



# The SENATE

Safeguarding Devolution

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Weekly

## Senators support Motion on national referral hospitals

**The Motion sparks conversation on health inequity, county failures and the urgent need for specialised services across all regions.**

**A** united Senate has backed a proposed plan to decentralise specialised healthcare through the creation of National Teaching and Referral Hospitals across all the major regions of the country.

To justify the proposal, the lawmakers cited harrowing accounts of medical journeys during debate in the House last week: from collapsing county hospitals, mismanagement of funds and the growing desperation of patients forced to travel hundreds of kilometres to Nairobi and Eldoret in search for treatment.

The lawmakers were debating the Motion that seeks to end decades of regional imbalance by pushing the Ministry of Health to establish at least one national teaching and referral hospital in each major region — Coast, Eastern, North Eastern, Western and Nyanza — to complement the existing five national facilities located only in Nairobi, Kiambu and Eldoret.

There are only five national referral hospitals serving the entire population of over 50 million Kenyans.

Senator Mwaruma, the sponsor of the Motion, described the current concentration as a historic injustice that violates Article 43 of the Constitution. “These highly specialised hospitals are only found in Nairobi, Central and the Rift Valley. The rest of the regions have been left behind,” he said while moving the Motion, noting that Kenyans with critical conditions often die on the road while seeking care.

He cited the example of residents of Lamu and Tana River who must travel nearly 1,000 kilometres for specialist reviews after brain surgery, calling the situation inhumane and economically punishing.



*Senator Johnes Mwaruma*

The lawmaker argued that decentralising tertiary healthcare would actualise Article 43 of the Constitution which guarantees every Kenyan the right to the highest attainable standard of health and align with Universal Health Coverage (UHC) goals.

The Motion seeks to compel the Ministry of Health to prioritise construction and equipping of new hospitals with oncology, dialysis and trauma units. It also proposes that each regional hospital should be linked to a medical training institution to support research, internship and capacity building.

The Senator wants the Ministry of Health to establish National Teaching and Referral hospitals in the Coast, Eastern,

North Eastern, Nyanza and Western regions and fully equip the National Teaching and Referral Hospitals with modern medical equipment, medical supplies and personnel.

He also wants the County Governments to allocate more funds to their respective health dockets to adequately facilitate their County Level 5 and Level 6 hospitals to enhance the provision of critical health services to reduce the demand for such services from the National Teaching and Referral Hospitals.

Describing the Motion as one that “speaks to the hearts of most Kenyans” Senator Beatrice Ogola described the situation as a matter of life and death.

She observed that the current five na-

tional referral facilities are grossly inadequate for a population of over 50 million people, warning that fragile patients in Nyanza often collapse during the long trip to Eldoret while seeking specialised treatment.

“Equitable access to specialised care is essential to achieving universal health coverage. A healthy nation is a productive nation,” she said.

Senator Samson Cherarkey said counties are in a mess as their health systems are mismanaged, underfunded, dirty and non-functional, arguing that health is a basic human right.

He welcomed the proposal to bring referral services closer to the people but lamented the dire condition of devolved



*Senator Mariam Omar*



*Senator Dan Maanzo*



*Senator Catherine Mumma*



*Senator Wakili Sigei*

healthcare. “Health is in a deplorable state in all counties, the worst being Nandi County,” he said.

Senator Godfrey Osotsi argued that while regional referral hospitals are necessary, counties must first address rampant mismanagement in local facilities. He pointed to the Motion’s call for counties to allocate more funds to Level 5 and Level 6 hospitals, saying his experience at the County Public Investment and Special Funds Committee (CPIC) revealed shocking governance failures.

“The audit reports for county hospitals are horrible,” said Senator Osotsi, citing widespread issues including mismanagement of human resources, bloated staffing, unaccounted casual workers, expired medicines, poor succession plans and failure to maintain basic equipment.

“No wonder every day in this House, members bring statements on the status of healthcare. Our county hospitals are mismanaged,” he warned.

Senators agreed that the current state of the health sector is a national emergency that is hidden in plain sight. Throughout the debate, they recounted tragic journeys of patients transported on oxygen across long distances, only to die before reaching Nairobi.

Senator Mwaruma emphasised that many families are forced to spend fortunes on travel and accommodation just to access specialised clinics that should be available in every region.

Senators noted that establishing regional referral hospitals would not only save lives but also promote medical tourism, stimulate local economies and reduce pressure on Kenyatta National

Hospital and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital.

The debate revealed a rare bipartisan consensus with senators agreeing that regional inequality in healthcare is one of the most glaring injustices of devolution.

They noted that decentralising specialised facilities is a constitutional, economic and moral necessity.

Senator Mwaruma urged the Government to act swiftly and said: “The most important thing is to have these hospitals established in all regions so that our people can access healthcare at any given time.”

Senator Okong’o Omogeni stressed that Kenya should not rely on the “former provincial boundaries” for determining where referral hospitals should be located, noting that the Constitution recognises 47 counties.

He proposed that catchment-based hospital allocation would ensure fairness, citing Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital’s role in serving Kisii, Nyamira, Narok, Kilgoris, Homa Bay and Migori residents.

“Many Level 5 hospitals are referral centres only in name and lack the necessary facilities. Governors should improve investment in equipment such as MRIs and CT scanners.”

Senator Mariam Sheikh Omar delivered an emotional appeal on behalf of Northern Kenya, stating that many patients ferried from Mandera and Wajir die before reaching Nairobi due to long travel distances and poor road infrastructure.

She said the region, which has no national referral facility, needs a “nearer teaching and referral hospital with spe-

cialists” to reduce fatalities and avoid congestion at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH).

“There are severe staffing shortages across more than 20 counties previously visited by the Health Committee. We need national intervention to address gaps in specialised human resources,” said the senator, who is also the vice chair, Committee on Health.

Senator Veronica Maina supported the Motion but strongly rejected the proposal that counties should co-fund national referral functions, warning that diverting scarce county resources would reverse devolution.

She proposed the Senate to instead push the national government to allocate more funds to county health facilities and to collaboratively determine the ideal number and location of referral hospitals, possibly 10–12 nationwide.

“We should encourage the country to specialise regionally, such as centralised oncology or cardiology hubs, to curb medical tourism to India,” she said.

Senator Catherine Mumma supported the establishment of more national hospitals but emphasised preventive healthcare as the most effective way to reduce pressure on national referral systems.

She warned that lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and heart conditions will continue overwhelming hospitals if counties fail to prioritise community health programmes, nutrition education and safe food production.

“We need a national audit of specialists to guide rational investment in specialised centres. We need to audit the feasibility of all counties attempting to run high-end oncology, renal and cardiac

units.”

Senator Tabitha Mutinda noted Kenya’s population, now at 55 million, has outgrown the capacity of existing national health facilities, warning of a possible surge in cancer, diabetes, cardiac illnesses and mental health cases. “Counties require stronger referral capacity to meet rising demand.”

Senator Daniel Maanzo noted the success of the Kakamega Level 6 Teaching and Referral Hospital which emerged from a collaborative arrangement between the county and the national government as a model for expanding specialised health services nationwide.

He also praised the Mombasa Technical University’s new medical school, saying more universities should be developed alongside referral hospitals to boost training capacity.

Senator Wakili Hilary Sigei raised concerns about widespread mismanagement of county health allocations, insisting that even with increased facilities, Kenya must improve governance and oversight to ensure quality care.

He said Kenya’s dire doctor-patient ratio of 1:17,000 was far below the WHO-recommended 1:1,000 and urged the expansion of training and referral capacity to reverse the deficit.

Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, argued that the Motion should be an opportunity to strengthen the entire health ecosystem, including performance of the Social Health Authority (SHA) and county-level health expenditures.

## CS Wahome: Digitisation of land records on

The Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development is undertaking the digitisation of land records to make them less susceptible or vulnerable to manipulation, thereby guaranteeing their integrity.

Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome said that once the process of automation is complete, the Ministry will be in a better place to deal with questions of integrity and security of documents.

“We have also fast-tracked the titling of institutional titles or public spaces, institutions and private institutions,” she told the House on Wednesday in response to concerns raised by members on issues surrounding public land.

“We have continuously cooperated with investigating or investigative agencies, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and sometimes even the National Intelligence Service (NIS), when issues of public property arise and a request for documentation is normally given with easy access.”

She revealed there are officers from the DCI domiciled in the Ministry headquarters and that has also assisted in terms of making the place a corruption free zone.

The CS was responding to a question raised by Senator Edwin Sifuna in which a private developer has encroached on a piece of land in South C suburb of Nairobi on which the College of Insurance stands.

The private developer has already excavated and constructed a perimeter fence around that portion of land.

The lawmaker wanted the CS to explain the circumstances under which the parcel of land was encroached upon, the steps the Ministry has taken to address the situation and to safeguard the rights of the Insurance Training and Education Trust, who are the legitimate owners of the parcel of land.

He also wanted the CS to explain how the Ministry intends to generally address the growing menace of fraudulent acquisition and encroachment of public land by private individuals and developers, especially in the City County of Nairobi.

“The Cabinet has approved close to Sh35 billion for a first phase of additional funding to the automation. That has been approved as a process of funding with World Bank support,” she told the



*Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome*

House.

Ownership of the parcel has been a subject matter of court proceedings and the Environment and Land Court (ELC) declared Rajab Ahmed Karume as the sole and lawful registered proprietor of the parcel. The ELC ordered for cancellation of the initial grant registered in the name of Insurance Training and Education Trust.

The Court of Appeal in Civil Appeal

upheld the position taken by ELC.

“The courts have pronounced themselves on the matter and declared ownership of the land in favour of Rajab,” she said, adding that the Ministry is unable to take further action on the matter.

Senator Godfrey Osotsi challenged the CS to tell the House the status of digitalisation of the Ministry, particularly land records and how long it will take, the percentage implemented and

when the exercise is likely to end.

“It is true the programme has taken a long time, but the Ministry has realised that the speed and the funding that we are getting is not sufficient to deliver timely completion of this programme. We did engage the Government.”

The Cabinet approved new funding through the World Bank and the National Treasury to enable the Ministry to move faster.

## House presses CS Wandayi on rural power outages

Energy Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi has defended the government against accusations of crippling blackouts, unsustainable rural electrification, ballooning Kenya Power debts and hidden deals with Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

The CS disclosed that the government has connected 1.2 million new households since 2022 but conceded that electricity reliability remains a major national challenge. But the Senators took this with a pinch of salt.

Senator Edwin Sifuna accused the Ministry of prioritising publicity over realistic service delivery. “We have seen the CS go into some hut and switch on the light, yet one can see the economic situation of that house. I think that is a photo obsession,” Senator Sifuna said, adding that Kenya Power was now saddled with Sh30 billion owed by the government for rural electrification.

CS Wandayi denied that rural households cannot pay their bills, saying: “It is not true that the majority of households fail to pay. Many of these launches are meant to rally the public and sensitise them,” he clarified, adding that the Sh30 billion is owed by the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC), not households, and said the Ministry is dealing with the issue internally.

Senator Abass Sheikh Mohamed criticised persistent outages, saying: “Wajir experiences blackouts every day. When will we be connected to the national grid?” The CS responded that a Sh2.8 billion hybrid solar-battery plant supplying six megawatts will be completed by December next year, restoring stability in Wajir County. Senator Cherarkey pressed the CS to explain repeated outages caused by faulty transformers. “How long does it take to replace a transformer? We have frequent blackouts affecting milk preservation,” said Senator Cherarkey.

But the CS assured the lawmaker that replacement is ongoing and blamed vegetation along wayleaves for many outages. Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire asked about frequent outages around Tharaka University with CS Wandayi revealing the area relies on a 600 km feeder line from Embu, making it vulnerable.

But the sharpest confrontation was over load shedding after President Ruto admitted that Kenya is rationing power. Senator Joe Nyutu demanded to know what the Ministry is doing to ensure sta-



*Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi*

ble supply.

“Have you considered nuclear energy as a solution?” he posed to which CS Wandayi said: “For the first time, Kenya is establishing a nuclear power plant. By 2027/28 we should be doing groundbreaking, producing 5,000 megawatts, with the first plant in Siaya County.”

Senator Sifuna accused the Ministry of rushing to allow new IPP deals after the President blamed load shedding on lack of private generation. “What mea-

sures have been put in place to ensure no corruption, no onerous terms, no opaque contracts?” he demanded.

In his reply, the CS said new safeguards noting that PPAs must now be approved by the Attorney-General. He further told the House that contracts will be denominated in both shillings and dollars while PPAs must align with the National Resource Power Development Plan.

Senator Kathuri Muringi warned that

some constituencies in Meru have electrification rates below 20 per cent. “What is the Ministry doing to uplift these areas to at least 50 per cent by 2027?” he posed while Senator Boni Khalwale demanded answers on why Western Kenya faces disproportionate outages.

CS Wandayi promised to table a county-by-county upgrade plan, noting that national electricity access is currently 76 per cent, with a target of 100 per cent by 2030.

## CS Kagwe put to task over state of pyrethrum sector

**A**griculture Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe faced sharp questions over the near-collapse of Kenya's pyrethrum sub-sector, massive debt, farmer neglect and questionable county investments in unsuitable areas.

This happened on Wednesday last week during the Questions Time.

CS Kagwe had stunned the House when he openly declared that Homa Bay County is not a pyrethrum growing zone, contradicting ongoing county budget lines that classify the crop as a flagship investment.

"Homa Bay County is located within an altitude with climatic conditions that are not suitable for pyrethrum growing," the CS told senators, prompting immediate reaction from legislators who feared counties could be pumping money into doomed ventures.

Senator Eddy Oketch demanded a clear policy directive, demanding to know whether there is a policy position to that effect. "Could there be a possibility that there is a conduit for loss of money by counties if there is no policy?" he posed.

The CS confirmed that the national government had not approved pyre-



*Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe*

thrum farming for Homa Bay or Migori and warned counties against sinking agriculture funds into non-viable projects.

The CS laid bare the catastrophic state of the sector, revealing that the Pyrethrum Processing Company of Kenya (PPCK) is sinking under Sh3.5 billion in historical debt. "Farmers are owed only Sh10 million but the main challenge is the debt portfolio of Sh3.5 billion," the

CS said.

The proposed asset sales had stalled due to transition and valuation issues.

Senator George Mbugua pressed for accountability on earlier attempts to sell the company's assets to pay farmers. "Could you tell this House the specific assets which were sold, how much was raised and how much is being owed to farmers?" he posed, to which CS Kagwe

responded that no assets have been sold, despite earlier approvals, because of valuation delays.

Senator Tom Ojienda demanded clarity on earnings and sector viability and the CS revealed that PPCK only earns between Sh35 million and Sh60 million annually which is far below what is needed to sustain operations.

Senator Dan Maanzo and Senator Enoch Wambua criticised years of neglect with Senator Wambua stating that the crop has walked a painful journey and asked to know the percentage of the Ministry's budget that has been allocated to research and development.

CS Kagwe admitted that no money has been allocated for research despite its importance while he also revealed plans to lease the state-owned PPCK to private investors, saying even employees had supported the proposal.

"This idea came from the employees themselves. We agree this is the way forward," he said and argued that competition from private companies has already proven healthier for farmers.

He added that Kenya must exploit the newly created market gap after banning 77 pesticides and restricting 200 others, opening space for pyrethrum-based organic insecticides

## Clerk Nyegenye says planning key in budgeting

**T**he Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye has stressed the importance of timely and meticulous budget planning as Parliament prepares for the upcoming financial cycle.

