



The SENATE

Safeguarding Devolution

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Weekly

Committee: Compensate all time injustices

The Security Committee proposes that a draft Bill seeking compensation for violations committed by colonialists should include injustices committed by successive regimes.

The Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations says victims of state sponsored terror should be compensated as injustices did not end with colonialism.

The Committee argues time has come for the country to confront its ugly past by addressing human rights violations whether perpetrated by colonialists or the post-independence regimes. Such violations, says the Committee, should be addressed in a broader sense that is more inclusive. It argues that healing of the nation requires recognition that state-sanctioned violations occurred in all periods, including the years after the British rule in 1963.

“Historical injustices did not end with the colonial period, they are still with us today,” observed Senator Fatuma Dullo, the chair of the Committee. She made the comments during the pre-publication scrutiny of the draft Colonial Reparations Bill, 2025.

The draft Bill is seeking to put in place a legal framework for addressing injustices which were committed against the Kenyan people during the colonial era. It establishes the Colonial Reparations Council whose role will be to advise the President on compensation and negotiate with former colonial powers for compensation funds.

“This Bill should not be confined to the colonial era but should encompass the broader scope of pain endured by Kenyans through successive regimes,” observed Senator Dullo.

The draft Bill, which is sponsored by Senator Agnes Kavindu, confers power on the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) to undertake investigations on colonial injustices and make appropriate recommendations.

The legislative proposal, once enacted,



Senator Agnes Kavindu, the initiator of the draft Bill, and Senator Fatuma Dullo.

will ensure that there is a clear process for addressing injustices which were committed during the colonial era, and that funds are available for compensation which shall comprise monies received from former colonialists.

The proposal also establishes a Colonial Reparations Fund to be administered by a Board of Trustees.

Clause 5 of the Bill mandates the Council to advise the President on the actions to be taken to compensate the dependents of persons who suffered from colonial injustices.

The Council is expected to prepare and submit reports on colonial injustices and its effects on the county governments and submit them to the Senate. It shall also publish the report of the measures taken to compensate the dependents of persons who suffered colonial injustices

and table a copy to parliament.

Clause 6 provides that in carrying out the research on the economic impact of colonial injustices, the Council shall consult the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis.

“The Council shall use the information obtained from the research to negotiate with the former colonialists for appropriate reparations that will take into account the time value of money and the economic set back to the gross domestic product occasioned by colonisation.

In carrying out investigations, the draft Bill says the Commission could initiate the probe on the colonial injustices or request any person, including any government department such particulars, documents and information regarding an investigation as may be necessary.

The draft Bill further mandates the

Commission to place a notice in writing, invite any person to appear before it and produce documents or objects in the possession, custody or under the control which are relevant to the investigation.

The Commission will also be required to maintain a register of persons found to have suffered colonial injustices and their dependants.

Any person will have the right to lodge a complaint to the Commission, should the draft bill be enacted into law. Senator Kavindu says any claim alleging colonial injustice shall be a claim attributable to colonial orders and laws and actions of persons working for or under the directions of the colonial administrations.

Such a claim will only be admissible if it is verifiable that the act complained of resulted in colonial injustice to the ancestor of the claimant, a notice of

the claim has been published inviting objections and the claim remains unaddressed by any other institution.

The complaint shall contain the name, address and location of the claimant, the grounds and the description of the colonial injustice and the period when it occurred and the resultant effect.

The claim will also contain the number and particulars of the witness they wish to call, previous attempts made to resolve the claim and the suggested

remedy.

On conclusion of investigations, the Commission may recommend compensation from the Colonial Reparations Fund, symbolic reparation, satisfaction, cultural restitution or the issuance of an apology.

The Commission is also required to forward its decision to the Colonial Reparations Council for action, publish the decision and recommendations in the gazette and on its website, and submit

annual reports to Parliament.

A person dissatisfied with a decision of the Commission may appeal to the High Court, within 28 days of the publication of the decision.

The Committee expressed concern in Clause 3 of the draft Bill in which Senator Kavindu limits the scope of the proposed law to violations which occurred between June 15, 1895 to December 31, 1963.

The Committee cautioned the

lawmaker against limiting the violations to the colonial era. They advised the Senator to amend the clause, arguing that many Kenyans continue to face persecution, marginalisation and violence after independence.

Senator Kavindu urged her colleagues to back the legislative proposal as an effort to deliver long-overdue justice to the victims of state sponsored oppression.

Senators support e-cigarette regulation



Senator Ledama ole Kina



Senator Aaron Cheruiyot



Senator Catherine Mumma



Senator Veronica Maina

Senators have supported a proposed law that seeks to control the sale, advertisement and consumption of e-cigarette, saying that the law is timely as it responds to the challenges of the time.

The lawmakers expressed concern that e-cigars are being sold online undeterred and uncontrolled, even to minors, even as they put a spirited push to have the law enacted as soon as possible.

Senator Catherine Mumma said electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, have emerged as a popular alternative to traditional tobacco cigarettes.

She has however, argued that this often has erroneously been promoted as a safer option or as a route to stopping smoking.

“These are claims that are not scientifically proven. These devices simulate smoking and deliver nicotine through the vapour of liquid nicotine, rather than the combustion of tobacco leaves,” she said, while moving the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The Bill seeks to amend The Tobacco Control Act to provide for the regulation of electronic nicotine delivery systems, including electronic cigarettes and related products in Kenya.

E-cigarettes were introduced in Kenya in the years 2017 to 2018.

The Bill seeks to update the definition section to ensure that new terms that relate to the electronic cigarettes and related products are defined and included in the law that guides on tobacco.

It also proposes to address the issue of prohibition of additives that are deceptively marketed as having implied

health benefits or reduced health risks, engage with issues connected to suitable packaging requirements, health warnings and labelling, as well as advertising and promotion.

There are different types and selections of e-cigarettes, including vape pens, bars, e-hookahs, mods, tanks, and so on, all of which are classified as Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS).

E-cigarettes work by heating an e-liquid containing nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerin, and flavours, which then produce an aerosol that is inhaled.

Senator Mumma, who is the sponsor of the Bill, said studies have detected volatile organic compounds, heavy metals and other toxicants in the emissions of e-cigarettes.

She explained that for products sold in Kenya, the labelling is done only on the outer packets and is extremely minimal when it comes to the actual documents.

There are a wide range of health risks associated with e-cigarettes use and vaping. For instance, on the short-term health outcomes for first-time smokers who have never used combustion tobacco products, numerous studies suggest that vaping may increase the risk of developing chronic lung disease.

