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House wants Bodas regulated

Senators say control is necessary because the riders are making driving on Kenyan roads an uncomfortable experience.



Senator Samson Cherarkey



Senator Danson Mungatana



Senator Abbas Sheikh



Senator Crystal Asige

Senators have directed the National Police Service (NPS) and the Ministry of Roads and Transport to develop regulations to control the boda boda sub-sector.

The legislators say that while the sector is crucial to the national economy, the behaviour the operators exhibit is wanting as they intimidate every other road user.

“The way the boda boda riders behave is so scary that most of the drivers, especially in Nairobi, cannot drive comfortably and conveniently. The riders come from every corner on the road and they do not even obey traffic rules. They do not stick to lanes or rules. Once you get involved in an accident with them, then you lose your vehicle. They burn vehicles. That is bad behaviour,” said Senator Abbas Sheikh.

He said the regulations to be developed should include a heavy penalty for the actions of the riders, most of whom, he said, are behaving like goons.

“They come in large numbers, converge in one place, intimidate, harass drivers and even hit vehicles. That kind of behaviour cannot be entertained. We need to have some order in this place.”

The legislator was reacting to the request made by Senator Samson Cherarkey who wants details of the relationship between Matatu and boda boda riders submitted to the House.

Recently, Matatu operators initiated nationwide strikes, notably on February 2, 2026 to protest increasing violence, harassment, and the burning of vehicles orchestrated by the riders.

The protests stem from over 20 instances where motorbikes targeted public service vehicles involved in accidents, causing significant property loss and safety concerns.

Matatu operators accuse the government of failing to act against rogue boda boda riders who attack vehicles, citing inaction over numerous incidents of arson and injuries to crews and demanded

an increased security, immediate action against perpetrators of violence, and a restoration of order on roads.

While operators claim government inaction, the situation has led to calls for the Ministry of Interior to address the rising lawlessness and protect public transport, according to reports from early 2026.

In his request, Senator Cherarkey wants the Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing to submit to the House the current status of investigation into the violent incidents against matatu operators by boda boda operators, including the agencies leading the inquiry and measures being taken to ensure accountability, the immediate actions implemented to protect matatu operators, commuters and the riders from further attacks and disruptions and details of any formal communication issues by the Ministry of Roads and Transport in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and National Administration to

inform the public on the steps taken to resolve the dispute.

Senator Danson Mungatana admitted that the riders have visited violence upon matatus which he said shows there is a culture of bad behaviour amongst the boda boda operators.

“We need to do something to change that culture. It can be done. For this culture of violence against matatus or against other motorists not to take root, I am calling upon the Committee to call the Cabinet Secretary who is in charge of transport to come and recall what the Government has done in the past to create proper order, so that the same or better measures can be made to secure motorists and bring a good culture amongst the boda boda operators.”

Senator Crystal Asige supported the Statement noting that there is no reason for any public service vehicles, including matatus or boda bodas to cause any kind of violence. She said protests or disagreements in the public domain is

something the Senate has the capacity to investigate and get to the bottom of.

Among other issues Senator Cherarkey wants the Committee to explain include the existing mechanisms regulating boda boda operations, the effectiveness of the measures in preventing lawlessness and violent confrontations

and current transport policies being enforced to ensure accountability and fairness, including identification of any regulatory loopholes requiring reforms.

The Committee should also detail the extent to which the conflict reflects deeper governance and regulatory gaps within the public transport sector, as

well as economic and social impact of the disputes on commuters, including fare hikes and transport disruptions, details on the safeguards being established to prevent future strikes and promote peaceful coexistence between matatu and boda boda operators, steps to restore public confidence through dialogue and

oversight mechanisms and recommendations to strengthen regulation, accountability and inter-agency coordination in the transport sector.

Pressure on Government to pay ex- KCC staff dues



Senator Miraj Abdullahi



Senator Mohamed Faki and Senator Joseph Githungu (left).