Mr Nyegenye, who is also Secretary to the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), informed parliamentary officers that the new budget cycle would be in full throttle by January 2026, necessitating immediate and proactive planning.

Mr Nyegenye spoke on Friday, November 21 during the opening of the PSC Vote 2041 Planning Workshop in Machakos County.

"Well-prepared plans are vital for withstanding the intense scrutiny expected from legislative bodies," he told the officers, urging them to align their plans with national development goals and ensure budget estimates are thoroughly justified using reliable data and clearly defined outputs.

"You should adopt a solution-oriented approach underpinned by teamwork, timeliness, innovativeness, and a commitment to excellence."



*Clerk of Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye speaks to Parliamentary staff during the opening of the PSC budget Planning Workshop held in Machakos County.*

Highlighting the critical difference between planning and action, the Clerk asserted that "Plans are good, but they

remain that unless they are executed."

He added that an elaborate plan without execution yields no benefit, and further drove the point home by quoting

General George Patton: "A good plan executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week."

## Committee demands clarity on two road agencies



*A sitting of the Committee on Devolution with the management of two road agencies.*

The Senate has demanded accountability from the management of two road agencies accusing them of delaying the full transfer of their road functions and associated funds to County Governments, a move mandated by the Constitution and reinforced by multiple executive and judicial directives.

The lawmakers expressed concern that despite clear resolutions—including a Cabinet decision to merge the two agencies, an Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) gazette notice listing them for rationalization, and a previous court ruling affirming that responsibility for rural and urban roads rests with counties—the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) and the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) remain fully operational, leading to widespread duplication of effort and significant service delivery gaps.

The Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations hosted Mr Silas Kinoti, the KURA director general, who had been tasked with explaining the agency's continued development of urban estate roads. Senators cited the recent severe flooding in Nairobi as an example of operational ambiguity, noting that neither the County Government nor KURA accepted full responsibility.

Eng. Kinoti defended KURA's operations, stating that it currently manages National Urban Trunk Roads within cities, maintaining there is no conflict and that the authority often partners with counties, lending its technical capacity and expertise, sometimes managing county funds on their behalf.

"We do not have any problem with where we provide our services. For

instance, we have an agreement with counties like Mandera to manage their roads for them using their budget," the DG Kinoti explained, stressing that KURA's continued involvement is necessary because most of the counties don't have the capacity to manage the roads under them.

When pressed on the Cabinet's decision to merge KURA and KeRRA, Eng. Kinoti reported that no instructions have been received from the Cabinet Secretary for Roads, confirming that KURA is waiting for further directives on the way forward.

The Members of the Committee swiftly dismissed the DG's arguments, viewing the inaction as outright resistance by national government officers to release county functions and resources, sharply questioning the current funding model.

"We want the money to be devolved to the county governments. The Government should take the Sh19 billion allocated to KURA and split it among the 47 counties. That will ensure fairness and equity," Senator Mohamed Abbas, the Chairperson of the Committee, suggested.

He emphasised that the current system allows parastatals to act as conduits for funds meant for local infrastructure, creating competition instead of inter-governmental collaboration between the national and county governments. They demanded that KURA share all inter-governmental agreements with counties to clarify the casual arrangements currently in place.

In the meeting with the management of KeRRA, Director General Jackson

Magondu revealed that KeRRA is established to manage national trunk routes classified as Class C roads and citing a current court case that has temporarily blocked the winding-up directive until mid-2026.

"The Cabinet made a resolution to dissolve or match state corporations that are carrying out similar functions where KeRRA was listed as a possible candidate. However, there is a court case that stayed the execution of the resolution and gave a stay order up to June 2026," Eng. Jackson explained.

A major point of contention arose over KeRRA's claim to provide technical assistance to counties, particularly in administering the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF) channelled through Constituency Road Committees (CRCs).

The Committee vehemently argued that the Constitution recognises only National Government Roads and County Government Roads, not Constituency Roads. "Constituencies do not have anything called a road function. Roads are shared in two: national government roads

and county government roads. The funds that you have must follow that function," submitted Senator Catherine Mumma, the Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

The debate intensified around the control of the RMLF, with Senators demanding that since the roads KeRRA works on are essentially county functions, the associated funds must naturally follow those functions to the counties.

Following the intense questioning of both KURA and KeRRA, the Senate Devolution Committee resolved to take decisive action to break the 13-year stalemate and compel compliance with the Constitution.

The Committee demanded that the two entities submit all Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with County Governments detailing the technical support provided; a clear justification for classifying intra-county Class C roads as national trunk roads; and a detailed report on the deployment of the development budget from the financial year 2013/2014 to the present day.



*Eng Jackson Magondu, KeRRA, Director General, (left) and Silas Kinoti of KURA.*

## House to probe weighing scales tempering

The House has launched an inquiry into the widespread use of unverified and tampered weighing scales across the country following a request by Senator Okiya Omtatah.

This came after the lawmaker warned that consumers were being systematically exploited while genuine traders faced unfair competition. Senator Omtatah, in a statement to the Committee on Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism, said the situation had become a matter of nationwide concern due to weak enforcement of the Weights and Measures Act.

He noted that several businesses were using uncertified equipment, shortchanging consumers and distorting market fairness, an issue he blamed on insufficient funding and staffing of the Department

of Weights and Measures leading to the deteriorating oversight.

“These gaps undermine the government’s economic transformation agenda, Vision 2030 and Kenya’s integration into the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),” he said even as he challenged the Committee to confirm what measures were being taken to increase inspection frequency across markets and business premises.

“Without adequate regulation, unscrupulous traders will continue using faulty or deliberately manipulated scales, undermining consumer confidence.” Senator Omtatah also sought clarity on efforts to expand the department’s human and financial resources, saying officers were too few and poorly equipped to conduct

nationwide verification exercises.

Proper funding is essential to restore integrity in trade, he said.

He further questioned whether the State Department for Trade had any public awareness programmes in place to educate consumers and traders on the importance of certified weighing instruments saying that ignorance and negligence were partly to blame for the widespread use of unverified scales.

The senator pushed for a modernised inspection system, calling for a computerised platform that allows consumers to confirm certification status and report fraudulent practices. “Such a system will empower consumers while helping regulators identify hotspots of malpractice,” he said, as he demanded harsher penal-

ties for traders found using tampered, faulty or unverified weighing machines, saying the current enforcement regime was too lenient to deter wrongdoing.

Fair trade practices are essential not only for consumer welfare but also for Kenya’s competitiveness within regional and continental markets and the Senator stressed that consumer protection must be at the core of Kenya’s trade policy.

“Compliance with AfCFTA standards demand strong internal enforcement mechanisms,” he said even as he cautioned that the failure to enforce accurate measurements could drive away legitimate investors who value regulatory predictability and market integrity.

## UoN under fire over failed Petroleum Engineering Programme

The Senate has demanded full accountability from the University of Nairobi, the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) over what lawmakers described as avoidable professional failure that has left graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering stranded nearly a decade after joining the programme.

The matter was brought before the House by Senator Okiya Omtatah, who detailed a series of troubling inconsistencies dating back to 2015 when the programme was launched.

This was before the University Senate had even approved the course and years before any accreditation had been secured.

The programme was established with a government allocation of Sh100 million to develop capacity for Kenya’s emerging oil and gas sector. But Senator Omtatah noted that despite the funds, there was no proper accounting for how they were spent, with the only documented activity being a single student exchange programme in 2019 involving six students.

Although the programme was formally recognised in 2018, graduates — numbering 40 so far — remained unregistered and unrecognised by the EBK. The programme was quietly downgraded and placed under the Mechanical Engineering Department in 2022, before being earmarked for archival in 2025.

The Senator asked the Committee on Education to provide a detailed financial breakdown of the Sh100 million allocation, including receipts, expenditure re-



Senator Abbas Sheikh

cords and documentation showing how the funds were used.

