentary officials in the procession. The most noticeable

are those in robes, in the case of the Senate, usually the azzure-blue coloured traditional robes.

They are the clerks; the officers whose mandate is to preside over the House by offering impartial procedural advice to the Speaker.

While their robes symbolise their importance and tradition in parliamentary proceedings, the Clerk of the Senate is a crucial actor in ensuring role in fidelity to procedures and record-keeping and act as chief procedural advisers to the Speaker.

The clerks in the Speaker's procession are drawn from the Directorate of Legislative and Procedural Services of the Senate. In parliamentary parlance they are also referred to as Clerks at the Table, because they sit in the Chamber, oftentimes guiding the proceedings.

Mr Njenga Ruge, who is the Director in charge of Legislative and Procedural Services in the Senate says that the Directorate is a critical element in ensuring that lawmakers execute their mandate as outlined in the constitution.

“We give impartial advice to the Speaker and that's why we sit in the chamber,” he told the Senate Weekly in an interview.

“Our job is to assist Senators to deliver. For example, when a member files a Question, we have to process it. When the Speaker is satisfied it meets the legal requirements, it is upon this directorate to forward it to the relevant ministry to get answers.”

Under normal circumstances, the Directorate prepares the letters for the Clerk to sign. Inviting a Cabinet Secretary to appear, giving the time.

“We coordinate in the back room. Sometimes we are called dark room boys and girls because you may not see what we are doing. We don't participate in the actual work but behind the curtains. We are running up and down.”

Since the return of Question Time where Cabinet Secretaries are invited to the House to respond to issues of concern members, the Directorate has been at the forefront of facilitating the process.

It decides which CS will appear ahead of others; on those days several have been invited. A maximum of three are invited every Wednesday when the House is in session.

“We are coordinating all that behind the curtains to ensure that we actually do everything. And anything.

We facilitate members to execute their mandate

Mr Njenga Ruge is in charge of the Directorate of Legislative and Procedural Services in the Senate. The Directorate consists of officers who run the business of the House on any sitting day. He spoke to *The Senate Weekly* about the work of the Directorate. Excerpts.



Mr Ruge during the interview with *The Senate Weekly* in his office at Parliament Buildings.



Mr Zakayo Mogere, the Deputy Director, Legislative and Procedural Services, consults Speaker Kingi.



Clerk Assistants attached to the Directorate of Legislative and Procedural Services pose for a picture before the start of the House proceedings last week. From left Mr Innocent Mbaya, Mr Abdulrahman Maalim and Mr Faustine Rotich.

Question: Briefly can you explain to us the role of the Directorate in law making?

Answer: Article 93 of the Constitution establishes Parliament which consists of the National Assembly and the Senate. Article 94 of the Constitution provides the functions and roles of Parliament. Article 95 gives the functions and the roles of the National Assembly while Article 96 gives the role of the Senate.

Article 124 goes further to give each House the power to make Standing Orders to regulate their own proceedings. The Standing Orders ensure orderly conduct of House proceedings, including the proceedings of committees and also the power to create committees.

The Standing Orders in turn have developed tools, or mechanisms, to assist the Senators in performing their constitutional functions – legislation, oversight, representation. The tools include Bills, Motions, Statements, Questions and Petitions.

For members to utilise these tools and these mechanisms, the Directorate is at the center in terms of facilitating. The Directorate assists the Senate, and the Senators, including members of the public, to utilise these tools to deliver on their mandates. The Directorate we facilitate the conduct of House business. We ensure the House and the Senators exploit these tools to deliver while also ensuring that as they do so they align the

tools to the Standing Orders, the relevant Acts of Parliament and the dictates of the Constitution. When a Senator wants to initiate a Bill, file a request for a Statement or ask Questions or submit a Motion or even a Petition, the directorate is always available to provide procedural guidance and ensure the Members use or utilise these tools effectively. A member of the public comes in when they want to petition the House in line with Article 37, which gives every person the right, peaceably and unarmed, to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket and to present petitions to public authorities. We provide guidance as well.

Q: Specifically, how do you execute this facilitation?

A: The Clerk of the Senate is the chief procedural advisor to the Speaker. Because of the nature of the parliamentary system, the Directorate, as a whole, acts as Clerk and provides procedural advice to the Senate, Senators and even members of the public who want to file their grievances to the Senate through Petitions. If a Senator wants to file a request for a Statement, the Standing Orders provide that such a request will be submitted to the Office of the Clerk of the Senate. The Clerk cannot be everywhere especially in the case of the Senate, where he is also the Secretary to the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC). The Directorate receives requests for Statements from members and we process them.



Clerk Assistants escort Senator Catherine Mumma out of the Chamber at the end of a sitting of the House.

We go through the Petitions submitted by both Members and the public and see whether they comply with the law, the same applies to Motions and even Questions. Most of these requests have to be approved by the Speaker before they are formally introduced in the House. But the Speaker does not look at the raw document. It's my directorate that processes the requests and then submit them for approval by the Speaker. Where a member of the public submits a Petition, we provide guidance. We look at the Petition against the provisions in the Standing Orders, including a schedule in the Standing Orders, going as far as giving a general form of the Petition, what it should be like, how it should start, the grievance, the issues, the prayers being sought etc. We also prepare the Order Paper which we prepare and generate Speaker's rul-

ings when Members raise weighty matters on issues of procedure.