Senator Karungo Thangwa and Senator Peris Tobiko

The Senate has intensified pressure on the Government, demanding quick payment of the dues to former employees of the Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC), 22 years after they retired without their terminal benefits and in spite of court rulings in their favour.

The former employees had petitioned the House to help them recover Sh204 million in their terminal benefits and SACCO deposits which were never paid to them when they retired.

Debating the Motion on the report of the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare on the petition, lawmakers described the prolonged delay as a grave injustice that has pushed many retirees into poverty.

Senator Miraj Abdullahi, who moved the Motion, told the House that when KCC transitioned into New KCC, employees' dues were excluded from the liabilities transferred to the new entity.

"The employees were laid off and the liability of their dues was said not to be part of the New KCC," she said, even as she revealed the Committee had engaged the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry and the Attorney-General, where it was acknowledged that a court judgment existed directing the payment be done.

"It was agreed that a judgment had been obtained and that former were to be paid their dues within a certain period," she said.

Senator Mohamed Faki termed the situation as "deeply saddening", noting that while assets of KCC were transferred to the new corporation, workers' benefits were abandoned.

He observed that many former workers are now languishing in poverty even as the Government continues to invest heavily in New KCC.

The total dues owed to the affected persons stand at Sh204 million; the terminal benefits total Sh109 million, Maziwa SACCO dues are at Sh92 million and money owed to the Provident Fund is Sh2 million.

In its defence, New KCC argued that the reason for not paying is that they did not inherit the employees from KCC. They had an agreement with the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), which was a receiver of KCC.

Senator Dan Maanzo challenged the Ministry of Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development to propose a budget to pay the affected people, not only the living ones, but also the estates of the ones who are deceased because that is part of property of a deceased person.

Senator Karungo Thang'wa broke down the figures, saying: "The Employment Act and the Transfer of Businesses Act have been speaking about their dues amounting to Sh204 million. That is Sh109 million as terminal benefits and Sh92 million as outstanding SACCO dues."

The affected workers had contributed to Maziwa SACCO but never recovered their savings.

Calling the protracted legal battles unnecessary, he added: "I believe the amount of money used to litigate and look for a solution is more than what these people are claiming."

Senator Thang'wa proposed that the National Treasury create a one-time settlement fund to end the dispute.

Lawmakers also criticised the Court of Appeal ruling that overturned an earlier judgment but advised the Government to compensate the workers.

Senator Enock Wambua questioned the reasoning behind the decision. "If the judges made a decision that these people have suffered for a long time and that they should be paid, why not just issue a ruling and say, uphold the decision of the lower courts and get these people to be paid their money?"

He challenged the position taken by New KCC that it did not inherit li-

abilities from the defunct corporation. "Where will these people get justice? Should they now go to the receiver and ask for their money?" he posed.

Senator John Methu noted that the appellate court's recommendation made in 2018 remains unimplemented.

The Court of Appeal ordered the Attorney-General to advise the Government to honour its word and pay former employees who have suffered for a long time.

"The decision of the Court of Appeal was actually arrived at in 2018 but nothing has happened."

Beyond the compensation demands, the committee recommended investigations into the financial collapse of the original KCC.

The report proposes that the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) should probe former directors of KCC over a Sh400 million loan believed to have contributed to the company's downfall.

Senator Thangwa warned that public officials must remain accountable long after leaving office. "This is a wake-up call that anybody working for any Government parastatal will one day have to stand and answer questions," he said.

Lawmakers push action on Baragoi insecurity



Senator Ledama ole Kina



Senator Peris Tobiko

Senators have blamed the Ministry of Interior and National Administration for doing nothing as insecurity soars in Baragoi, Samburu County. The lawmakers say the Ministry should take immediate action to restore calm and assure residents of their safety in the face of growing insecurity in Baragoi.