He questioned why students were admitted as early as 2015 when accreditation had not been secured, leaving graduates professionally stranded. He also requested explanations on why only one cohort benefited from the exchange programme, suggesting that the use of funds raised suspicion of mismanagement.

Senator Omtatah argued that graduates had been left in limbo despite being trained at a chartered institution that should meet professional standards. He also demanded an account from EBK detailing deficiencies identified in the programme, asking why a national regulator could not adequately guide a leading public university to meet accreditation requirements over a ten-year period.

He also queried why CUE, as the top-quality assurance agency for higher education, had failed to intervene to protect students — especially since degrees



Senator Beatrice Ogola

in regulated professions require close alignment with professional bodies.

Senator Abass Mohamed supported the concern raised by Senator Omtatah, saying Kenya had witnessed a growing trend of professional bodies harassing graduates instead of supporting them.

He argued that organisations like EBK often imposed excessive requirements on graduates, even those studying abroad, making professional registration overly burdensome.

The lawmaker added that some pathways to professional certification in Kenya were unnecessarily complicated and called on the Senate to demand simpler, fairer and more transparent processes for all graduates, regardless of where they studied.

Senator Beatrice Ogola also backed the statement, urging full transparency in the collapse of the programme, adding students should not be punished for institutional weaknesses or administrative



Senator Okiya Omtatah

errors that they had no part in creating.

Senator Ogola argued that the integrity of Kenya’s higher education system was at stake and warned that failure to protect students’ interests could undermine public confidence in academic programmes across universities.

Senator Omtatah further demanded that the Ministry of Education outlines new policy measures to prevent future programmes from being mounted without prior validation from the relevant regulatory bodies.

“A coordinated system is critical to avoid repeating similar failures,” he said even as he called for interim measures to protect graduates awaiting accreditation, stressing that their careers and livelihoods were at risk due to a regulatory vacuum and lack of institutional accountability.

## Lawmakers want Linda Mama Programme back

Senators on Tuesday condemned the continued detention of new mothers and their babies in public hospitals over unpaid medical bills.

The legislators termed the practice inhumane, a stark indictment of Kenya's health system and even against the spirit of the constitution.

The matter was brought to the House by Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire who wants a Statement submitted to the House on the vulnerable women who are denied freedom after giving birth because they cannot clear maternity bills.

Senator Mo Fire reminded the House that the now discontinued Linda Mama programme had guaranteed free maternity services from antenatal care to postnatal support but with the rollout of the Social Health Authority (SHA), maternal healthcare access had declined, leaving women exposed to financial distress and unlawful detention.

Senators listened as he outlined the collapse of services previously supported under the Linda Mama and asked the Health Committee to explain what safeguards the ministry has in place to prevent hospitals from holding women and babies hostage over costs they cannot afford.

Senator Gataya demanded answers on whether the Ministry of Health had considered reinstating the Linda Mama or a similar alternative within SHA, given the rising number of women being physically confined in maternity wards.

He further questioned whether Kenya's health budget was adequate to prevent facilities from relying on the controversial practice of detaining patients as a debt-recovery mechanism and asked the committee to investigate the absence of a unified waiver system for poor families across public hospitals.

The issue drew widespread condemnation with Senator Esther Okenyuri arguing that the detention of mothers inside hospitals mirrored the suffering experienced by Kenyan women stranded abroad, including those in Saudi Arabia.

She said the practice robbed both mothers and babies of dignity, adding that women in their most vulnerable moments were being guarded like prisoners simply for being poor.

Senator Godfrey Osotsi broadened the discussion, blaming gaps in the country's social protection systems. He



Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire

argued that the same government agencies failing Kenyan workers abroad were also failing mothers in local hospitals.

The lawmakers insisted that any government claiming commitment to public welfare could not stand by while women were detained alongside newborns.

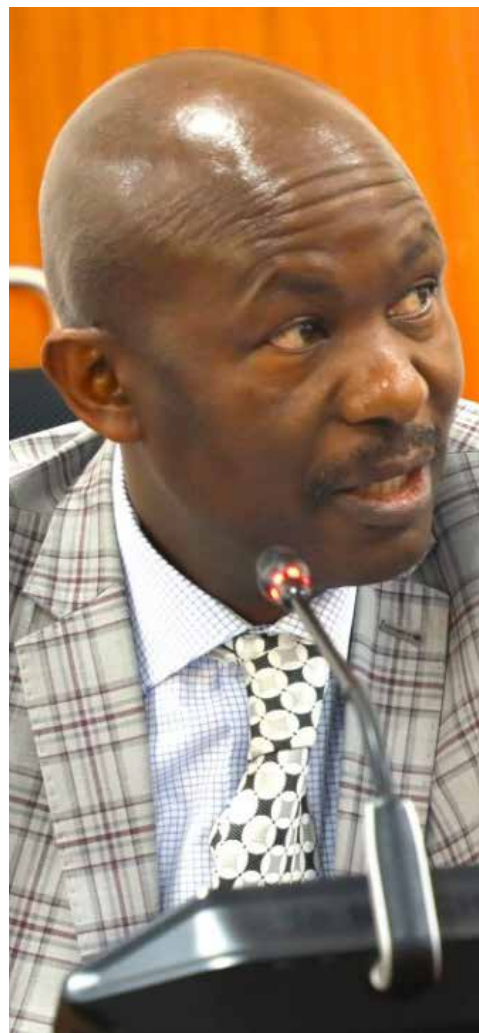
He added that the persistent healthcare failures were part of a much deeper structural problem, pointing to recruitment scandals in foreign employment and the lack of financial support for vulnerable groups.

Senator Edwin Sifuna turned his criticism directly towards the government, questioning how unpaid medical bills existed if the SHA system was, as claimed, working.

He argued that the detention of mothers was proof that the new health financing framework was already faltering.

Senator William Kisang' insisted that maternal healthcare was devolved and said county executives should stop blaming the national government for failures that lay squarely within local jurisdictions.

He said governors should release mothers without delay and brushed aside political disagreements raised during the debate, emphasising that maternity services were constitutionally free.



Senator Okongo Omogeni

Senator Beatrice Ogola expressed shock that mothers continued to suffer such indignity 50 years after independence noting that newborns ought to enjoy their first days of life, not begin them confined in hospitals for financial reasons.

She urged the government to rethink the policy that allowed children to be effectively "imprisoned" alongside their mothers.

Senator Agnes Kavindu Muthama said detaining newborns was equivalent to "jailing innocent children," as the Constitution clearly guaranteed the right to health and reproductive care.

She demanded the reinstatement of Linda Mama because the scheme ensured mothers walked home freely after delivery — a right she asserted should not be taken away.

Senator Karen Nyamu added that she had personally visited facilities where mothers were detained, especially in Nairobi's Mama Lucy and Mbagathi hospitals.

Most of the women held had simply not registered under SHA and that the SHA rollout had failed to integrate Linda Mama benefits. Senator Nyamu pushed for a fully funded maternity cover under SHA, especially for poor urban women.



Senator Wahome Wamatinga

Senator Okong'o Omogeni lamented that six decades after independence, Kenya was still debating the detention of babies, calling it a moral failure.

He argued that newborns represented the future and should never be used as collateral for financial debts even as he urged the government to adopt a humane policy that allows immediate discharge of mothers and babies regardless of financial status.

Senator Daniel Maanzo noted that complaints about detained mothers had become widespread, saying current discharge systems under SHA were unclear and failing in practice.

He insisted that no woman or child should ever be detained in a public facility.

Senator Wahome Wamatinga linked the crisis to systemic corruption in the health sector, claiming that some hospitals employ more accountants than doctors, focusing on billing SHA for fraudulent procedures instead of serving patients.

He warned that unless the billing scandals were addressed, schemes like Linda Mama or SHA would continue to fail mothers.