In the long term, it also worsens bronchitis, asthma, it can also raise blood pressure and it can also suppress the immune system. In the long run, apart from being highly addictive, early exposure to nicotine can affect learning attention, memory and it poses social problems among young people. Protecting the young people and minors in this country is a constitutional

“Eight years down the line, with the

introduction of e-cigarettes in Kenya, the Ministry of Health has done nothing to put in place regulations to guide trade in these e-cigarettes, the labelling and regulating on how this operates,” he said.

Senator Veronica Maina, who seconded the Bill, fell short of calling for the total ban of e-cigarette but expressed optimism that if enacted, the Bill will ensure that products are not sold online, especially the ones that have nicotine.

“Nicotine has cancer causing elements such as ammonia, chromium, formaldehyde, nickel, PH adjusters and nicotine salt. They are all cancer-causing elements that should not even be consumed by a person who truly understands what is contained in a cigarette,” she said.

Senator Ledama ole Kina supported the Bill but called for strict regulations of the tobacco industry in the country. “We must tighten the regulations. I am of the opinion that we increase the age of smoking from 18 to 21, such that if you are 21 years old, it is the only time that you can be allowed to buy a cigarette,” he said, adding he favoured warnings on packages rather than a ban on advertisement.

“Warnings are better than trying to say there is no online advertisement. When you say there is no online advertisement, there will be IP addresses from all over the world. You cannot stop them. The youth will still be able to get into.”

The lawmaker challenged the House that It is important to balance the economic concerns as well as the health concerns, adding that it is important to focus on preventive rather than curative.

Senator Aaron Cheruiyot supported the Bill while admitting there are drugs and substances finding their way into the hands of children and the society in the form of e-cigarettes, which he linked to lack of a proper regulatory framework to govern the space.

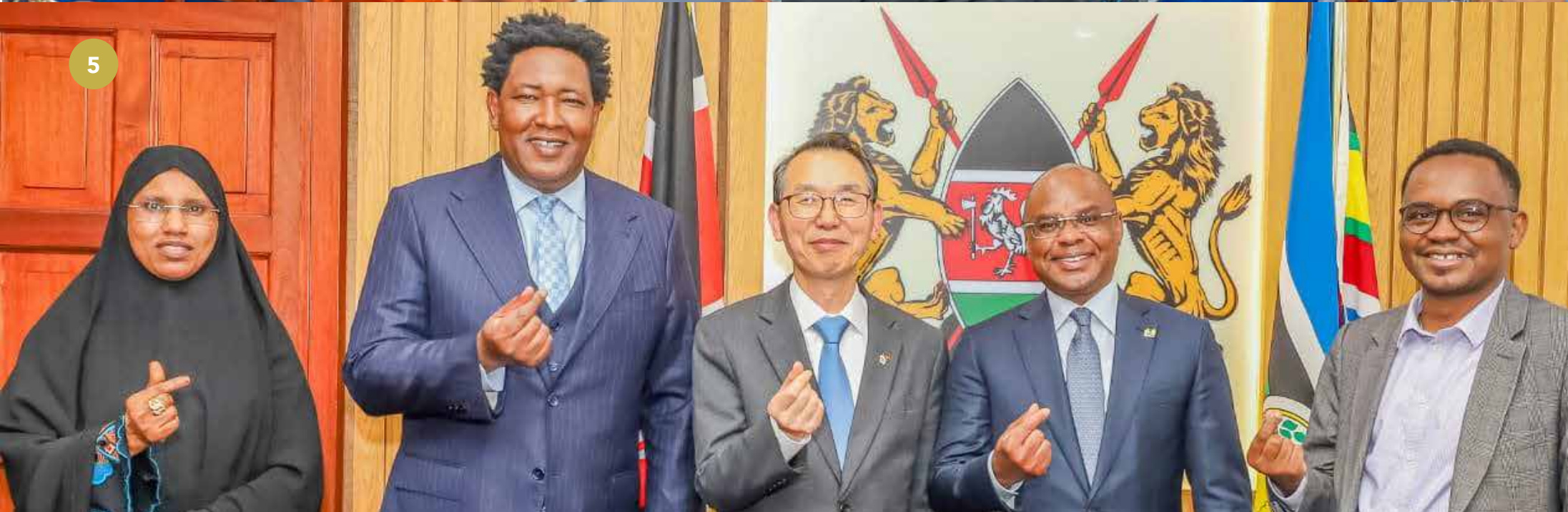
“These cool things that young people carry in their handbags and pockets may not be easily recognised as substances that can harm their health. They take them in a nice, easy and relaxed way in public fora and in places where, ideally, they should not be taking them,” he said.

Senator Samson Cherarkey supported the push by NACADA that the consumption age of alcohol in this country should be raised to 21 years.

“I propose to amend this Bill to consider that the smoking of e-cigarettes or any other form of smoking should be raised to 21years, as has been proposed by NACADA, so that we can have a society that exists and is well-structured.”

Senator Tabitha Mutinda said the Bill should ban flavours in nicotine arguing that the e-cigarette should retain its traditional nicotine. “The e-cigarette should have that original smell of the nicotine so that it becomes easy to identify when the young people are smoking this product,” she said.

Senator William Kisang proposed that when online applications are developed on the sale of either alcohol or cigarettes and e-cigarettes, there should be a mandatory age field. He said this will ensure that if somebody does not have an ID or is below 18 years, the system should not allow them to procure the products online.



1. Speaker Amason Kingi hands a gift to His Excellency Kang Hyung-shik, the South Korean Ambassador to Kenya, who paid him a courtesy call.
2. The South Korean Ambassador to Kenya Kang Hyung-shik signs a visitors' book in the Office of the Senate Speaker as Speaker Kingi looks on.
3. Speaker Kingi shares a light moment with South Korean Ambassador to Kenya Kang Hyung-shik during the meeting.
4. Speaker Kingi presides over the meeting with South Korean Ambassador to Kenya, Kang Hyung-shik. The meeting was also attended by Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina, Senator Raphael Chimera and Senator Mariam Omar (left).
5. Speaker Amason Kingi and South Korean Ambassador to Kenya, Kang Hyung-shik pose for a photo with Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina, Senator Raphael Chimera (right) and Senator Mariam Omar.

Education Committee on ECDEs

The Committee on Education has in the last two weeks hosted County Governors as part of its effort in ensuring seamless implementation of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) programmes and Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in the counties.

The meetings form part of the Committee's ongoing oversight efforts as it continues to assess the progress and effectiveness of ECDE and VTC initiatives across all counties.