“The people of Samburu in Baragoi are crying. The same applies to the people of Laikipia and all the northern counties. When our people cry in the north, we feel the pain in the south. This is terrible and needs to be addressed,” said Senator Peris Tobiko during debate in the House.

She said Kenyans have cried for a long time after losing young people, who have attended a rally to listen to their leaders.

“This cannot continue and the police must be reined in. This is terrible and shameful.”

She was contributing to the personal Statement of Senator Hezena Lemaletian over the deteriorating security situation in Baragoi and its environs in Samburu County.

Senator Lemaletian says the recurrent cycle of killings and banditry continues to destabilise Samburu County, disrupt livelihoods and erode public confidence in the Government’s ability to provide security to its citizens.

On February 15, 2026, a member of the Lessepe family was fatally shot in cold blood following heavy gunfire near Baragoi Boys Secondary School. The incident occurred barely two weeks after another young man from the Lorobat

family was killed, leaving his colleague seriously injured.

Senator Lemaletian told the House that the repeated acts of violence have instilled fear, anger and uncertainty across the region.

“These tragic events have left Baragoi tense with restricted movement as residents live in fear of further attacks. There is growing apprehension of revenge encounters and violence, which threatens to escalate into wider instability if urgent intervention is not undertaken,” she said as broke down in the House.

In Nisisho-Nyiro area, in Nyiro ward and Ruirikan, Morijo and Suyan areas in Angata and Nayukie Ward, where pastoralists have moved in search of pasture, the situation is equally volatile. “There are fears that bandits may strike at any time, placing innocent herdsmen, women and children at imminent risk.

“Swift and firm intervention is the only way to break this cycle of violence and restore lasting peace and stability in Baragoi and Samburu County at large,” she declared, even as urged the national Government, through the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, to take immediate and decisive action to restore calm and assure residents of Samburu County of their safety and prevent retaliatory attacks and counter-revenge violence.

She also wants the Ministry to deploy adequate security personnel to the affected areas and apprehend and prosecute those responsible for the heinous acts.

Senator Ledama ole Kina supported the Statement and regretted that the pastoralist communities have tradition-



Senator Hezena Lemaletian

ally been terrorised and subjected to extreme measures and harsh conditions.

“We only remain relevant when it comes to voting. When it comes to elections, that is the only time when you will see a lot of heightened activities trooping into our areas. The Ministry of Interior and National Administration should take this issue of insecurity seriously. When you hear that young boys

were killed in a school, Baragoi Boys Secondary School, it begs the question as to really what exactly we are doing. What are our priorities in this country, if we cannot safeguard the future of young generations, and are letting young children be killed? The issue where people are marginalised for decades is something that has to come to an end.”

Committee warns on Education budget reduction



Senator Margret Kamar



Senator John Kinyua



Senator Catherine Mumma



Senator Margret Kamar chairs a meeting of the Committee on Education on BPS.

The Committee on Education says the proposed budgetary reduction in the Education sector portends danger to the wellbeing of the nation, warning there is a risk that key programmes will be shelved due to financial challenges.

The Committee raised the concerns after it received a briefing on the 2026 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (2026/27–2028/29) from the Parliamentary Budget Office.

The 2026 BPS 2026 is anchored on the theme “Accelerating gains under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) for inclusive and sustainable growth”.

It identifies education and skills development as central to driving Kenya’s economic transformation.

The National Treasury is proposing to allocate Sh767 billion to the sector in the budget of 2026/27 financial year.

This represents 26.8 per cent of the total national budget, which is the largest allocation among all the sectors.

However, the proposed allocation is a 0.8 per cent reduction from the total allocation the sector received this financial year which

was at 27.6 per cent and reflects the lowest growth rate among all sectors at 9.1 per cent.

While the Committee acknowledges the Government’s commitment to advancing key reforms—such as the rollout of Competency-Based Education (CBE), expansion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), digital learning, and school feeding programmes—it raised concerns about the adequacy of funding to support the initiatives.