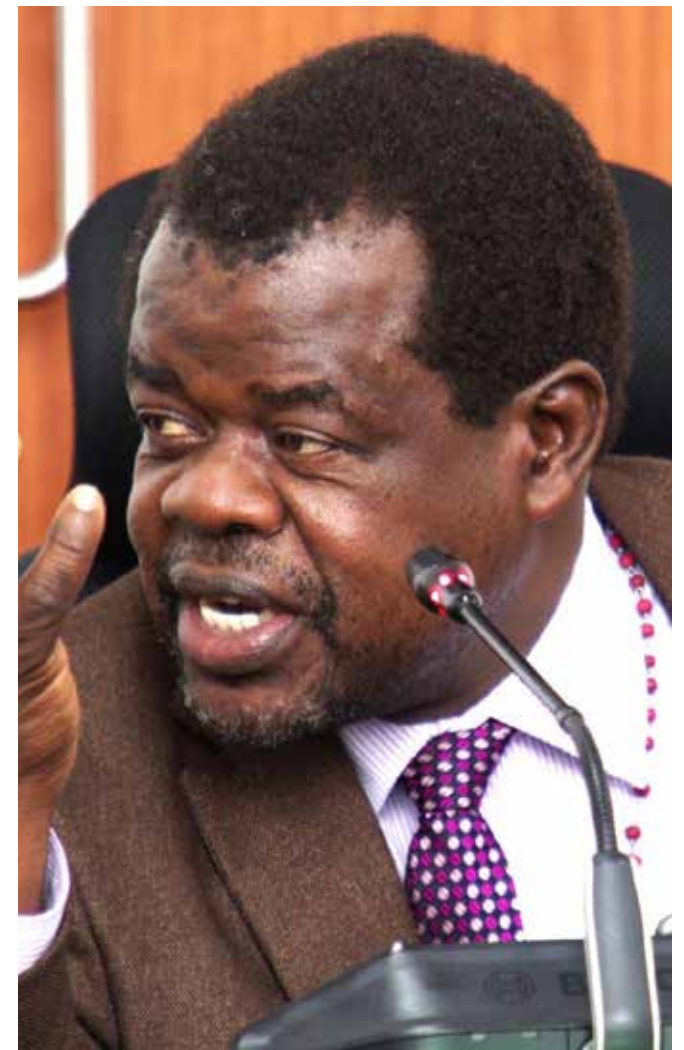
## Alarm over infrastructure in sugar-producing regions



Senator Beatrice Ogola



Senator Samson Cherarkey



Senator Okiya Omtatah

Legislators have raised the alarm over the state of infrastructure in Kenya's sugar-producing regions. They warn that poor roads are crippling farmers, raising production costs and undermining the revival promised under the Sugar Act, 2024.

The matter was brought to the House by Senator Okiya Omtatah who said sugar belt infrastructure remained in deplorable condition despite decades of government promises and the reintroduction of the Sugar Development Levy meant to fund improvements.

The Senator noted that the Constitution splits responsibility for roads between county governments and the national government but this had led to persistent confusion, duplication of effort and chronic inefficiencies.

He argued that the situation had worsened due to a lack of coordination among counties, the Kenya Sugar Board and the Ministry of Roads and Transport.

"The Sugar Act, 2024 was intend-

ed to address these challenges by ring-fencing funds for infrastructure, supporting millers and safeguarding farmers, but implementation has been inconsistent," said the Senator.

He wants the Committee on Agriculture to clarify which of the three entities; the counties, national government and Sugar Board had final authority over sugar belt road development and maintenance.

He also demanded a timeline for the national survey of sugar belt roads and a framework for implementing the first phase of repairs, insisting that the Sugar Development Levy must be protected from misappropriation, calling for strict transparency and accountability in its utilisation.

Senator Beatrice Ogola supported the statement, saying the road conditions in Ndhiwa Constituency were dire, noting that Ndhiwa's black cotton soil worsened the problem, leaving roads nearly impassable for residents and impossible for millers' trucks transporting sugarcane.

"Sukari Industries, a major play-

er in Ndhiwa, use heavy trucks that severely damage local roads, yet the community has little clarity on how much cess the company pays or how the funds are utilized," she said, insisting that companies operating in sugar zones must contribute to infrastructure development proportionate to the impact of their operations.

She argued that poor roads were both a safety hazard and an economic liability, forcing farmers to incur huge losses and delayed harvesting cycles saying that the Senate must ensure that cess revenue is used appropriately and transparently to benefit the communities generating it.

Senator Samson Cherarkey also weighed in on the matter, saying the problem was not only confined to sugar belts.

He revealed that in Nandi County, which produces both tea and sugarcane, the county government had collected over Sh92 million in cess in the previous financial year but had failed to construct even a single kilometre of road using those funds. He

accused county executives of mis-managing or diverting cess funds, leaving farmers to suffer while governors provided no accountability.

He said Nandi collected Sh84 million from tea factories and Sh7 million from sugar output, yet the roads remained pathetic.

The senator challenged oversight committees to demand detailed cess expenditure reports from all relevant counties, arguing that unless counties are held accountable, sugar belt infrastructure would continue deteriorating despite levies imposed on farmers and millers.

Senator Omtatah argued that the lack of coordination between levels of government was a major obstacle, noting that roads classified as county responsibility often overlapped with those used by national agencies or millers.

This, he said, has resulted in a vacuum where repairs were delayed indefinitely due to jurisdictional disputes.

## Anger over mothers and babies abandoned abroad



Senator Karungo Thangwa welcomes Namibian Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Committee on Urban, Rural Development which was in Kenya for a benchmarking tour.

Senator Karungo Thang'wa has exposed harrowing details of Kenyan mothers and children stranded, undocumented and living on the streets of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, sparking widespread outrage in the House.

The Senator, who had just returned from Saudi Arabia, painted a grim picture of Kenyan women with newborn babies — including infants barely two weeks old — surviving without documentation, shelter or consular support in the Middle Eastern Country.

His statement triggered a heated debate of the sitting as he revealed that although the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs had collected 707 DNA samples to verify parentage of children stranded in Saudi Arabia, only 110 birth certificates had been processed.

Hundreds of children remained stateless, he said, with no assistance for more than two years.

Senator Thang'wa added that between 200 and 300 Kenyans were currently detained in Saudi prisons, many for minor immigration infractions and were receiving minimal or inconsistent consular support.

He contrasted the plight of Kenyan workers with those from countries like the Philippines, who enjoy better protections due to strong embassy interventions. Senator Godfrey Osotsi condemned the government's slow response, saying the suffering of Kenyans in the Middle East had been raised repeatedly in both Houses of Parliament with little improvement.

He argued that recruitment agencies transporting youth to Saudi Arabia were "crooks," some allegedly owned by individuals in government, which shielded them from accountability.

Senator Osotsi said his county alone had lost 30 youths in the Middle East

within just two years, yet the Cabinet Secretary responsible had not demonstrated seriousness in addressing the crisis.

He urged the government to resolve issues in the Middle East before expanding labour export to Europe and other regions. Senator Esther Okenyuri linked the abandonment of children in Saudi streets to the detention of newborns in Kenyan hospitals.

"Both situations show deep systemic failures that punish mothers and children during their most vulnerable periods," she said, as Senator Mohamed Faki lamented the difficulties caused by Saudi Arabia's religious laws, which penalise childbirth outside marriage.

"Many Kenyan mothers stranded in the kingdom gave birth out of wedlock, making it nearly impossible to obtain recognition or documentation for their children," he said, adding that the root cause of the crisis lay in poor training of migrant workers, especially those recruited from rural areas without awareness of local laws or language barriers.

He urged the government to establish mandatory pre-departure training and regulate recruitment agencies more strictly.

Senator Abass Mohamed echoed similar concerns, arguing that Kenyans were often left unprotected because their recruitment agents were untraceable, illegal or unregistered.