If the House makes a resolution on a Motion, it is the mandate of this Directorate to initiate action by way of forwarding the resolution to the implementing authority. If there is a Message to be transmitted to either the National Assembly or any of the County Assemblies, that falls within our task to prepare such messages. We prepare the minutes of the plenary sittings, which we call votes and proceedings. Basically, this is the summary of what was discussed during each plenary. We do this for posterity. The Directorate also provides Secretariat services to three Committees; the House Business Committee (HBC), the Powers and Privileges Committee and; the Procedure and Rules Committee. In Parliamentary practice they are referred

to as domestic or Housekeeping Committees as they are concerned with internal issues and the application of the Standing Orders. When the Senate invites guests to the House, like Cabinet Secretaries, we have officers who are actually dealing with that. When the House makes a resolution to invite CSs, it is our responsibility to see it through. We coordinate in the back room, that is why we are sometimes called dark room boys and girls, because you may not see what we are doing. We don't participate in the actual work but behind the curtains. We are running up and down. Saying this minister is the first one, this is the second one. How long each CS will take, etc. These are the issues that we are doing behind the curtains to ensure that we actually do everything, and anything, for the House

to run. We also write Communications from the chair when a member raises very pertinent issues with regard to our own proceedings. This is the Directorate where all things fall into place. And it's heavy because we are on the front line. With all these things. The Directorate operates like a machine but which we have no control over. If the House resolves to meet on July 8 to 30, you have no latitude to change that. No room to manoeuvre. And it's specific.

Q: How do you write Communications to the chair?

A: We do this under the cover of the Clerk, who is the chief procedural advisor to the Speaker. If there is an issue of legal nature, we consult our colleagues in the Directorate of Legal Services to prepare the draft. They will then write the communication in legal jargon. But as you know there are issues with the structure of the communication and the language. My Directorate will come in and put it in our language. Similarly, we started collecting rulings that have ever been delivered by Senate Speakers and publish them in a document called compendium of Senate Speaker's rulings. The compendium is like a guide. When an issue arises, we look at what the previous Communication was all about. If the circumstances and issues are the same, then there is no need to deviate from this communication.

Q: Members of your Directorate are always part of any law or business that passes through the House. Can we describe them as silent lawmakers?

A: No...no...no! They facilitate lawmakers. We cannot participate in law making because, in my view, it will be overthrowing the constitution. In fact, we are very particular about this. If, for example, a Bill has been passed and there were amendments along the way, we are very particular to live within what was actually approved. My view, and I think it's shared by very many colleagues and actually supported by our rules of procedure, even if we provided advice to members that a certain provision will be in conflict with the Constitution, and they still insist, we go with it. It's not our job to sort of change or make anything be in line because that is the mandate of someone else, not ours. When a law is passed it envisages a certain way institutions are supposed to work.

CS Mugaa says water sector not lucrative for PPPs



Cabinet Secretary Eric Mugaa

Water and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Eric Mugaa says investments in the water sector has been shunned by private investors which has undermined the construction of 1000 dams promised by the

Kenya Kwanza administration in 2022 pre-election.

Noting that the construction of huge dams can only be undertaken through public private partnership (PPP), the CS told the House that water tariffs are not

cost recovery which has forced the private investors to shun the venture.

“Water infrastructure is not cheap; it is capital intensive. When you talk about 1,000 large dams, most of them were scheduled to be implemented under Public Private Partnerships (PPP),” Mr Mugaa said during last week’s Question Time.

“PPP means that a proponent has to invest and recoup their money in a stipulated time. Unfortunately, investments in water have not been very lucrative in PPPs because our tariffs are not cost recovery.”

He was responding to a question from Senator Seki ole Lenku who wanted to know how many of the 1000 dams promised by Kenya Kwanza have been constructed to completion.

The Senator also wanted to know those that have stalled.

Senator Dan Maanzo wanted to know

the success rate of the PPPs and the statistics. “Have you done any successfully? Have you found any investor interested to work with your Ministry to make sure that these dams succeed?” asked Senator Maanzo

“We have not completed any large dams but some are ongoing, especially the large dams,” said the CS, citing Mwache Dam, Thwake Dam and Umaa Dam which he said are ongoing.

“Some of them are suffering from financial challenges,” he added, promising to provide a list of completed small dams for a conclusive answer.

He however, said the Ministry has done a diagnostic analysis on how to make water projects, especially high-intensive, capital-intensive infrastructure, feasible to the Ministry.

“This has been a challenge that we are working to resolve because our cost recovery tariffs are not in place,” he said.

KeNHA use private vehicles for patrols, says CS Chirchir

The Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) utilises privately-owned motor vehicles while on patrol on the highways, a Cabinet Secretary has told Senators.

Mr Davis Chirchir of Roads and Transport said this is because the Government outsources road maintenance work through performance-based contracts.

Under the contracts, particularly on critical roads such as Thika Super Highway Road and the Nairobi Southern Bypass, the scope includes regular road patrols to monitor compliance with traffic regulations, rapid response to include incidences and breakdowns, protection of road infrastructure, including street lighting and guardrails and immediate assistance on motorists in distress.

“The arrangement ensures efficient maintenance while enhancing overall road safety,” he said.

He was responding to a question from Senator Joe Nyutu who wanted to know why (KeNHA) use privately-owned motor vehicles for patrol on highways, the ownership of the patrol vehicles and how the services procured.

He also wanted to know about KeNHA’s plans to acquire its own patrol vehicles like other state corporations.

The CS said the vehicles are owned by performance-based contractors who are assigned the performance-based contracts in terms of maintenance contractors which are competitively procured in compliance with the Public Procurement and Assets Disposal Act

through the open tender method.

“The KeNHA does not intend to procure its own patrol vehicles for maintenance work as it considers the maintenance-based contract arrangements a more suitable approach,” he said.

However, the Senator was not convinced with the response. “It is not clear from the response why KeNHA outsources its road maintenance services. Why would KeNHA officers use privately-owned motor vehicles to patrol? This is not road maintenance?” he asked, demanding to know whether cost-benefit analysis was done before the decision was made.