The Committee is concerned that a significant proportion of the sector’s allocation continues to be absorbed by recurrent expenditure, with over 55 per cent directed towards personnel emoluments under the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), leaving a limited fiscal space for development and critical infrastructure expansion.

Senator Margret Kamar, the vice chair, said there is need for alignment between policy priorities and resource allocation.

“Education remains the backbone of our country’s socio-economic transformation. However, the level of investment must match the scale of reforms we are undertaking, particularly the transition to CBE,” she said.

The lawmakers were also wary of the limited focus on devolved education functions, particularly Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), which are critical in laying the foundation for learning and skills development.

“If we are to achieve inclusive growth, we must strengthen education at the grassroots” observed Senator John Kinyua.

Senator Catherine Mumma noted that counties play a critical role in ECDE and vocational training, but regretted the areas continue to face policy and funding gaps.

Key challenges highlighted during the meeting include the absence of a clear capitation framework for ECDE and VTC learners, inadequate infrastructure in county institutions, and non-standardised human resource policies affecting ECDE teachers.

The Committee also discussed emerging issues in the transition to senior school under the CBE system, including shortages of learning materials, placement challenges, and the need for clarity on pending obligations such as payments to publishers.

The Committee was unhappy with the high number of out-of-school children—

estimated at approximately one million—particularly in informal urban settlements, despite ongoing efforts to achieve universal access to education.

Other areas of concern included the slow rollout of the Kenya Education Management Information System (KEMIS), inequities in the allocation of infrastructure funds, and delays in implementing policy measures such as special utility tariffs for public schools.

The Committee reiterated its commitment to ensuring that the education sector is adequately resourced and aligned with national development priorities.

“We will continue to engage all relevant stakeholders to ensure that no learner is left behind and that the education sector is fully equipped to support Kenya’s development agenda,” affirmed Senator Kamar.

The Committee promised to engage relevant Ministries, Departments, and agencies to seek further clarification and ensure that the proposed budget adequately addresses existing gaps, supports ongoing reforms, and promotes equitable access to quality education across the country.

CS Mbadi: Turkana oil mining will not occasion public debt



CS John Mbadi and a senior Treasury Official when they appeared before a Joint sitting of the Committee on Energy of both Houses.

National Treasury Cabinet John Mbadi has defended the fiscal and macroeconomic underpinnings of the proposed Field Development Plan (FDP) for Blocks T6 and T7, assuring Parliament that the project will not create any explicit or implicit public debt obligations for Kenya.

“The FDP does not create any explicit

or implicit public debt obligation for the Government. The financing of exploration, development and production remains solely the responsibility of the contractor under the PSC framework,” said the CS.

He made the comments when appearing before a joint sitting of the Energy Committees of the two Houses that is

looking into the matter.

He briefed the Committee on the fiscal projections, tax implications, cost recovery framework and risk mitigation measures tied to the oil development plan spearheaded by the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum.

The Treasury projects that Kenya could earn between Sh136 billion at \$60 per barrel and Sh371 billion at \$70 per barrel over the life of the project.

Direct revenues will flow from profit oil splits and government participation, while indirect revenues are expected to benefit key State agencies.

Kenya Pipeline Refinery Limited (KPRL) is projected to earn Sh42.3 billion in storage and handling fees, while the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) is expected to generate Sh41.9 billion from the New Kipevu Oil Jetty.

The Treasury estimates the project will generate over 3,000 direct, indirect

and induced jobs, boosting PAYE collections and social security contributions.

“Oil revenues are expected to positively contribute to GDP growth through upstream, midstream and associated economic activities,” CS Mbadi told the Committee.

Treasury disclosed that contractors have sought fiscal concessions amounting to Sh173 billion) under Project Specific Fiscal Terms (PSFTs).