The meeting with Muranga Governor Irungu Kangata, who was scheduled to appear last week, was called off after the Committee was informed of the Governor's apology. The meeting was rescheduled to a later date.

A similar meeting with Migori Coun-

ty Ochillo Ayacko saw the committee receive updates on the status of implementation of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) programs and Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in the county.

Following the Governor's presentation, the Committee—led by Chairperson Senator Betty Montet—reviewed the submissions and after deliberations with members present, resolved that further details and clarifications were necessary to enable a more comprehensive and meaningful discussion.

The Committee directed that the session be rescheduled to a later date to allow the county team adequate time to provide the additional information required.



Senator Betty Montet



Governor Ochillo Ayacko

Labour Committee summons CS Mbadi

The Committee on Labour and Social Welfare has summoned the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi even as it rejected appearances by junior officials. The summon follows last week's session where Principal Secretary Cyrell Wagunda Odede was sent away, with Senators insisting only the CS can address the long-standing grievances raised in multiple petitions.

The Committee, chaired by Senator Julius Murgor, expressed deep frustration over the National Treasury's continued absence in resolving issues relating to unpaid pensions for retired Kenya Railways workers and former KEMRI staff, the non-remittance of death and disability benefits for public servants and a delayed one-off honorarium for former councillors.

"We now understand that this will continue to drag because decisions are made at Cabinet level," said Senator Murgor while issuing the summons. "We would like to have the CS appear so that these matters can be concluded. Otherwise, the longer it drags, the more we are seen not to be performers."

The Committee resolved to reschedule the meeting for Monday, August 4, 2025, warning that future excuses, such as Cabinet meetings often held on Tuesdays, would no longer be tolerated.

Senator Seki Kanar ole Lenku questioned the rationale behind continuing the meeting without the CS present. "If the CS is not here, then the petition will not be met. I don't know the reason why



A session of the Labour Committee during the meeting with officials from the National Treasury.



Senator Julius Murgor, the chair of the Committee, and Senator Crystal Asige.

we should keep the PS. Let the CS appear with the PS and deal with the matter conclusively," he said.

Vice-Chairperson Crystal Asige argues that the continued absence of the CS is unacceptable. "We have called upon the CS for many matters under his

mandate, and he keeps failing to show up. This issue has dragged on for years. We need strong decisions and accountability," she said.

Senator Enock Wambua was blunt in his criticism of the CS, a former Member of Parliament and committee chair. "He

understands Parliament better than some of us. He even pushed for legislation to protect retirees. But now that he's in the Executive, he's running away from his own vision. Every time he's required to appear, he claims to be attending Cabinet; appearing before Parliament is a constitutional requirement—not a favour. If the committee has decided on a date, the CS must honour it. Let us not weaken the authority of this House by offering him options," said Senator Wambua.

During the session, committee members agreed to allow the petitioners to present brief statements, but insisted no further discussion would take place in the absence of the CS. "We don't want to waste the time of retirees who travelled to be here," said the Chair. "Let us meet the CS on Monday, August 4, so we avoid the Tuesday Cabinet excuse."

The decision comes after several rescheduled meetings and unfulfilled invitations sent to the National Treasury over the past two years. Multiple letters, including those related to the Kenya Railways pensioners and the KEMRI retirees, have gone unanswered or were met with requests to postpone.

The committee's move signals a renewed push for institutional accountability and a commitment to resolving issues affecting thousands of retirees and families awaiting rightful benefits.

Should the CS fail to appear on the scheduled date, the committee hinted at pursuing further parliamentary action to compel attendance and enforce compliance.

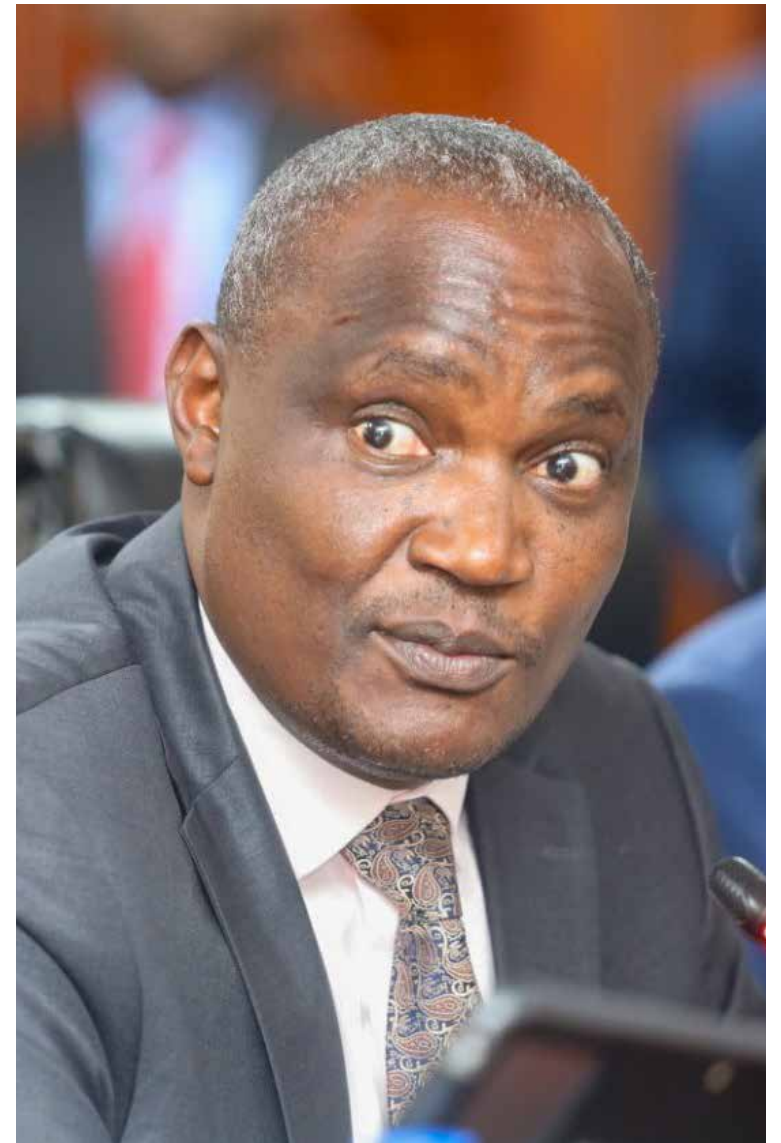
Public debt must be within the law, Committee tells CS Mbadi



Senator Richard Onyonka makes his submission during the meeting. Others are from left, Senator Shakila Abdala, Senator Eddy Oketch and Senator Tabitha Mutinda.