“Are we saving by using privately owned motor vehicles? My understanding is that there is a difference between road maintenance and patrol. The question was about the patrol vehicles.”

He went on: “Sometimes motorists do not even know who is stopping them because these are privately-owned motor vehicles.”

Concerning periodic-based contracts maintenance, the CS said there is clarity that KeNHA tenders for maintenance of a particular road for a period of one or two years.

“A contractor who wins a tender to maintain that road through a competitive process works like any other private contractor constructing any road out there and they use their assets to maintain the road.

Regarding the issue of KeNHA staff inspecting roads using their vehicles, he said that is an area the country needs to get clarity on.



Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir

Labour Committee meets stakeholders over PwDs



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale when he appeared before the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare.



Senator Crystal Asige, who was the session chair, consults with Senator Miraj Abdulahi (left) during the meeting with CS Health Aden Duale.

The Committee on Labour and Social Welfare last week held a high-level engagement with stakeholders from the national and county governments.

The meeting was organised to address the glaring gaps in the recognition and inclusion of persons living with invisible disabilities in Kenya.

Among the stakeholders who appeared before the Committee are Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, the Principal Secretary for Social Protection Joseph Mogosi Motari, and legal representatives from the Council of Governors (CoG).

The session was prompted by a petition submitted to the Senate by Ms Beatrice Likwop, a Kenyan living with multiple invisible disabilities, who

highlights the persistent challenges faced by this often-overlooked population.

In her submission, Ms Likwop decried systemic neglect, medication shortages, unaffordable treatment and a lack of structured support for persons with conditions such as epilepsy, mental health disorders, chronic autoimmune diseases, and neurological impairments.

“We exist only on paper. There is no connection between what the ministries say in policies and what happens at the county level. I pay for health insurance that doesn’t give me the medicine I need,” she told the Committee.

Her call for accountability was echoed by other stakeholders, including caregivers of autistic children, who raised concerns over lack of identification tools and the risks faced by non-verbal individuals

in public spaces.

Mr Duale defended the government’s position, outlining a range of policy frameworks and interventions targeting persons with invisible disabilities. They include: The Disability Medical Assessment and Categorisation Guidelines (2022); the Social Health Authority (SHA) rollout; Access to subsidised care through the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF); and Nationwide deployment of Community Health Promoters (CHPs).

“Invisible disabilities are now integrated into our health benefit packages. Through SHA, persons living with chronic or neurological conditions are eligible for comprehensive care across all levels of the public health system,” said Mr Duale.

He also revealed that over 24.7 million Kenyans had enrolled in SHA, with enhanced coverage for both emergency and long-term care, and ongoing training of healthcare workers on identifying and managing invisible conditions.

The CoG Representative Irene challenged the Ministry’s claims, pointing to ground-level disconnects and lack of coordinated oversight.

“Most counties still lack clear administrative or programmatic direction for invisible disabilities. Budget lines often favour visible conditions, while mental and neurological conditions remain sidelined,” she stated, noting that a shortage of skilled personnel, inadequate disaggregated data, and the absence of dedicated policy guidelines at the county level.

Senator Miraj Abdulahi posed direct questions on the affordability of specialist care, timelines for implementation, and the existence of monitoring mechanisms. “We want to know the actual timelines and how the Ministry plans to assess the effectiveness of these programmes. What options are available for low-income Kenyans in need of specialised treatment?” she asked.

The Ministry revealed that Sh100 million had been secured from the World Bank to conduct a national household disability survey, with a particular focus on invisible conditions. The data will be stored in the Enhanced Registry, a centralised repository to guide targeting of services.

Senator Crystal Asige, the vice chair of the Committee, who sponsored the recently passed Persons with Disabilities Act, reminded the officials that recognition must go beyond legislation.

“We are talking about real lives. Invisible disabilities are now defined in law, but unless policies trickle down to county programmes and budgets, we are failing millions,” she said.

She also questioned the government’s disability statistics, recalling how she herself was not counted during the 2019 census as an example of the gaps in data collection that could jeopardize proper planning.

The Committee promised to follow up on all pledges made by the ministries, including: full implementation of SHA benefit coverage for invisible disabilities, accurate and disaggregated data collection, legislative clarity on roles of both national and county governments and strengthening of training and service delivery structures.

Senators demand opening Kenya sky for other carriers

The House has expressed concern over protective policy of the Kenyan airspace which they say has only succeeded in undermining the potential of Mombasa City and the coastal towns around it.

Known as a leading tourist city that relies heavily on both domestic and international tourism for its economic prosperity, the Mombasa International Airport remains under-utilised.

Senators say the under-utilisation is partly due to the restrictive licensing regime and limited landing rights extended to airlines competing with the national carrier, Kenya Airways.

Senator Mohamed Faki says due to this, Kenya Airways and Jambo Jet have maintained a de facto monopoly control over the route, which has resulted in exorbitant ticket pricing, frequent delays and abrupt flight cancellations.

The Economy Class fares to Mombasa routinely average Sh8,500 per one-way flight and on weekends and peak seasons, they can rise to as much as Sh25,000. "These rates are not only unaffordable to many Kenyans, but also diminish Mombasa's attractiveness as a competitive tourist destination," argued Senator Mohamed Faki.

Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot said as a country Kenya has mistakenly held the view that by protecting the airline, it will be of benefit to that city.

"The world of travel is fast evolving. There are certain airlines, based either on their safety record or certain prejudices that people hold, that so long as they do not fly to certain destinations, those cities will never receive a good number of tourists," he argued.