He noted that other countries sending workers abroad had strong protective mechanisms, but Kenyans were left to fend for themselves.

Senator Edwin Sifuna expressed deep frustration, saying the government had repeatedly failed its citizens abroad. "Kenyans in Diaspora are on their own and I doubt I would be assisted if stranded overseas," he said, citing recent cases

of Kenyans abducted in Tanzania and that no protest note was ever issued by the government.

He said the plight of women in Saudi Arabia proved Kenya lacked a functioning foreign policy centered on citizen welfare.

Senator William Kisang' acknowledged the seriousness of the crisis and said recruitment agencies involved in trafficking Kenyans into exploitative jobs must be exposed, starting with their company registration records.

Offering the perspective of someone who had worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senator Richard Onyonka said bilateral labour agreements meant to protect Kenyan workers had been abandoned or ignored which he linked to corruption during agreement negotiations which often led to the omission of essential protections.

"Without strong bilateral arrangements, Kenyan workers would continue to be exploited abroad. The Senate should push for proper frameworks similar to those used in the Philippines."

Senator Boni Khalwale focused on the citizenship rights of the abandoned children, stating that under the Constitution, any child born to a Kenyan mother was automatically Kenyan by birth.

He condemned the government for failing to repatriate the children and accused some officials of lacking empathy.

Senator Samson Cherarkey said many workers encountered trouble after fleeing their employers and leaving behind their passports.

He insisted that the laws of Saudi Arabia made unregistered children difficult to repatriate, but expressed confidence that the Cabinet Secretary would resolve the issue.

Senator Kavindu Muthama said the Embassy should issue temporary per-



Senator Agnes Kavindu



Senator William Kisang



Senator Karen Nyamu

mits to allow mothers and children to return home.

She argued that since the children were Kenyans by birth, nothing should prevent their repatriation. Senator Daniel Maanzo recounted personal experiences rescuing stranded Kenyans abroad.

He said recruitment agencies and the Ministry of Labour often caused the crises by failing to follow up on cases. He urged the government to make documentation easier for Kenyan children born abroad.

Senator Karen Nyamu noted that the issue had been raised countless times without meaningful action and challenged the government to take urgent responsibility for returning the children home.

## Kamati yaagiza takwimu za fidia kwa polisi waliojeruhiwa kazini

**K**amati ya Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Mahusiano ya Kigeni imezielekeza Mamlaka ya Afya ya Jamii (SHA), Tume ya Huduma za Polisi (NPSC) na Idara ya Usalama na Afya Kazini (DOSH) kulinganisha na kuonisha rekodi zao zote kuhusu madai ya fidia yanayowasilishwa na maafisa wa polisi waliojeruhiwa wakitekeleza majukumu yao.

Katika kikao cha Kamati kilichofanyika Alhamisi, wajumbe wa Kamati walieleza kushangazwa na tofauti kubwa za takwimu zilizotolewa na taasisi hizo tatu. Kwa kuzingatia kuwa zote zinahusika moja kwa moja na masuala ya ustawi wa maafisa wa polisi, Kamati ilitaka maelezo kuhusu sababu ya tofauti huo na ikaagiza taasisi hizo kuktana, kujadili na kuwasilisha takwimu zilizo sawa na zinazolingana.

“Kamati inaelekeza Mamlaka ya Afya ya Jamii, Tume ya Huduma za Polisi na Idara ya Usalama na Afya Kazini kushauriana na kuwasilisha orodha moja yenye mlingano kuhusu madai yaliyowasilishwa,” alitoa maelekezo mwenyekiti wa kikao hicho, Seneta Lelegwe Ltumbesi.

Aidha, Kamati ilisisitiza msimamo wake wa awali kwamba afisa wa polisi anachukuliwa kuwa kazini saa 24 kwa



*Kikao cha Kamati ya Usalama na washikaduu.*

siku, hivyo SHA haitakiwi kukataa au kuahirisha madai yoyote kwa kisingizio kwamba afisa alikuwa nje ya kazi wakati alipojeruhiwa. Kamati ilionya kuwa hatua yoyote ya kutumia hoja hiyo ili kuwanyima maafisa haki yao ya fidia haitaruhusiwa.

Maseneta hao pia walitahadharisha dhidi ya majaribio yoyote ya kuyapitia tena majeraha kupitia tathmini ya pili ya kitabibu, wakikumbusha kwamba kisheria, DOSH pekee ndiyo yenye mamlaka ya kufanya tathmini hizo. Kwa msingi huo, Kamati ilisema kuwa hakuna taasisi nyingine inayopewa nafasi ya kufanya uchunguzi sambamba au mbadala.

Mapema kwenye kikao hicho, Mwenyekiti wa NPSC, Amani Yuda Komora, pamoja na James Mithanga kutoka DOSH, waliitaka Kamati kuhakikisha kwamba SHA inazingatia maamuzi na makubaliano yaliyopo kisheria. Walisema kuwa kutofuata taratibu hizo kumekuwa chanzo kikuu cha mkanganiko unaoonekana kwenye takwimu.

Hata hivyo, licha ya kushughulikia kundi moja la madai, NPSC na SHA ziliwasilisha takwimu zinazokinana kuhusu idadi ya madai yaliyolipwa. Wakati uo huo, DOSH iliarifu Kamati kuwa haijawahi kupokea uthibitisho wowote wa malipo yaliyofanyika.

Afisa Mkuu Mtendaji wa SHA, Mercy Mwangangi, alieleza Kamati kuwa hadi sasa mamlaka imeshatoa malipo kwa madai 1,567 yenye thamani ya shilingi bilioni 1.269. Aliongeza kuwa madai 432 yamekataliwa, 129 yapo kwenye mzozo, huku 95 yakisubiriwa kutokana na upungufu wa nyaraka. Aidha, alibainisha kwamba madai 155 yako kwenye mchakato wa malipo na 41 yanahitaji uchambuzi zaidi.

Dkt. Mwangangi aliihakikishia Kamati kuwa SHA imejitolea kuimarisha ushirikiano na taasisi nyingine ili kuhakikisha maafisa wote waliojeruhiwa wananufaika na haki zao bila ucheleweshaji.

Wakati uo huo, wawasilishaji watatu wa malalamiko waliokuwepo kwenye kikao waliipongeza Kamati kwa msimamo wake na juhudi za kuhakikisha suala hili linapata suluhisho la kudumu. Walitoa wito kwamba Kamati isilegeze kamba hadi kila afisa aliyeathirika apate haki yake.

Kamati imepanga kukutana tena na SHA, NPSC, DOSH na Kampuni ya bima ya Jubilee katika kikao kingine ambacho kitafanyika hivi karibuni ili kupitia hatua zilizopigwa kufuatia magizo iliyotoa Alhamisi.

## Maseneta washinikiza hatua kukabili maafa na msongamano barabarani

**M**aseneta wameendelea kuibua hoja bungeni wakiitaka serikali kuchukua hatua za dharura kushughulikia changamoto zinazohusu usalama wa raia, ulinzi wa maisha na utekelezaji wa majukumu ya huduma kwa umma.

Seneta Tabitha Keroche aliongoza wito huo akiitaka serikali kupitia vyombo husika kutoa kauli kuhusu hali tete inayowakumba wakazi wa kijiji cha Kihoto, Kaunti ya Nakuru, kufuatia kuongezeka kwa kiwango cha maji katika Ziwa Naivasha ambapo mamia ya wakazi wamelazimika kuyahama makazi yao. Seneta huyo alisema kwamba ongezeko la maji limesababisha nyumba kuzama, mali kuharibiwa na wananchi kupoteza vyanzo vya riziki, jambo ambalo limezua hofu kubwa ya milipuko ya magonjwa yanayotokana na uchafu wa maji na mazingira duni.