Finance Committee chairperson Ali Roba and Senator Tabitha Mutinda follow the proceedings with CS John Mbadi. On the right is a Parliamentary official.



National Treasury CS John Mbadi.

The Finance and Budget Committee has directed the National Treasury to take all the necessary measures and ensure the country's fiscal health meets the requirements of the public debt to GDP ratio, emphasising the need to keep it at 55 per cent by 2029 as per the law.

The Committee further wants the Ministry to provide the Senate with a schedule on the strategic roadmap, detailing the expected ratio each year and progress made in reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio.

"You should work towards putting money in the pockets of the people. However, this will only happen after a lot of other processes have been accomplished," said Senator Ali Roba, the chair of the committee, who warned CS John Mbadi against fearing criticism.

"The Government has a country to run. Do what you believe is right to steer the country forward," counselled Senator Roba.

The CS had appeared before the Committee to respond to Senators' concerns regarding the soaring public debt-to-

GDP ratio.

Public debt currently stands at Sh11.49 trillion as of April 2025. The debt comprises Sh6.16 trillion domestic debt, which is made up of Sh5.02 trillion in treasury bonds, Sh0.95 trillion in Treasury Bills, and Sh0.19 trillion in other domestic debts.

The external debt stands at Sh5.33 trillion, comprising Sh2.94 trillion in multilateral debt – with World Bank concessional loans being Sh1.86 trillion – Sh1.10 trillion in bilateral debt – China accounting for Sh0.652 trillion – and Sh1.29 trillion in commercial debt.

The total sum represents 63.8 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product in present value terms, contrary to the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, which states that public debt and obligations must be maintained at a sustainable level.

The PFM Act sets the country's debt anchor at 55 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product in present value terms, with a tolerance of plus or minus 5 per cent from the anchor, which means that the debt-to-GDP ratio should not exceed

60 per cent.

The Act gives the National Treasury CS up to October 2028 to ensure the Present Value (PV) of debt to GDP is within the 55 per cent benchmark.

Besides, the regulation provides that when the public debt exceeds the set limit, the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury must provide a written explanation to Parliament detailing the circumstances that led to the breach and present a time-bound remedial plan to address the situation and bring the debt back within the sustainable range.

CS Mbadi informed the Senate that the Ministry has adopted a multi-year fiscal consolidation strategy aimed at reducing debt vulnerabilities without compromising the growth of the Kenyan economy.

The implementation of the fiscal consolidation plan aims at slowing the yearly increase in public debt and is underpinned by measures meant to broaden the revenue base and rationalise expenditures in order to reduce the fiscal deficits.

"Implementation of the reforms on

revenue and expenditure is expected to result in a reduction in the fiscal deficit from 5.3 per cent of GDP in the 2023/24 financial year to 2.7 per cent of GDP in the 2028/29 financial year.

The Ministry also intends to implement a mix of tax administration and tax policy measures as approved by Parliament in the 2025 Budget Policy Statement (BPS), which will boost revenue collection in the medium term, thus supporting the fiscal consolidation efforts.

The Ministry is in the process of implementing revenue reforms in tax policy and revenue administration geared towards expanding the tax base and improving tax compliance.

The focus is to efficiently collect revenue and seal leakages through automation and digitalisation at Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA). The Ministry is also rationalising expenditure and enhancing transparency and accountability in public spending by enforcing the use of an end-to-end e-procurement system to maximise value for money and enhance transparency in the procurement process.

Committee seeks truce between KUTRRH, students

The Committee on Health has engaged with the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC), the Kenyatta University Council, and the Board of Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital (KUTRRH) to find a lasting solution over the stand off between the management of KUTRRH by medical students from Kenyatta University.

KUTRRH Board Chairman Kembi Gitura affirmed the Committee's concerns, noting that the hospital's legal standing as outlined in Legal Notice No. 4 of 2019.

Mr Kembi expressed deep frustration over the current situation where KU medical students are forced to seek training at alternative facilities such as Kiambu and Thika Level 5 Hospitals, despite the proximity and capacity of KUTRRH. He acknowledged the need to correct this trajectory, noting that earlier cohorts of KU graduates had succeeded without access to the hospital but that improved access could produce even better medical professionals.

In a bid to resolve the matter, both the Kenyatta University Council and the KUTRRH Board requested more time up to September 2025 to finalise implementation plans and report back to the Committee.



The meeting between the Committee on Health and KUTRRH management.

Issuing clear directions, Senator Jackson Mandago, the chair of the Committee, urged both institutions to demonstrate responsible leadership and enhanced oversight, cautioning the respective chairs to monitor their teams closely amid signs of distraction and internal competition that could derail progress.

The Chair acknowledged the historical and bureaucratic tensions that have created the current impasse, particularly those originating from the gazette notice

that established KUTRRH as a separate entity. He called on both parties to move beyond past disputes and focus on solutions that will enable the students' full access to the facility.

While recognising the legal and operational autonomy of both Kenyatta University and KUTRRH, the Chair underscored the need for the hospital to allocate adequate space and grant the University's College of Health Sciences the administrative freedom necessary to



Senator Jackson Mandago, the chair, Health Committee.

utilize it fully without unnecessary constraints.

The Committee expressed support for the recent spirit of collaboration and urged swift action, noting that future evaluations would be based on actual, visible progress. The Senate Committee expects the Vice-Chancellor, the Hospital CEO, and the Joint Implementation Committee to submit a comprehensive update by September, regardless of whether a formal invitation is issued.

OVERSIGHT

Governor Sakaja and Sh1 1 B uncollected debt question

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja faced intense questioning from a Senate committee over a staggering Sh11 billion in uncollected debt and massive physical water losses plaguing the Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company.

During a session at Bunge Tower, Senators confronted the governor with audit findings that reveal deep operational and financial challenges within his administration's management of the city's water supply.

The County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee, led by Senator Godfrey Osotsi, says that 51 percent of all water produced, valued at Sh8.6 billion, is lost before reaching consumers. "Auditors say 51 percent of water produced—worth Sh8.6 billion—simply vanished. How do we explain this?" Osotsi asked. The Governor attributed the crisis to aging infrastructure inherited by his government, explaining that Sh9.2 billion has been allocated in the 2024/25 budget for repairs. "We inher-



Senator Eddy Oketch during the meeting between CPISFC and Governor John Sakaja (right).

ited antiquated pipes and deferred capital works. We have now ring-fenced Sh9.2 billion... for meter sealing, leak detection and pipeline rehabilitation," the governor stated.