He wants the Ministry of Transport to explain to the public how many international airlines are on the queue to receive landing rights direct to Mombasa City.

"I wish that we can continue to have a more collaborative approach to this, and appreciate the changing preferences of travellers, and open up Mombasa to as many airlines as possible," noted the lawmaker.

He was responding to a request for a Statement by Senator Faki who wants the Committee on Roads, Transportation and, Housing to give the House the justification for high ticket prices charged by Kenya Airways and Jambo Jet on the Mombasa route.

He also wants the House told whether the two airlines comply with the provisions of the Competition Act regarding



Senator Ledama ole Kina



Senator William Kisang



Senator Aaron Cheruiyot



Senator Mohamed Faki

price setting and whether their operations amount to cartel-like behavior.

"The Committee should explain the measures in place the Ministry of Roads and Transport has taken to liberalise the Mombasa air route and facilitate the entry of other airlines to enhance competition and improve service delivery.

Senator Cheruiyot described the policy as backward noting that there are smaller cities of even lower profile that are threatening the prominence of Mombasa as a result.

"Committee should help the country in unravelling this mystery and ensure that we open up Mombasa City, for the sake of tourism numbers. We can receive double the two million tourists that we receive in this country, in Mombasa alone, if we make it open and ensure that tourists can access it as easily

as possible."

However, Senator Ledama ole Kina argued that the debate of prioritising local carriers over other international carriers in terms of business is sometimes quite complex because it leads to local people paying a higher price.

"Although I appreciate the work being done by the Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport in terms of opening our skies, it is also important for us to ask ourselves whether KQ can be saved," observed Senator Ole Kina

"This where we should have a debate on why it costs Sh25,000 one way, whereas in Europe you can fly from London to Milan for about US\$300."

He said it is important for the country to broaden the conversation and encourage low taxes for other locals to come up with more carriers and also for the

Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife to be accommodative in terms of giving licenses for locals.

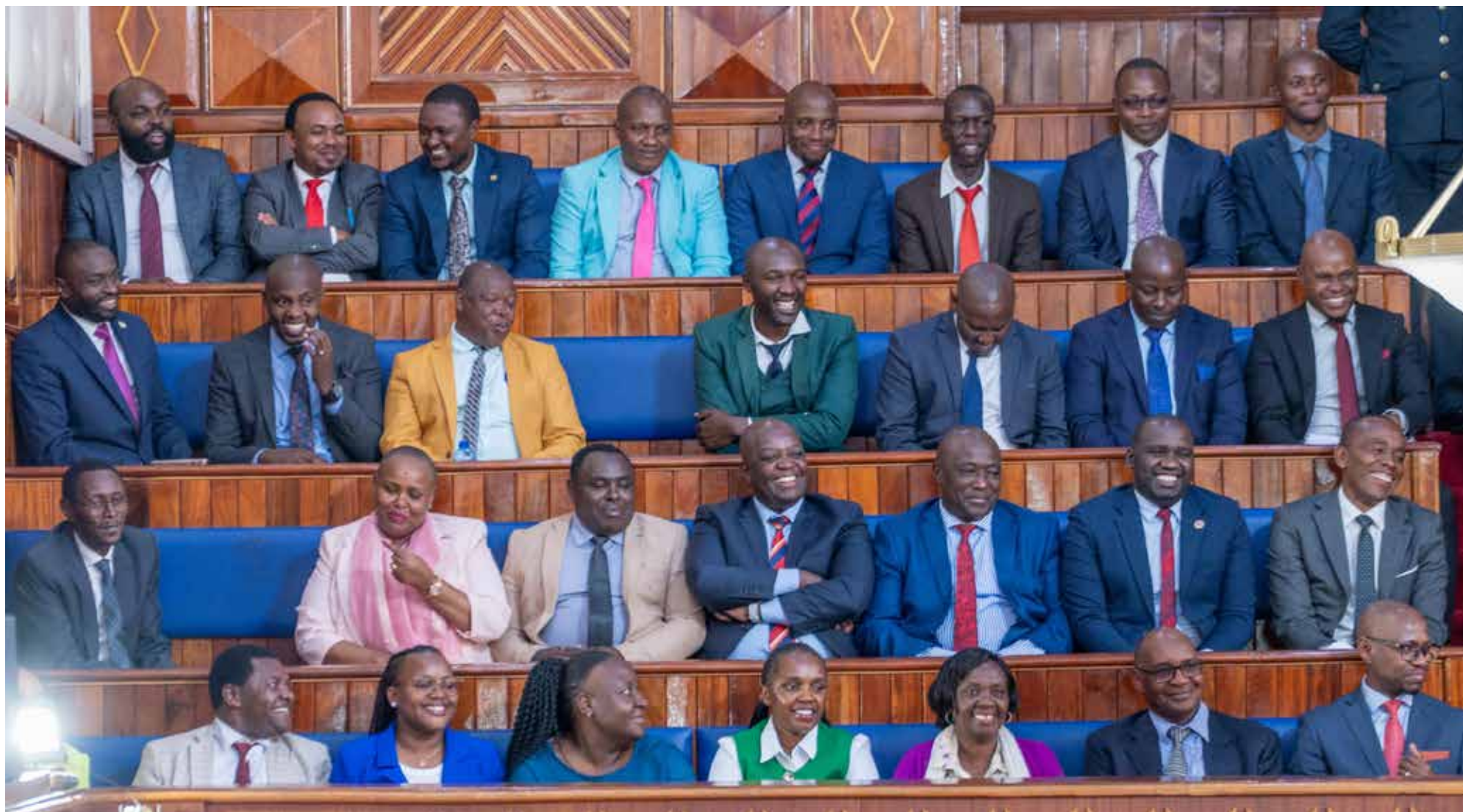
"I know for a fact that KQ is our pride and we must protect it. However, we have to do something to open our skies because other airports are coming up."