At a base oil price of \$60 per barrel, Government net cash flow would decline from USD 3.485 billion under existing PSC terms to USD 1.047 billion if all tax asks and harmonisation adjustments were granted.

Conversely, the contractor’s net free cash flow would shift from negative territory to a projected USD 497 million, enhancing project bankability.

Kitui on verge of being desert, warns Senator Wambua



Senator Enock Wambua

The pace and scale of environmental degradation taking place in local rivers risks converting Kitui County into a desert by, a lawmaker has warned.

Senator Enock Wambua says that while Kitui is an arid and semi-arid county, blatant destruction of its riverbeds through illegal, dangerous, unregulated and unsustainable sand harvesting is an environmental disaster that threatens to convert the county into a desert.

In a personal Statement to the House, the lawmaker said the environmental plunder is accelerating desertification, undermining livelihoods, degrading the environment and exposing residents to serious socio-economic and security risks.

“Kitui County has previously borne the brunt of ecological harm from deforestation and charcoal trade with forest cover nearly wiped out. It is deeply troubling that after forests have been degraded, the destruction has now shifted to our rivers, the very systems that sustain water availability, ecosystems, agriculture, and resilience in an Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) context,” he told the House.

The Senator revealed that the sand trade is being conducted with impunity and in a manner that is a stark illustration of greed, displeasing reason and

lawlessness crowding out public interest.

“Restoration of our rivers cannot be deferred indefinitely while degradation accelerates daily,” he said. The devastation is not only environmental but has spawned grave social harms. “Residents report dust pollution, road accidents and fatalities linked to heavy truck traffic and disturbing night time exploitation around sand harvesting areas, including teenage pregnancies and school drop-outs.”

HIV infections have been recorded in some affected areas linked to the illegal night activities around the sand sites besides the worsening security situation.

Cartels had ferried armed gangsters who descended on residents around Mwanja River in Mwingi’s Central Constituency, killing one man named Mwendwa Maluki, maiming many people and raping women.

He said the incident is the predictable consequence of a lawless extraction economy that thrives on intimidation, corruption and weak oversight.

The Kitui County Assembly enacted the Kitui County Sand Harvesting Law as an attempt to instil order in the sector, but the reality remains that laws without enforcement become paper tigers, he said.

He assailed the National Environment

Management Authority (NEMA) saying though it has a presence in Kitui, it is only active in smaller compliance matters and has maintained studious silence on the large-scale destruction of forests and rivers in the County, despite its duty to act decisively to protect the environment.

In October 2024, the Kitui Land Court issued an Order stopping illegal sand harvesting activities until a petition, filed by residents of Mui River Basin, is heard and determined.

The (OCS) in Nguni was directed to enforce that order. The Senator said destruction within the Mui River Basin is taking place at a more dangerous rate than before the Order was issued, despite Nguni Police Station being operational and an OCS being in office.

“Defiance of court orders, is not a local administrative lapse, it is an assault on the rule of law and a signal to cartels that they can operate above the constitution,” he lamented.

He urged the Senate to consider an official visit to at least four affected rivers in Kitui County so that Senators may see first-hand the scale of destruction, hear residents and appreciate the extent of institutional failure and cartel intimidation.

He urged the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to intervene

and demand accountability and corrective action from all responsible actors.

On enforcement of county law, he wants the Kitui County Government to disclose track registers, revenue systems, and safeguards against leakage.

The national security agencies should deal with violence by the cartel and insecurity linked to sand harvesting zones; NEMA on the enforcement of environmental safeguards and protection of river ecosystems and the OCS Nguni and the relevant security command on compliance with the Court Order issued on October 9, 2024.

“The question before us is not whether sand is a valuable resource, it is whether we will allow greed, cartels and weak enforcement to destroy the future of Kitui County. What shall we bequeath to our children and our children’s children?”

He added: “The people of Kitui are crying out not about a minor localised grievance, but about a countywide crisis that touches roads and public safety, health outcomes, school retention, economic survival and the future of the county’s environmental stability,” he said, even as he demanded accountability and transparency from the County Executive of Kitui.