Beyond the physical losses, the committee pressed Governor Sakaja on the Sh11 billion in customer debt that has remained outstanding for over 480 days.

"Sh11 billion sits in receivables over 480 days.

Demand letters alone won't cut it. Where is the recovery plan?" Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna questioned. Governor Sakaja outlined a new strategy involving two new revenue regions, a GIS-enabled billing platform, and assigning legal teams to pursue all debts

exceeding Sh1 million. Concerns over the utility's wage bill were also raised, with Senator Eddy Oketch noting that staff salaries consume 65 percent of revenue, nearly double the 35 percent legal limit. The Governor Sakaja said cost-cutting measures, including a hiring freeze and a new tariff proposal sent to the regulator, are projected to reduce this ratio to 45 percent within a year.



Health Committee inspects facilities in Kilifi County



Members of the Health Committee inspect drugs in the Pharmacy at the Kilifi County Referral Hospital during their inspection tour.



Health Committee in the theatre.



Senator David Wakoli (left), Senator Joseph Githuku and Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo speak to the officer in charge of Kilifi County Referral Hospital.



Senator David Wakoli and other Senators in the laundry area of the Hospital.

As part of its oversight role, the Health Committee undertook a visit to Mtwapa Level 4 Hospital and Kilifi County Referral Hospital in line with its mandate. The purpose was to evaluate the state of healthcare service delivery, infrastructure and resource utilisation in public health facilities.

During the visit, the Committee acknowledged significant progress made by the County Government of Kilifi, under the leadership of Governor Gedion Mung'aro, in strengthening the county's health sector. The lawmakers commended the recruitment and deployment of over 209 health professionals including nurses and medical officers across various facilities which they noted as a step

toward improving access and quality of care.

In addition, the Committee recognised ongoing investments in health infrastructure, including the construction of new outpatient wings. These developments have contributed to decongesting facilities and enhancing the overall patient experience.

"These developments represent a job well done and are a step in the right direction toward equitable healthcare for all residents," said Senator David Wakoli, who led the team.

Despite the progress, the Committee expressed serious concern over delayed disbursement of funds from the Social Health Authority (SHA) programme,

which has impeded service delivery. The delays have left facilities unable to clear pending bills or meet key operational needs.

"As the Senate, we will engage the Ministry of Health and SHA management to ensure timely and consistent funding to the counties is prioritized," added Senator Wakoli.

The Committee also raised alarm over persistent human resource challenges. While many facilities are run by committed nurses and medical trainees, the absence of senior medical personnel who are essential for leadership and clinical oversight has negatively impacted operations.

Additionally, the lawmakers observed

cases of staff absenteeism without proper documentation, as well as disturbing instances such as the presence of expired medication in all the facilities. Concerns were also raised over weak leadership structures within the health centres.

The Committee urged swift and firm action to address gaps in accountability and professionalism.

"Health workers who neglect their responsibilities must face appropriate disciplinary action to safeguard the integrity of the healthcare system," emphasised Senator Wakoli.

Committee faults Ministry over internet connectivity



Senator Allan Chesang, chair, ICT Committee.



Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo.

The Committee on Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) has raised the alarm over the Ministry of ICT's lack of visibility, poor project execution, and failure to address the dire state of connectivity in marginalised and high-risk areas.

The Committee reprimanded Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo and his team over delays in the Universal Service Fund (USF) rollout and lack of public communication. The chair of the Committee Allan Chesang minced no words in his critique of the Ministry and the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), pointing out that projects funded by USF are shrouded in silence while private companies enjoy undue credit.

"Why are you not doing any public communication about USF? No visibility, no branding of sites. Private tower

companies seem to be taking credit for what the USF funds," Senator Chesang stated firmly, citing failures in the school connectivity programme, questioning why schools that received free WiFi from the CA were now subscribing to private internet providers.

"Some schools had the internet only on the day of launch. Today, they've moved to Safaricom. What happened to the five years of free internet the government promised?" Senator Chesang asked.

Senator James Lomenen indicted the Ministry's neglect in frontier counties where lack of network coverage translates into lives lost. "People are dying in Turkana because there is no network. Security officers cannot respond to attacks in time. The invaders from Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda exploit our

weak signal. How can the government protect its people without communication?" asked Senator Lomenen.

The lawmaker reminded the Committee of a promise CS Kabogo made earlier to improve coverage within six months, noting with dismay that there was no evidence of any progress. "You stood in the chamber and assured us that our network would match Uganda's in six months. Yet today, when you enter Turkana, the first signal you get is MTN Uganda. Safaricom disappears," he said.

Senator Lomenen challenged the Ministry to table concrete evidence of work done in critical hotspots like Todonyang, Lokiriama, and Napak, warning that vague commitments and endless planning could not protect Kenyan lives.

CS Kabogo defended the Ministry's record, noting that work was underway

in phases and that the government had now deployed emergency funds through the Ministry of Interior to cover urgent areas.

"I promised six months, and I will keep my word. We are using Interior Ministry resources to reach high-risk zones because the budget is insufficient. The President has given direct orders that Kenya must be secure and Kenya must communicate," CS Kabogo said.

Still, the CS admitted that the Ministry had fallen short in communicating USF activities to the public, blaming policy disarray and assuring the committee that new guidelines had been approved in Cabinet to improve visibility.

Senate to sit in Busia, finally

After a one-year delay, the Senate Mashinani will finally be held in Busia County between October 6 and 10, 2025 following the resolution of the House last week.

The event, which is held annually, was supposed to have been held in September 2024 but was pushed back by the Senate Business Committee due to budgetary constraints.

On Tuesday, the House adopted the resolution of the Senate Business Committee (SBC), paving the way for the event to take place in western Kenya for the first time ever.

The Motion was moved by Majority Whip Boni Khalwale who urged Busia Governor Paul Otuoma to take advantage of the East African Trade Protocols along with the governors of Siaya, Kisumu and Homa Bay counties to open up the Blue Economy.

Senator Okiya Omtatah, who is the area senator, welcomed the decision, noting that it will be an important experience for the Senate to go and sit in Busia town and also visit the countryside.

“That will give Senators an opportunity to sample what this country has in that part of the world. After which, they will understand the impact of politics of marginalisation on communities,” he said.

The lawmaker informed the House that Busia County has facilities that are not available in the entire region, citing the prehistoric cave paintings in Kakapel that were done by pre-historic human beings.