Senator William Kisang supported the Statement adding that time has come to open up the Moi International Airport in Mombasa for other airlines to fly in directly.

He said most of the tourists who come to Kenya target Mombasa.

"Why not allow them to fly there directly for us to increase the number of tourists who come to the country from the current 2 million to maybe 5 million or even more. This will create other opportunities."

County seeks City status for Thika Municipality



Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi (extreme right, third row) and other leaders from the county follow House proceedings from the Speaker's Gallery when Speaker Kingi informed Senators on the request to confer city status to Thika Municipality.

Speaker Amason Kingi has directed the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations to expedite the request by Kiambu County for the elevation of Thika Municipality to a City status.

The Speaker issued the directive after he informed the House of the request by the County, which had been approved by the County Assembly of Kiambu.

The message dated on June 24, was on a resolution by the County Assembly on the proposal to grant Thika the prestigious designation of a city.

Should the Senate approve the request, and the President grants the request, Thika Municipality in Kiambu County will make history as Kenya's sixth city after Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru and Eldoret.

Pursuant to the Urban Areas of Cities Act, the County Assembly of Kiambu resolved to confer the status of a city to Thika Municipality in Kiambu County through a motion adopted on June 19, 2025.

"To facilitate the Senate in its consideration of the conferment of city status to Thika Municipality as contemplat-

ed in the Urban Areas and Cities Act, I forthwith refer the Message to the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations," said Speaker Kingi in his communication to the House.

"I also direct that the Committee expedites the process and tables its report for consideration by the Senate as soon as possible."

The push by the County for the municipality to acquire the status comes on the heels of successful elevation of Eldoret Municipality, marking yet another milestone in the country's ongoing urban transformation.

The legal framework guiding the conferment of city status in Kenya is laid out in the Urban Areas and Cities Act.

The process begins with a resolution by the municipality's board to apply for city status.

Once submitted, the County Executive Committee considers the application and it agrees, the county governor establishes an Ad Hoc Committee made up of professionals nominated from key national institutions.

These institutions include the Institution of Surveyors of Kenya, the Kenya

Institute of Planners, the Architectural Association of Kenya, the Law Society of Kenya, an association of urban areas and cities, the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya and the business community.

The committee is required to reflect regional, ethnic, gender and disability diversity.

If the Ad Hoc Committee finds that the municipality meets all criteria for city status — ranging from infrastructure, population, economic viability and administrative capacity — it recommends the upgrade to the County Assembly for approval.

If the Assembly adopts the recommendation, the Clerk transmits the resolution to the Senate.

Upon Senate approval, the Clerk of the Senate forwards the recommendation to the President, who has the final authority to confer city status.

Thika now follows the well-trodden path of Kenya's other cities — each having undergone a rigorous vetting process.

Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu were designated as cities due to their pre-ex-

isting status as administrative and commercial hubs.

Nakuru was conferred city status in December 2021 following an intensive evaluation process by both the Nakuru County Assembly and the Senate, marking the first such upgrade under the devolved system.

Eldoret, the capital of Uasin Gishu County and a major commercial center in the Rift Valley, became Kenya's fifth city after meeting all the legal and infrastructural requirements laid out in the Urban Areas and Cities Act.

With Thika now under Senate review, Kiambu County could soon make history as home to the sixth city in Kenya.

Known for its thriving industrial base, proximity to Nairobi and growing population, Thika has long been considered a strong candidate for city status.

The outcome now rests with the Senate, whose endorsement will pave the way for presidential assent — bringing Thika one step closer to officially joining the elite ranks of Kenya's cities.



1. *Players of Team Grey of the PSC Secretariat pose for a picture with the Commission Secretary, Mr Jeremiah Nyegenye.*
2. *PSC Secretary Jeremiah Nyegenye with Team Black.*
3. *PSC Secretary Jeremiah Nyegenye poses for a photo with Team White of the PSC Secretariat.*
4. *Senator Joyce Korir, also the vice chair, Parliamentary Service Commission and Commissioner Mishi Mboko enjoy a rendition from the Kenya Prisons band during the PSC Secretariat Sports Day tournament.*
5. *Mr William Zenton focuses his eyes and mind, while removing blocks from a tower during the Jenga game played during the Sports Day.*
6. *Team Gold's Tug of War players gnash their teeth during the contest.*
7. *Athletes' mad rush for medal in the 4x100 relay during the games.*



1. Team Black's Tug of War players slug it out, cheered on by their colleagues.
2. Team Gold's tug of war team.
3. Team White celebrates after they were awarded the trophy of the most disciplined team of the tournament.
4. Mr Anthony Njoroge, Director Litigation and Compliance in the Senate, lifts the trophy of the best performing player in the tournament.
5. Action during Men's football match.
6. A Basketball match pitting Team Black and Team White.
7. Women's 100m sprint race.