“Ni jukumu la serikali kuhakikisha hatua za haraka zinachukuliwa ili kuwalinda wananchi wanaokabiliwa na maafa. Tunataka kufahamu kiwango cha maandalizi ya serikali ya Kaunti ya Nakuru, hatua zilizochukuliwa kukabiliana na hali hii na iwapo hazina ya dharura imetumika ipasavyo kuwasaidia waathiriwa,” alisema Seneta huyo.



*Seneta Mohamed Faki*

Aliongeza kuwa serikali inapaswa kutoa tathmini kamili kuhusu mwitikio wake na kueleza ikiwa kuna mikakati ya muda mfupi na mrefu ya kuhakikisha kuwa wakazi wa maeneo yanayolizunguka ziwa hawapatwi tena na athari kama hizo katika siku zijazo. Aidha, alisisitiza umuhimu wa kuwa na mpan-go wa kitaifa wa kuyakabili majanga ya kimazingira ili kuhakikisha usalama wa raia wakati wote.

Kwingineko, Seneta Mohammed Faki ameomba serikali kutoa ufafanuzi wa kina kuhusu msongamano mkubwa unaoendelea kushuhudiwa katika Barabara ya Port Reitz, eneo la Changamwe akisema kuwa hali hiyo imeath-



*Seneta Tabitha Keroche.*

iri pakubwa maisha ya wakazi, shughuli za kibiashara na utoaji wa huduma muhimu.

Akiwasilisha ombi lake kwenye Kamati ya Barabara, Uchukuzi na Makao, Seneta Faki alisema kuwa Barabara ya Port Reitz ni muhimu kwa uchumi kwa kuwa inaunganisha Bandari ya Mombasa, SGR Miritini, Barabara ya Mombasa-Nairobi na Hospitali ya Port Reitz, lakini misururu mirefu ya magari imegeza barabara hiyo kuwa chanzo cha mateso.

“Ni muhimu serikali itoe maelezo kuhusu hatua zilizochukuliwa kukomesha msongamano huu ambao umesababisha hadi vifo vya watu watatu kutoka-

na na kuchelewa kwa magari ya dharura. Tunataka kujua kama ujenzi wa barabara mbadala ya Mikindani umechangia tatizo hili na kama KeNHA imeweka mikakati madhubuti ya kudhibiti malori na watu wanaokiuka sheria za barabarani,” alisema Seneta Faki.

Aliongeza kuwa baadhi ya madereva wa malori wamekuwa wakiendesha shughuli kinyume cha sheria kwa kuyagesha magari kiholela pembezoni mwa barabara, hali inayopunguza upana wa barabara na kuathiri mtiririko wa magari. Aidha, alisisitiza kuwa serikali inapaswa kuhakikisha kuwa usimamizi wa miundombinu muhimu unaendeshwa kwa uwazi ili kuulinda uchumi wa Mombasa na maisha ya raia.

Maseneta hao walisitiza kuwa ni wajibu wa serikali kuhakikisha kwamba masuala yanayohusu usalama wa raia, ustawi wa jamii na usimamizi wa miundombinu ya taifa yanashughulikiwa kwa weledi, kwa mujibu wa Katiba na sheria za nchi.

Kamati husika za Seneti ziliagizwa kuchunguza masuala hayo kwa kina na kuwasilisha ripoti kamili bungeni ndani ya muda uliopangwa, ili hatua muafaka zichukuliwe bila kuchelewa.



1. *Senate Speaker Amason Kingi addresses the Joint Sitting of Parliament before President William Ruto delivered the 2025 State of The Nation Address (SoTNA) in the National Assembly Chamber.*
2. *Senators follow proceedings during the 2025 State of The Nation Address in the National Assembly Chamber.*

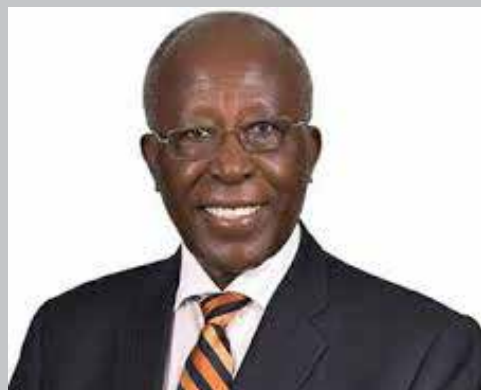
## This week in History – November 26, 2019.

### House debates deaths after landslide in West Pokot



**Senator Christopher Langat**

Senator Christopher Langat sponsored a Motion of adjournment for the House to discuss the disaster in West Pokot County, occasioned by the landslide that claimed over 50 lives following days of heavy rains in the country. More bodies are still missing and are yet to be retrieved from the mud sludge. Some families have lost all their members. There is a family that lost five members. Apart from the loss of lives, many other residents have been injured, property worth millions destroyed and livelihood lost. I, however, express my disappointment regarding the slow emergency response to this particular disaster. The disaster has affected the people and they have suffered greatly. Further provision of food, water and clothing should be fasttracked to cover all the affected families. According to the meteorological department, heavy rain is still expected to continue with intensity in the coming week before easing towards mid-December. This raises fears of more devastating effects in various parts of the country as it was mentioned yesterday. This calls for the National Disaster Operation Centre (NDOC) and other emergency rescue to be proactive in mitigating any potential disasters that may occur arising from the ongoing weather.



**Senator Sam Ongeri said:**

“Watching those clips is very worrisome. We have seen children, fathers, mothers and members of the community struggle to salvage what they can. I felt bad when I heard that Wei Wei Secondary School had also been affected. That school produced one of the best performing students and I visited it sometimes back. The causative effect of flooding is clear in everybody’s mind. The deaths were as a result of geophysical effects. The mudslides swept away houses and habitation. Help was not forthcoming because those people are remotely located. We know that there will be flooding, earthquakes and flash floods because of climate change. We should have mitigating factors. One mitigating factor is having a plan between the national Government and the county governments and the focus should be on areas that are prone to flooding. We should also plant vegetation along the slopes so as to reduce the intensity of flooding that goes downstream. We should also construct water ways to direct the water to other places.”