“I hope the Senate will go there to see it. Unfortunately, the area is hardly developed and utilised. If you look at similar sites in Namibia, which I think is the nearest in comparison, you will not believe what is happening there.”

Busia County has a big part of Lake Victoria and the lawmaker invited the House to visit Samia and Bunyala regions to see how neglected water transport is, arguing that it is a herculean task for people to move from one island to another.

“They will also witness the silting that has brought a lot of flooding to the region thus the rivers do not flow into the lake. We will also be able to look at hardship areas in Busia; Bunyala, Samia and Teso North.

He said the areas have been indicated as hardship areas yet people who are sent to work there are not paid hardship allowances. The schools also do not get those hardship allowances.



Senator Edwin Sifuna



Senator Ali Roba



Senator Boni Khalwale



Senator Okiya Omtatah.

“Senators will see the kind of challenges we have in a land of huge potential. They will also see the destruction of wetlands as a result of sugarcane farming.

The Senator also invited the lawmakers to visit the Yala Swamp, which is about 17,000 hectares with 11,000 hectares in Busia County and 6,000 hectares in Siaya County. Unfortunately, he told the House, all decisions governing the swamp are largely made in Siaya County with Busia County left holding the short end of the stick.

Kenya has for a long time pushed for a long time for the East African Community (EAC) to be actualised. Senator Ledama ole Kina said being a border town, Busia County will give the legislators an opportunity to see the importance of actualising the EAC or the East African Federation (EAF).

Senator Ali Roba said the role of creating awareness is the responsibility of the Senate and urged his colleagues to

ensure that the country knows the roles and responsibilities of the Senate.

Senator Godfrey Osotsi challenged the lawmakers, as they sit in counties, to do a proper engagement with the locals. “My expectation is that every Committee should come up with a programme on how to engage the locals so that they can give solutions to the people of Busia. For example, the issue of traffic in Malaba and even in Busia itself, the Committee on Roads and Transportation and Housing should prepare to go and address that issue on the ground,” he told the House.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Senator Edwin Sifuna who said asked the House leadership to make it possible for our committees to spend more time on the ground.

“We should spend more time on the ground to audit projects and the performance of the Governors because that is what we were elected to do.”

The Mashinani initiative is part of the

continuous effort of enhancing the Senate’s working relationship with the counties and interaction with the public, while also giving the legislators an opportunity to assess the state of devolution in the county.

It seeks to promote the role, work and enhance public awareness regarding the Business of the Senate and Parliament in general; highlight existing and new opportunities for engagement in the legislative process and develop and strengthen partnerships at the county level of government.

The Initiative also provides an opportunity to members and staff of county assemblies to learn and share best practices with Senators and parliamentary officers.

Previous sittings of The Senate outside Nairobi were held in Uasin Gishu, Kitui and Turkana counties in September 2018, 2019 and 2023 respectively.

Bunge FC trains with Harambee Stars



Senator Eddy Oketch and other members of Bunge FC when they visited the Harambee Stars camp ahead of the kick off of the CHAN tournament.



Senator Oketch and Hon Otiende Amolo, the Bunge FC team captain.



Senator Eddy Oketch (left) and other members of Bunge FC with the Harambee Stars technical bench during the visit.

Senator Eddie Oketch has called on Harambee Stars players to approach the CHAN tournament with passion, purpose, and excellence, reminding them to use the opportunity to chase their dreams and make Kenya proud.

“Football is a game, so go there to play well, chase your dreams and ensure that you give your best while at it,” said Senator Oketch, who was part of the Bunge FC delegation that visited the national team on Wednesday for a morale-boosting training session.

Bunge FC—which includes members from both the National Assembly and the Senate—offered words of encourage-

ment and presented a Sh1 million token to support the team’s CHAN campaign.

“We have come here first as Members of Bunge football club, and second as MPs to encourage the Stars and their technical team,” said Hon Otiende Amolo, the Bunge FC captain.

“If there is anything pending, we will push as MPs to make sure our country delivers both as host and team. We also intend to attend all their games in Kenya and beyond in solidarity.”

Hon Jack Wamboka officially handed over the cash donation, emphasising the MPs’ commitment to standing with the team: “We are here to encourage you and

to ensure that everything is in place as you prepare for this important task.”

Hon Moses Kirima led the team in prayer and added a motivational message: “Many international scouts will be in attendance, so put your best foot forward as they will be observing your games.”

Hon Julius Mawathe praised the team’s determination and called on fans to show up in support: “You’ve made it this far because of your resilience and determination to fly the National flag.”

Football Kenya Federation CEO Harold Ndege expressed his appreciation to the lawmakers for the thoughtful gesture. “The team is in great shape to play, and

we encourage Kenyan fans to turn up in large numbers and cheer on the team.”

Team captain About Omar, speaking on behalf of the players, thanked the MPs and promised an energetic performance: “We are all ready for Sunday, and we shall do our best to represent Kenya in the entire tournament. We are calling on our fans to come and support us in large numbers.”

The Harambee Stars will don red jerseys during CHAN, and all Kenyans are encouraged to purchase and wear the team colours in solidarity.

Committee to probe KNH security status



Senator Edwin Sifuna



Senator Beth Syengo



Senator Enock Wambua



Senator Wakili Sigei

The Committee on Health will in the next 30 days present to the House a detailed report on the status of security at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), country's top referral hospital.

KNH is reeling from a major scandal following the killing of two patients at the facility in a span of five months in circumstances that remain controversial.

The July 11 killing of Edward Maingi Ndegwa, was the second killing this year, raising concern over the general security of patients at the Hospital. Mr Gilbert Kinyua, another patient, was found dead in February.

During the debate on Statements, members of the Committee on Health expressed concern at the state at the facility but were quick to assure the House that security at the Hospital is a matter of high-priority.

"It is not only a matter of security, but also the condition of the hospital itself. It is deplorable. It is shameful," said Senator Tabitha Mutinda, a member of the Committee, while contributing to a State-

ment sought by Senator Edwin Sifuna.

"In less than 30 days, the Committee will give detailed information on what happened because security at KNH is a priority."

Senator Sifuna argues that the killings raise grave concerns about the adequacy of the security protocols at the KNH and other public health institutions besides exposing broader safety gaps that put both patients and medical personnel at risk while raising the disturbing possibility that serial criminals may be operating from within public spaces.

Senator Sifuna wants the Committee on Health to provide to the House the number and the nature of deployment of security personnel across all the wards and sections of KNH, the number of patients who have been discharged, but remain at the KNH, the reason for their continued detention and duration of their stay.