1. Students and Teachers from Ongata Academy, Kajiado County, at Parliament Buildings during their academic tour.
2. Teachers and students from Othaya Girls High School, Nyeri County, during their tour of the Senate.
3. Teachers and Learners of Membley Baptist Christian School, Kiambu County, at the Senate on a study tour.
4. Senator Wahome Wamatinga speaks to students from Othaya Girls, Nyeri County, at the Senate.
5. A Parliamentary official provides legislative tips to teachers and Students from St Paul Burguret High School, Nyeri County, during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
6. Senator Boni Khalwale speaks to learners from St Peter's Boys, Mumias Sub County, Kakamega County who were at the Senate for a study tour.
7. Students from St Thomas Kavingoni Mix Secondary School, Makueni county follow proceedings in the Senate Chamber during their tour of Parliament.
8. Teachers and Students from St Joseph Girls High School, Chepterit, Nandi County follow proceedings in the Senate Chamber



1. Teachers and students from Rwanyambo Junior School, Kinangop, Nyandarua County at the Senate.
2. Teachers and learners from Njoguini Primary School, Kinangop, Nyandarua County pose for a picture outside the Senate Chamber.
3. Learners from Bonanza School, Manyatta, Embu County at the Senate on a study tour.
4. A delegation from the Office of Chamber reporting of the Parliament of Ghana follow proceedings in the Senate Chamber during their benchmarking tour of Kenyan Parliament.

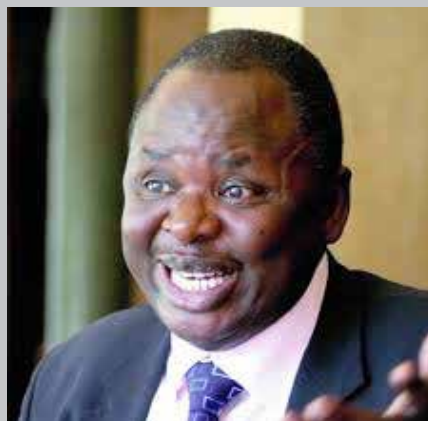
This week in History – July 23, 2013

House debates County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2013



Senator John Lonyangapuo

In replying to the debate on The County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2013, Senator John Lonyangapuo raised the issue of audited revenue accounts which are very old. These are the audited accounts of 2011/12 Financial Year. “These are two years old,” he said. The Government had said that it had collected a staggering Sh800 billion exceeding the targeted amount by 14 per cent. “That is what the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) indicated. This means that this Government can give the current figures and allocations without digging into the history of two years ago. We are also talking about a digital Government. We can get the relevant data as it is. We need to look at this. We are introducing another column which talks about a plus “b” which does not go hand in hand with what is in the Constitution. We need to provide for the funding of regional referral hospitals and nothing else and to ensure continuation of essential services by the county governments in the manner set out in column “D” of the Schedule. When you talk about referrals, Nairobi ranks 30 in that column. It has been allocated Sh7,743,130,661. I expected the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital which is in Uasin Gishu to be the second in being given a lot of money. However, it has been given a paltry Sh300 million. It has even been overtaken by smaller hospitals.



Senator Gerald Otieno Kajwang said:

“I support this Bill in protest. I am supporting it in protest because at one time, I was voted into Parliament in protest. When I first vied for a seat in the National Assembly, there was a region in my constituency that would not have voted for me because they were supporting another candidate in KANU. They were fighting with another person in another region, also in KANU. But now, when one of them was elected or nominated by KANU, the other people who lost in the nominations said “we are not voting for that one we were fighting with; we are voting for Otieno Kajwang in protest!” So, sometimes, you can do something in protest. I am doing this in protest because it is not right that we should not participate in the division of revenue, but participate in the allocation of revenue. It means that we are not participating in the division of the cake, but we are participating in the division of the little crumb that has been given to us. If we are not careful, the signature that was put on this Division of Revenue Bill – the one that has gone by – I think wrote us off as an irrelevant institution.”



Senator Abdirahman Hassan said::

“It is the responsibility of this Senate to facilitate county governments in the execution of their mandate. With that specific caveat that my colleagues before me have mentioned, we are left with little choice but to ensure that the County Allocation of Revenue Bill is passed by this House. You will realise that all our counties have so far not received any money. Counties are in a dire crisis which they may have inherited. It is important at this point in time for this House to distinguish itself as the House of the wise regardless of the circumstances that we find ourselves in as we wait for the outcome of other judicial and political processes. This House must discharge its responsibility and ensure that counties are facilitated to deliver on their mandate.”



Senator GG Kariuki

“This is a Bill that we have no power to amend or reject. This is an opportunity for the Senators to look in the past and see how much we have achieved since we embraced county governments. The purpose of debating this Bill is to remind us that there is a lot to be done by the Senate, but we have not done a lot since we embraced devolved governments. We are talking about the money that has already been allocated. As I said, we have no power to reject or amend it. I have not heard anyone criticizing the Senate for the failure or otherwise of this Bill. We have not been involved to determine how much, for example, a county assembly will get. I do not want to say that we failed in our duties as Senate. However, it cannot be said that a good job was done. We ought to have sat down together with the Transition Authority (TA) or the people who are involved and then determined the best way of allocating these funds.”

Government has securitised RMLF, says CS Mbadi



1. National Treasury CS John Mbadi when he appeared the Committee on Devolution.
2. Senator Catherine Mumma makes her submission during the meeting between Devolution Committee and CS John Mbadi. Senator Mohamed Abbas and Senator Mohamed Chute follow the proceedings.
3. CS Mbadi speaks to Senator Richard Onyonka and Senator Mohamed Chute after the meeting.

The Government has securitised the Road Maintenance Levy Fund, which increased from 18 shillings to 25 shillings per litre last year.

The revelation was made by National Treasury CS John Mbadi who added that the strategy will stimulate the country's economic growth, especially in the construction sector, which is one of the only two growing sectors in Kenya, the other one being the mining sector.

Securitising a fund is a financial engineering strategy that converts future cash flows into immediate capital by transforming illiquid assets, such as loans, mortgages, or other receivables, into marketable securities that can be sold to investors.

The fiscal policy not only increases the credit availability in the economy by freeing up capital, increasing lending, but also improves market efficiency by creating liquid markets for illiquid assets, promoting efficient capital allocation.