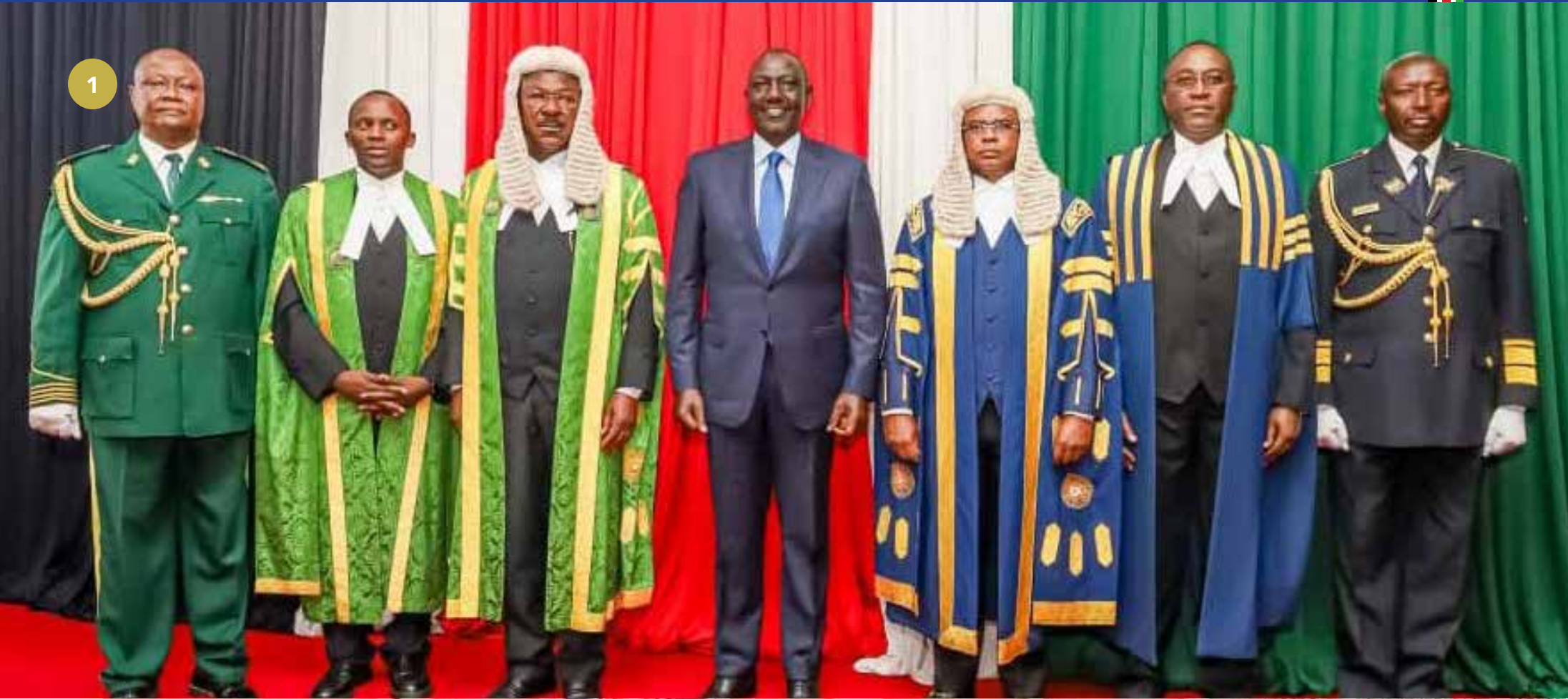
**Senator Ochilo Ayacko said:**

“As a family, nation and as a people, we are mourning the loss of lives of many people whose sin or offence, perhaps, is poverty. They are the poor and vulnerable people who live in one remote area called West Pokot, and they are part and parcel of this nation. Those unfortunate citizens died very sadly. Some of them did not know that a disaster of this magnitude would ensue in their lives. Some of them had dreams and hopes. Maybe others were robustly aspiring to participate in supporting or amending the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) Report, or doing something positive about the future of this country. It is, therefore, unfortunate that this disaster has cut their expectations and hopes in life before they are realised. However, those of us who are left behind must continuously pray for these unfortunate Kenyans. We must continue doing what we must do to ensure that such disasters do not recur.”



**Senator Gertrude Musuruve said:**

“I watched on television how the road was intensely damaged, and it had even been separated into two. It is so bad that if you had gone to the East to see a family, you could not go back to the West. It was a sad situation. As I was watching the television, I could tell that even the quality of the road was not up to standard. There is a need for us, as a nation, to try and prevent some of these natural disasters. For instance, floods can sweep away a road and buildings because of soil erosion. However, there are many ways in which the county governments can manage this situation, for example, by planting trees. We should not always wait for a disaster for us to come to ventilate on the issue here in Parliament. Some Bills, like The National Disaster Management Authority Bill, 2019, should not be delayed so that it addresses some of these issues. Even county governments and county executives should address this issue and report to the Senate.”



1. President William Ruto and the Parliamentary leadership after he delivered 2025 SoTNA. On the President left is Speaker Amason Kingi, Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye and Maj (Rtd) Samson Sorobit, the Chief Serjeant-At-Arms. On the President right is Speaker Moses Wetangula, Mr Samuel Njoroge, Clerk of the National Assembly and Mr Aloisio Lekulo, who has retired as the Chief Serjeant-At-Arms in the National Assembly.
2. Parliamentary Leadership: Speaker Amason Kingi and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula during the SoTNA. Others are Clerk of Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye, who is also Secretary to the PSC, and Mr Samuel Njoroge, Clerk of the National Assembly.



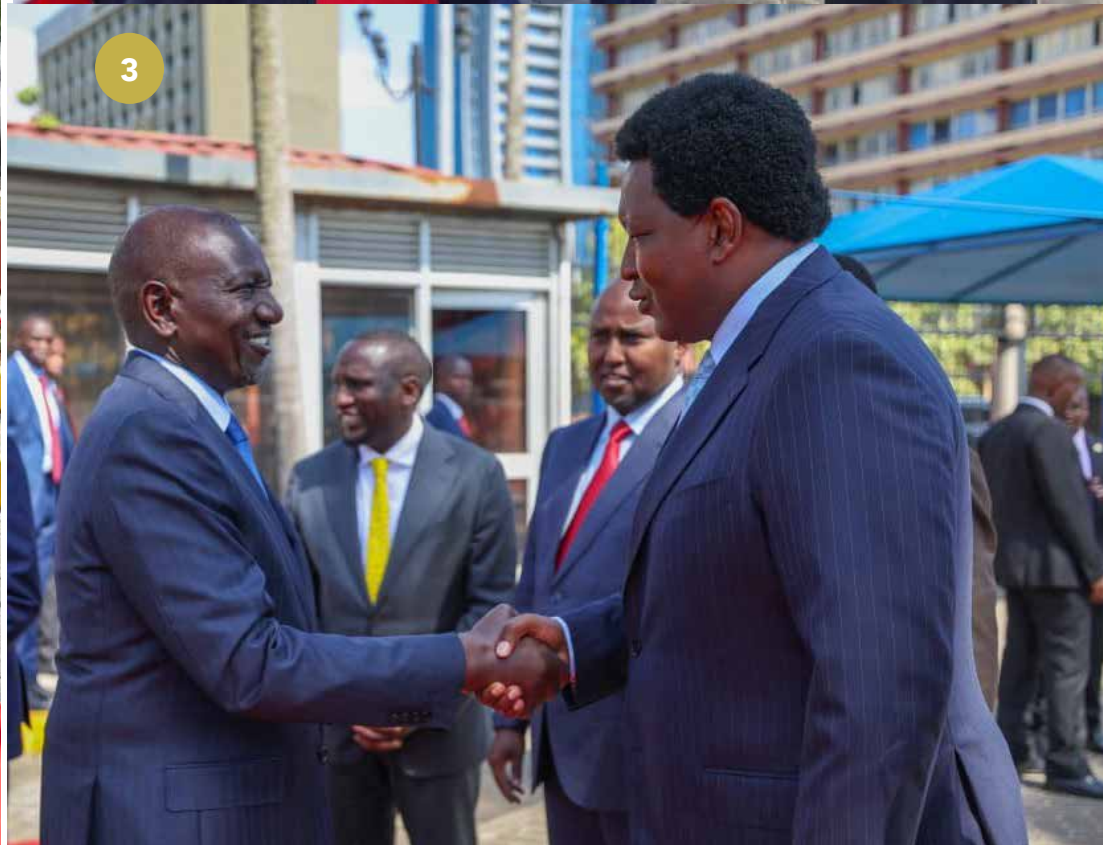
1. President Ruto and Speaker Kingi at Parliament Buildings.

2. Speaker Kingi welcomes First lady Rachel Ruto to Parliament.

3. Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo and First Lady Rachel Ruto.

4. Speaker Amason Kingi confers with Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula as they waited for the arrival of the President for 2025 SoTNA.

5. President William Ruto signs the Visitors' Book after he arrived to deliver the 2025 State of the Nation address as Parliamentary leaders look on.



1. *Leader of Majority Aaron Cheruiyot welcomes President William Ruto to Parliament for the 2025 SoTNA. National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichungwah looks on.*
2. *President William Ruto with Senate Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye 4 as National Assembly Majority Whip Sylvanus Osoro looks on.*
3. *President Ruto with Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina.*
4. *Speaker Kingi, Minority Whip ole Kina and Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye prepare to receive President William Ruto for 2025 SoTNA.*
5. *President William Ruto and Senate Deputy Clerk Mohamed Ali.*



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