The lawmaker wants the Committee to provide the House with existing security protocols in public hospitals con-

cerning discharged patients who remain within the facilities, including the Ministry of Health's plan in addressing the continued detention of patients due to unpaid medical bills.

Senator Catherine Mumma pointed the accusing finger at the national Government. "The national Government is in charge of fewer than 10 health facilities. It is disturbing that KNH would be in such a state, that it would be so unsafe that people can be murdered inside the institution," she said, adding that the physical condition of the Hospital is dangerous even to patients.

"I have forwarded a video taken by a patient in that hospital to the Forum of Senators to highlight the deplorable conditions, yet the facility is allocated approximately Sh500 million annually for maintenance. It receives a higher budget than some counties combined. We need to call the hospital administration to order. This is an urgent issue that the Committee on Health must take seriously."

Describing the situation at the facility,

Senator Enock Wambua said something should be done to salvage the image of the institution. "It is the biggest teaching and referral hospital in Kenya, where patients are supposed to feel safe and secure. But they are now living under fear because they do not know who is the next to be attacked within the facility," he said.

Senator Wakili Sigei said the facility itself is not fit to be world-class as the management claims even though it is getting allocation running into billions of shillings which the public cannot see where it goes to.

Senator Beth Syengo said there are people who should be held responsible because they are supposed to ensure that patients, workers and even those who are walking in and out of the facility are safe.

"It is unfortunate that patients are getting killed where they have gone to seek medication and to get well again and then they die from that."

Seneta Onyonka ataka maelezo kuhusu SHA

Seneta Richard Onyonka ameitaka Serikali kupitia wizara na mamla-ka husika kutoa maelezo ya kina kufuatia madai ya ukosefu wa uwazi na matumizi yenye utata ya mabilioni ya pesa katika sekta ya afya pamoja na miundombinu jijini Nairobi.

Akizungumza Bungeni, Seneta Onyonka ameitaka Kamati ya Afya kuchunguza kwa kina sababu zilizosababisha kusimamishwa kwa huduma katika hospitali nyingi za umma na za binafsi baada ya kuanza kutekelezwa kwa Mamlaka ya Bima ya Afya ya Jamii (SHA). Kwa mujibu wa Seneta huyo, Wizara ya Afya imezilaumu hospitali hizo kwa kushiriki udanganyifu wa malipo maradufu, hali iliyochangia kusitishwa kwa malipo yao.

“Tangu SHA ianze kutumika, kume-kuwa na hali ya sintofahamu. Watu wanahangaika, hospitali zimefungwa na wananchi maskini ndio wanaoumia. Tunahitaji uwazi kuhusu kigezo kilichotumika kufunga baadhi ya vituo vya afya na kuacha vingine,” aliuliza Seneta Onyonka.

Seneta Onyonka alitumia fursa hiyo kueleza masikitiko yake kutokana na hali ya usawa wa malipo, akitaja kuwa katika mwezi Julai 2025, baadhi ya vituo vya afya vilipokea mamilioni ya fedha kama fidia ya madai ya matibabu,



Seneta Richard Onyonka na Seneta Agnes Kavindu

huku vingine vikipewa kiasi kidogo cha shilingi elfu mbili.

“Kwa nini kituo kimoja kipokee shilingi milioni 10 huku kingine kikipe- wa elfu mbili? Hii inaonesha mapendeleo ya wazi na pengine rushwa,” alikariri Seneta huyo. Ameitaka Kamati hiyo ya Afya kuchunguza vigezo vilivyotumika kugawa fedha kwa vituo vya afya, matokeo ya ukaguzi wa hospitali zilozifungwa na hatua za kuyazuia mapungufu hayo kutokea tena.

Aidha, ameomba kufahamu chanzo cha mfumo wa Teknolojia ya Taarifa za Afya (IHTS) ulioigharimu Serikali shilingi bilioni 104 kukosa kufanikisha

utoaji wa huduma bora na uwazi katika shughuli za SHA.

Kwengineko, Seneta huyo ametaka Serikali kufafanua kuhusu gharama na taratibu za gharama ya mradi wa daraja la chini kwa wanaotembea kwa miguu lililolengwa karibu na kituo cha Green Park, jijini Nairobi. Mradi huo, ambao umegharimu shilingi bilioni mbili, ulilenga kuboresha usalama wa wananchi chini ya barabara ya Uhuru Highway.

“Tunapongeza juhudi za Serikali kuboresha miundombinu ya jiji, lakini tunataka kujua iwapo thamani ya pesa ilizingatiwa na kama wananchi walihusishwa na iwapo mkandarasi alichaguli-

wa kwa uwazi? Haya ni maswali halali ambayo kila mwananchi mkazi wa Nairobi anauliza,” alihoji Seneta Onyonka.

Seneta huyo sasa ameitaka Kamati ya Barabara, Uchukuzi na Makazi kueleza kama zabuni zilitolewa kwa njia halali, ikiwa tathmini ya upembuzi yakinifu ilifanyika na iwapo mkandarasi alichaguliwa kwa njia ya haki. Vilevile ameitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Eddy Oketch kubainisha iwapo kulikuwa na ongezeko la gharama isiyoelezeka, mgongano wa kimaslahi au ukiukaji wa sheria za ununuzi.

Seneta ataka uchunguzi kuhusu uhaba wa mbolea Kirinyaga

Suala la uhaba wa mbolea kwenye Kaunti ya Kirinyaga limechukua mkondo tofauti baada ya Seneta wa Kaunti hiyo kuwasilisha ombi rasmi akitaka majibu na hatua ya hima kuchukuliwa ili kukabiliana na uhaba huo.

Akiwasilisha ombi la Kauli, Seneta James Murango, ameitaka Kamati ya Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi kuchunguza kwa dharura changamoto zinazowakumba wakulima wa Kirinyaga katika kupata mbolea ya ruzuku kutoka kwa Kituo cha Bodi ya Taifa ya Mazao na Hifadhi (NCPB) kilichoko Sagana.

Seneta Murango amesema wakulima kutoka maeneo mbalimbali ya kaunti hiyo wamekuwa wakifika katika kituo hicho wakiwa na stakabadhi halali, japo zimekuwa zikikataliwa kutokana na hitilafu za mara kwa mara katika mifumo ya kielektroniki na uhaba mkubwa wa mbolea kwenye kituo cha Sagana. “Wakulima wanakataliwa licha ya kuwa na vocha halali kwa sababu ya mifumo mibovu ya kompyuta na upungufu wa mbolea. Hii ni hali ya kusikitisha inayo-



Seneta James Murango na Seneta Kanar ole Lenku

hatarisha usalama wa chakula nchini,” alikariri Seneta Murango.