CS Mbadi made the revelation when he appeared before the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental

Relations on Thursday, July 17.

He defended the securitisation as a common practice in many jurisdictions across the globe, including Kenya, further disclosing that the move has received the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) blessings.

The securitisation of the Sh7 road maintenance levy increase will help the country to raise Sh175 billion, with over Sh65 billion already raised, which the government intends to use to pay pending bills, starting with a 40 per cent payment and continuing with additional percentages.

"We used the sh65 billion raised to pay contractors since construction and mining are the only growing sectors in the country. Contractors have resumed work in many parts of the country, and the budget is allocated to ensure ongoing projects are completed," he told the Committee.

"Since the fiscal space and latitude to get money from international sources like the IMF and World Bank are limited due to global economic changes, securitisation is our best bet to completing the development projects."

He attributed the accumulation of pending bills to the over-projection of revenue by the national government and challenges in county revenue collection, calling for a uniform revenue system across counties.

He informed the Committee the government is considering integrating the Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) System to enhance financial compliance and procurement processes, ensuring tax compliance and reducing physical document handling.

While hailing the strategy as a good move meant to reduce external debts, Senators raised concerns about the disparities in fund allocation and the need for equitable distribution of resources across the other existing funds.

The Women's Enterprise Fund, for instance, they said, showed significant

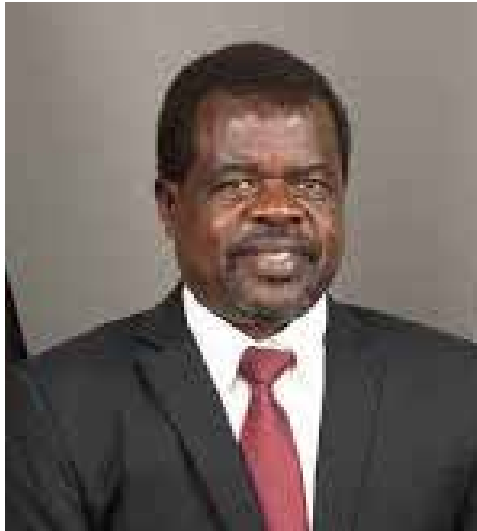
regional disparities, while the Youth Enterprise Fund and other affirmative action funds have been misused over time.

They urged CS Mbadi to review the audit process and metrics used to distribute development funds and conditional grants to ensure fairness and equity.

"You need to investigate the implementation of affirmative action plans and the Women Enterprise Fund to identify and address the disparities in fund allocation across counties," Senator Catherine Mumma, the Vice Chairperson of the Committee, said.

Senator Mohamed Abbas directed the CS to provide the Senate with a comprehensive update on the ongoing financial reforms and challenges related to the management of unclaimed assets.

Seneta Omtatah ataka uagizaji tata wa mchele kuchunguzwa



Seneta Okiya Omtatah

Seneta Okiya Omtatah amewasili-sha ombi akiitaka Kamati kuhusu Utalii, Biashara na Uendelezaji Viwanda kufafanua kuhusu uamuzi wa hivi majuzi wa Serikali kuidhinisha uagizaji wa tani 500,000 za mchele kutoka nje ya nchi na kampuni ya Business Bay Square Mall iliyoko Eastleigh.

“Maendeleo haya yamezua maswali makubwa kuhusu athari zake kwa wakulima wa mchele wa humu nchini, uwazi katika mchakato wa ugawaji wa mgao wa uagizaji na kupuuzwa kwa tasisi muhimu za udhibiti kama Mamlaka ya Kilimo na Chakula (AFA),” Seneta Omtatah alisema.

Katika ombi lake, Seneta Omtatah aliihimiza Kamati hiyo kuchunguza vigezo na sera zilizoongoza Serikali kuitatia Business Bay Square Mall mgao huo mkubwa wa kuagiza mchele kutoka



Seneta Edwin Sifuna

nje ya nchi. Alitaka ibainishwe iwapo mchakato huo ulikuwa wa ushindani na kama ulifuata sheria na taratibu husika zikiwemo Sheria ya Mazao na Kanuni za Mazao ya Chakula za mwaka 2019.

Pia aliitaka Kamati hiyo kuchunguza nafasi ya Wizara ya Biashara katika mchakato huo na kutoa ufafanuzi kuhusu kwa nini Wizara ya Kilimo na AFA, ambazo ndizo zenye mamlaka ya kudhibiti uagizaji wa mazao ya chakula, hazikuhusishwa.

Seneta Omtatah vilevile alitaka Seneti kufahamishwa ikiwa AFA ilifanya tathmini ya kiwango cha uzalishaji na matumizi ya mchele ndani ya nchi kabla ya kuidhinisha uagizaji huo hasa ikizingatiwa taarifa za hivi karibuni kwamba zaidi ya tani 5,000 za mchele wa humu nchini bado hazijakusanywa katika Ushirika wa Wakulima wa Mchele wa Mwea.

Aliitaka Kamati hiyo kuchunguza hatua zilizowekwa kuwalinda wakulima wa humu nchini dhidi ya madhara ya kiuchumi yatokanayo na uagizaji huo, zikiwemo bajeti zilizotengwa na AFA kwa ajili ya kununua mchele kutoka kwa ushirika wa wakulima wa humu nchini. Alisisitiza kuwa mchakato huo unapaswa kufungamana na vipaumbele vya sera ya kilimo ya Kenya chini ya Ajenda ya Mageuzi ya Kiuchumi Kuanzia Chini Kwenda Juu (BETA).