Act on Russia war cartel, House demands



Senator Dan Maanzo



Senator Edwin Sifuna



Senator Samson Cherarkey

There was uproar in the House last week over the total number of Kenyans who have been lured to fight in the Russia/Ukrainian war with lawmakers demanding the State takes bold steps to stem the influx.

A report from the National Intelligence Service (NIS), which was presented to Parliament, indicates that more than 1,000 Kenyans are actively engaged in the war.

The report notes that 39 of those who were conscripted are hospitalised, 30 have been repatriated, 28 are missing, 35 are deployed in camps, 89 are on the frontline, one is detained and another has completed the contract.

The report says the Kenyans were duped by rogue agents who promised lucrative jobs abroad.

But during debate in the House on Tuesday, the lawmakers linked the presence of the youths in Russia to cartels and challenged the Government of Kenya to arrest all those behind the infamy.

“Unless we uncover the cartels, the problems of Kenyans youths being duped to join the war in Ukraine will persist,” said Senator Edwin Sifuna, adding that the Kenyan leadership is to blame for the problem.

“It is ourselves who have created an impossible situation and life for Kenyans, that it is very easy for them to fall into these traps. When you are looking at your family starving, and somebody tells

you, I can get you a job somewhere, you will most likely want to go and do that job, even when it might not be in your best interest.

He cited the cases in Myanmar and Saudi Arabia. In the South Asian Country 39 Kenyans are serving sentences in jail after they were lured to go and do some extortion business.

The matter was brought to the floor through the request for a Statement by Senator Samson Cherarkey. The lawmaker linked the presence of Kenyans in Russia to exploitative and deceptive recruitment of youth under the guise of civilian employment opportunities.

The youths had been promised legitimate civilian jobs abroad only to find themselves exposed to military engagement in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, he said.

“Some families have reported loss of contact with their relatives, while others have sought clarification regarding the circumstances under which they can travel and the protections available to them,” he told the House.

He said the issue has raised serious concerns regarding the regulation of foreign recruitment agencies, protection of Kenyan citizens abroad, potential traffic risks, human trafficking and the adequacy of oversight mechanisms governing overseas employment opportunities.

The lawmaker wants the Committee on National Security, Defence and

Foreign Relations to give details on the number of Kenyans currently missing, stranded or otherwise unaccounted for in the Russia-Ukraine conflict war and the current status of investigations into the reported deceptive recruitment of the Kenyan citizens, including the responsible agencies and progress made to date.

The Senator further wants the House told the extent of coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Affairs, relevant security agencies and foreign governments in tracing, protecting, repatriating, or otherwise accounting for Kenyans affected by these recruitment schemes.

The measures taken to identify, disrupt and dismantle recruitment networks operating locally or internationally and the actions being pursued against all accountable individuals or entities involved in misleading or exploitative recruitment practices across the country.

The support mechanisms in place for affected families, including financial, legal and socio-psychological assistance, consular support and timely communication regarding the status of investigations and efforts to trace their relatives in the Russia/Ukraine conflict.

Senator Dan Maanzo supported the Statement even as decried the poor funding of the Kenyan embassies abroad, saying that this has rendered them ineffective on sudden occurrences, such as arrests and deaths. “Kenyans must feel

protected. Those working abroad must know that Kenya is their first country and Kenya is protecting them,” he said, adding that most Kenyans fighting in Russia had been misled into believing that they were going to be employed and that they were going to earn a living and have a future.

“If you take an untrained Kenyan to become a soldier and go and fight at the forefront of the war, you can expect disaster, certainly death. Quite a number of them have died,” he said and challenged the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to give an account of how many Kenyans are outside; who left here through agencies, or who left by themselves to get employed.

Senator Ledama ole Kina argued the House should fast track enactment of the law on legal migration even as he challenged the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare to table the bill for debate.