Kiongozi huyo ameitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Wafula Wakoli kufafanua sababu za kucheleweshwa kwa usambazaji wa mbolea licha ya kuwepo kwa vocha halali mikononi mwa wakulima. Aidha, ametaka kujua hatua za haraka zinazopangwa na Wizara ya

Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi katika kutatua tatizo hilo ili kuhakikisha wakulima wanapata mbolea kwa wakati unaofaa.

Kadhalika, Seneta huyo ameitaka Kamati kueleza ni kwa nini mifumo ya kidijitali ya NCPB bado ni ya kizamani na yenye hitilafu nyingi na ni lini serikali inapanga kuiboresha au kuibadilisha ili kutoa huduma bora ya haraka na ya kua-

minika kwa wakulima.

Pia ameitaka Wizara ya Kilimo na Ufugaji kufafanua ikiwa inatambua athari mbaya za ucheleweshaji huo kwenye msimu wa upanzi, uzalishaji wa chakula kitaifa na mipango iliyowekwa kusaidia au kuwafidia wakulima watakoathirika kutokana na ucheleweshaji huo, hali aliyosema huenda ikasababisha mavuno duni au kutopata mavuno kabisa.



1. Senator Esther Okenyuri gives learners of St Mary's Tabaka Girls, Kisii County, life lessons during their tour of Parliament.
2. Senator Okenyuri with students from Father Joseph Oucho Girls, Kisii County, at the Senate.
3. Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot speaks to students from Cheborgei Boys High School, Kericho County, at Parliament Buildings.
4. Senator Cheruiyot motivates students from Arokyet Girls Secondary School, Kericho County, during their study tour at the Senate.
5. Majority Leader aron Cheruiyot with teachers and students from Tebesonik Junior School, Kericho County.



1. The head student of Orero Boys High School, Homabay County, addresses his fellow learners and teachers alongside Senator Moses Kajwang during the students' study tour to the Senate.
2. Senator Samson Cherarkey interacts with pupils of Riang'ombe Adventist Primary school, Nyamira County at the Senate.
3. Senator Samson Cherarkey with pupils from All Saints Keblonik Primary school, Nandi County, at the Senate.
4. Teachers and students from Mazeras Boys High School, Kwale County, with the County Women Rep, Hon Fatuma Masito during their visit to Parliament.
5. Officers from the Institute of Economic Affairs(IEA) Kenya during their familiarisation tour of the Senate.



1. The Kenyan Parliament delegation to the International Parliament Union's 6th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva, Switzerland.
 2. The Kenyan delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union's World Conference of Speakers paid a courtesy call to Kenya's Permanent Representative to the UN Office Geneva, Switzerland, Dr Fancy Too (centre)



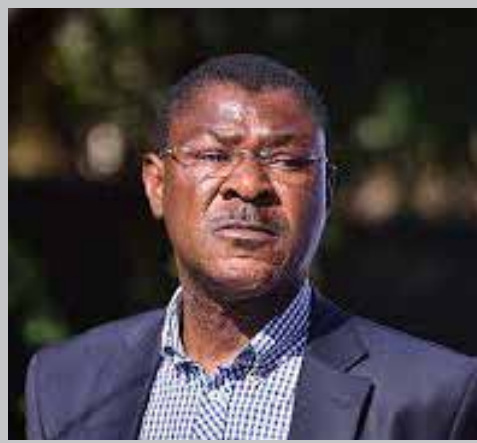
This week in History – August 6, 2014.

House adopts report on sharing of royalties accrued from natural resources



Senator Agnes Zani

The report was moved by Senator Agnes Zani who chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on legislation on royalties accruing from exploitation of natural resources in the counties. She told the House that the highlight of the report is the redistributive formula on sharing the royalties. "One of the questions that we asked in each of the communities that we visited, including the governors and the Members of the County Assembly (MCAs), was the proposal of the percentage that should be paid in terms of revenue and how it should be redistributed," she said. From the various counties, various proposals were given in terms of percentages, which the Committee took on board. Some felt that it should be 60 per cent and others preferred 40 per cent, while others went as low as 20 per cent. "Sometimes, it was really difficult because some of these percentages would be given arbitrarily," she informed the House. The Committee was forced to bring in experts to come up with a model that will help. The model that we have is where we start with 100 per cent of the total royalty that is collected. The proposal that was given was that we have 30 per cent going to a sovereign fund and 70 per cent royalty goes for distribution. The idea of having a sovereign fund is very important in most nations and industries where natural resources have been found. People are not only thinking of the present, but also the future generation. This resource is held, so to speak, on behalf of generations to come. Even after the proposals, the Committee met and adjustments were made.



Senator Moses Wetangula said:

"Minerals play a very critical role in many economies. In Africa, countries with vast mineral resources where they have been well managed have made major strides in their economic development. Before Zimbabwe veered off the road, it had one of the strongest sub-Saharan economies because of mineral extraction. The engine of the South African economy, which has of late been overtaken by Nigeria as the largest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is also mineral-based. Angola has become immensely rich with a very huge GDP and per capita because of extraction of hydrocarbons, commonly called oil. Congo has probably the richest reserves of minerals that have never benefitted the people of the country. Eritrea has vast deposits of gold and other minerals but it is on the wrong path; the money has not benefitted its people."



Senator Hargura Godhana said:

"We are moving out of the petroleum-based power generation to clean energy like solar and wind. I would like this area to be captured at the beginning when the Bill is brought to the House. It has to be captured clearly so that it is not one of the resources which will be added later. That is the area I would like captured from the beginning when the Bill is being brought to the House. I come from an area where the whole county is trust land other than a small adjudicated area. Trust lands have been under county councils before the new Constitution came into effect. Currently, we are having a situation where there was a lot of information in the media about the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project which is in my county. We are having problems with the project because of this kind of consideration not being given to the community. We have a case where five foreigners came and acquired 150 acres of community land without the knowledge of the community."



Senator Abdirahman Hassan said:

"We have seen countries whose natural resources have been more of a curse than blessings. I think it is important that we provide a framework as Kenya is now going to minerals. We have had discoveries lately in Lamu; we have had a lot of other discoveries of natural gas in Wajir and a lot of counties that were hitherto some of the most marginalized counties; these counties were ranked as some of the poorest counties; but now, they have discovered enormous wealth. It is high time that having past experience of this nation, we must protect these counties from the potentiality of exploitation and grabbing by those in power."



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