Kamati hiyo chini ya Uenyekiti wa Seneta wa Kaunti ya Kwale Issa Juma Boy aidha iliombwa kuchunguza athari pana za uagizaji wa mchele kwa bei katika soko la ndani na kutoa mapendekezo ya mikakati ya kuhakikisha kuna uwiano kati ya unafuu wa bei kwa watumiaji na uendelevu wa kilimo cha mchele nchini Kenya.

Kwingineko, Seneta Edwin Sifuna ameomba Kauli kutoka kwa Kamati ya Kawi kuhusu ukosefu wa umeme unaoendelea katika maeneo kadhaa ya Nairobi.

Akitaja kukatizwa kwa umeme kwa muda mrefu, ukosefu wa miundombinu na kutelekezwa kwa maeneo hayo na kampuni ya Kenya Power, Seneta Sifuna alieleza wasiwasi kuhusu kuongezeka kwa hali ya kutokuwa salama, kudorora kwa shughuli za kiuchumi na kuongezeka kwa pengo la usawa.

Alitaja Wadi ya Hospitali katika Eneo Bunge la Mathare ambayo haijawahi kupata umeme kwa zaidi ya miaka

minne na Majengo Gorofani katika Eneo Bunge la Kamukunji ambako wakazi wameishi gizani kwa miaka miwili na nusu huku wakiendelea kutozwa malipo na kampuni ya Kenya Power.

Katika Wadi ya Korogocho, Eneo Bunge la Ruaraka, vijiji vyote vya Ngomongo, Ngunyunu, Gitathuru, Highridge, Grogon A, Grogon B, Korogocho A, Korogocho B na Nyayo bado havijaunganishwa kwenye mtandao wa umeme kulingana na Seneta Sifuna. Hali kama hiyo pia ipo katika maeneo ya Rei Gateway, Simba Cool Zone na Bantu Zone katika Wadi ya Kwa Reuben, Embakasi Kusini ambayo kwa mujibu wa Seneta Sifuna hayajawahi kupata umeme.

Seneta huyo anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuingilia kati na kubainisha mipango ya haraka na ya muda mrefu ya Kenya Power kurejesha umeme katika Wadi ya Hospitali, hali ilivyo na muda wa kuunganisha upya Majengo Gorofani ikitoa maelezo kuhusu sababu za stakabadhi za kudai malipo kuendelea kutumwa licha ya kutokuwepo kwa umeme. Kadhalika, anataka maelezo kuhusu mipango madhubuti ya kuunganisha vijiji visivyohudumiwa katika Wadi za Korogocho na Kwa Reuben, ikiwemo bajeti zilizotengwa na ratiba ya utekelezaji.

Alisisitiza kuwa Nairobi, kama jiji kuu la taifa, haiwezi kuvumilia wakazi wake kuishi gizani huku miundombinu ya kitaifa ikiendelea kupanuliwa maeneo mengine.

Seneta ataka mikakati kuwekwa kuimarisha Elimu na Afya



Seneta Tom Ojienda

Seneta Tom Ojienda ameitaka Serikali kuangazia kwa kina hali ya elimu chini ya Mtaala wa CBC katika maeneo yaliyo pembezoni pamoja na changamoto sugu katika sekta ya afya

kwenye Kaunti ya Kisumu.

Kupitia maombi ya taarifa aliyoyawasilisha Bungeni, Seneta Ojienda aliitaka Kamati ya Elimu kuchunguza utekelezaji wa CBC katika maeneo yaliyotengwa kijiografia, kiuchumi au kijamii, huku akiitaka Kamati ya Afya kufuatilia kwa karibu hali ya miundombinu ya Afya ya Umma katika Kaunti ya Kisumu.

Katika maombi ya Kauli kuhusu elimu, Seneta huyo aliitaka Kamati ya Elimu ya Seneti kutoa maelezo kuhusu maendeleo yaliyopatikana katika utekelezaji wa CBC kwenye maeneo yaliyotengwa, ikiwemo upatikanaji wa vifaa vya kujifunzia na hali ya miundombinu.

Aliitaka pia Serikali ya Kitaifa kwa kushirikiana na serikali za Kaunti kuhakikisha walimu wanapokea mafunzo

na msaada wa kutosha katika utekelezaji wa mtaala huo mpya. Aidha, alitaka Bunge la Seneti kufahamishwa kuhusu hatua zinazochukuliwa kuhakikisha usawa wa fursa kwa wasichana, watoto wenye ulemavu na makundi mengine yaliyo hatarini.

Kwenye ombi jingine, Seneta huyo alitaka taarifa kuhusu hali ya sekta ya afya akieleza wasiwasi kuhusu hali duni ya huduma za afya katika Kaunti ya Kisumu.

Aliitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Jackson Mandago kuchunguza hali ya vituo vyote vya afya ya umma, upatikanaji wa huduma, uwepo wa wahudumu wa afya na vifaa tiba.

Aidha Kiongozi huyo anaitaka Kamati hiyo kubaini sababu za miradi iliyokwama ya ujenzi au ukarabati wa hospitali na

mipango iliyopo kuikamilisha. Vilevile, alisisitiza haja ya Serikali ya Kaunti ya Kisumu kuimarisha miundombinu ya afya, upatikanaji wa dawa muhimu, huduma za maabara na huduma za dharura.

Seneta huyo pia alitaka kufahamu ikiwa Serikali ya Kaunti imeingia kwenye mikataba au ushirikiano wowote na washirika wa maendeleo kwa ajili ya kuimarisha sekta ya afya.

Seneta Ojienda kadhalika alisisitiza kuwa maelezo yatakayotolewa na Kamati husika yatasaidia kuweka sera bora na kupanga ugavi wa rasilimali kwa njia ya haki, akiongeza kuwa Seneti ina jukumu la kuhakikisha haki za raia zinalindwa kote nchini.



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