“This will ensure only a handful of licensed agencies country are allowed to recruit migrants abroad. We must ensure that the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the Executive work hand in hand to stop recruitments.”

He also wants the county governments to re-engineer their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) to create employment locally.

Senators: SHA should operationalise oncology benefit package



Senator Esther Okenyuri

The House has directed the Social Health Authority to urgently operationalise the Sh800,000 oncology benefit package per household, arguing that delay is causing pain to innocent families across the country.

Initially pegged at Sh550,000, the Authority enhanced the package to Sh800,000 per household effective December 1, 2025, covering chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and specialised diagnostics. The package includes full coverage for specific treatments like Herceptin for breast cancer at contracted facilities.

The package is supposed to cover various cancer treatments to ensure comprehensive care, including specialised therapies and was aimed at alleviating the financial burden of cancer treatment on families, addressing high costs that previously led to, or exacerbated, poverty.

However, the Authority is yet to operationalise the package, something that has left poor families exposed. Senator Esther Okenyuri says patients have been forced to choose between delayed treatment in public facilities or paying exorbitant prices in private health facilities.

The lawmaker is concerned over the ongoing crisis at the Kenyatta Nation-

al Hospital and other health facilities across the country that provide cancer treatment, telling the House in a Statement that due to stockouts of life-saving drugs, there have been severe disruptions in access to critical cancer medicines.

“Although the enhanced oncology benefit under the SHA was intended to provide financial protection to cancer patients, beneficiaries have been unable to access the Sh800,000 cover as the new benefit package has not been fully operationalised,” she told the House.

She wants the Committee on Health to investigate and submit to the House a report detailing the implementation status of the enhanced SHA oncology benefit package, including timelines for full operationalisation and interim measures in place to bridge existing treatment gaps.

The current status of the availability, supply and distribution of essential cancer medicine at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) and all public health facilities offering cancer treatment across the country.

The Committee should also explain the causes of reported stockouts and the measures being taken by the Ministry of Health, SHA, and relevant agencies



Senator Beatrice Ogola

to address the lack of access to cancer treatment medicine.

She also wants the Committee to look into the measures taken to strengthen accountability, oversight and proper management of cancer medicines including safeguards against theft, diversion, or loss of critical drugs.

Senator Murango Kamau supported the Statement noting the enhanced package, if operationalised as a matter of urgency, will provide reprieve to patients of the disease.

“It is important that the oncology package be operationalised as a matter of urgency because there are many cancer patients suffering out there,” he said, adding that most health facilities in counties are yet to focus on cancer treatment.

Describing cancer as a menace in communities and across the nation, Senator Consolata Wakwabubi urged SHA should ease the red tape and bureaucratic procedures that hinder patients from accessing treatment.

She said breast and cervical cancer cases are high in Bungoma County.

“While screening is done, it remains expensive and inaccessible, especially

for rural women. We need to examine the cost of treatment. Many rural women cannot afford the expenses, including transporting patients to referral hospitals. There is a need to decentralise these facilities down to the grassroots. We must emphasise availability, supply, affordability and access to cancer treatment in all counties, not only in Bungoma, but across all 47 counties.”

Senator Beatrice Ogola pushed for early intervention of the disease arguing that delay becomes expensive to patients. “I emphasise on the availability of services, access to early intervention and the strengthening of public facilities. Cancer treatment, if delayed, becomes so expensive to the public.

The Ministry of Health should unlock the benefits that come with SHA. We want to see availability of services and many patients accessing cancer treatment services especially down at the health centres and dispensaries. We need to go to the next step of declaring cancer a disaster in this country. A number of people are suffering and they are not able to meet the expenses that come with the treatment of cancer.”

Call for IPOA to take action against rogue police officers



Senator John Methu (right) and Senator Samson Cherarkey



Senator Godfrey Osotsi

The House has decried the rising cases of police brutality, with Senators demanding firm action against the police officers from the institutions charged with ensuring police oversight.

In an emotional debate, Senators singled out the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) questioning its capacity to execute the mandate thrust on it by the law and demanded that it puts its best foot forward.

The House is concerned about the failure by institutions charged with protecting the population from police excesses to take action to stem the rising cases of brutality.

Senators also want the President and the CS for Interior and National Administration to intervene and protect Kenyans from illegal action of police officers.

“The police have terrorised people in churches, roads and gatherings, yet the Constitution allows freedom of speech and gathering,” said Senator Dan Maanzo.

The debate was triggered by three Statements requested by two Senators: Senator Samson Cherarkey on the kind of investigations conducted by IPOA

since its inception.

The Senator wants to know the status of investigations conducted by the Authority into extrajudicial killings and abuse of police authority across the country.

Over the years, numerous incidences of deaths in police custody, police brutality and unlawful killings have been reported, many of which remain unresolved despite public announcements of investigations.

Some of the most obvious cases the Senator cited include the killings of residents in Kimwani area, Tinderet Constituency, Nandi County during police operations, the killing of two brothers in Kyangoma in Embu during the enforcement of COVID-19 curfew, the death of Alberto Ojwang’ while in police custody, the assault of youths playing pool in Nandi Hills Town, Nandi County and the fatal shooting of a Karatina businessman under unclear circumstances in Nyeri County.

Senator wants the Committee on Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations to provide details of the number and current status of pending IPOA investigations into extrajudicial killings and abuse of

police authority nationwide, including how long each case has remained under investigation and the reason for delays in concluding many IPOA investigations.

The extent of coordination between the IPOA and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and other relevant agencies to ensure timely prosecution and accountability outcomes and measures in place to ensure victims’ families are updated on the progress of investigations and given support.

He wants the Government to explain the safeguards applied to prevent further abuse of authority by officers under investigation, pending the conclusion of independent policing oversight authority inquiries and the steps being taken to strengthen IPOA’s effectiveness, independence, and public credibility.

In his second Statement, the lawmaker wants the Committee to explain whether the Government has launched an inquiry into the rise in organised criminal activities in the country stating how the armed gangs are able to acquire firearms for use in their illegal activities and the actions being undertaken to disrupt the supply chain of the said arms.

Among other things he wants the House informed on the immediate steps

being taken to dismantle existing gangs and prosecute their members as well as measures in place to strengthen intelligence gathering, community policing and inter-agency collaboration in order to prevent the resurgence of similar gangs.

“The initiatives being implemented by the Government to address youth unemployment, poverty and socioeconomic factors that contribute to the proliferation of organised criminal gangs.

Senator John Methu described IPOA as a moribund agency. “We actually keep hearing every day that IPOA is investigating. The IPOA must either work or be disbanded. It has actually failed the test of time and there is nothing that we can get in terms of results from IPOA. I strongly propose that this body is actually disbanded.”

Senator Godfrey Osotsi said it is not just IPOA, but all constitutional commissions noting that the country must look at how the institutions can be made really independent.

“One of the ways is to strengthen the process of recruitment of commissioners to these commissions. This is because some of them are political appointees and they end up not doing their job.”

Senator wants State to probe child abuse and exploitation



Senator Veronicah Maina

Senator Veronicah Maina has urged state agencies to conduct investigation into incidences where minors have been subject of violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation, particularly in the light of the disturbing rise in cases of defilement, disappearance and brutal murder of children in Kenya.

She says the situation compels leaders and policymakers to urgently interrogate the effectiveness of our child protection systems, community vigilance structure and law enforcement response.

The legislator called upon the agencies to urgently take decisive policy, legislative and administrative actions because the rising violence against adolescent girls and risks affecting children via online platforms.

“Kenya’s obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child require the state to take effective legislative, administrative and social measures to protect children, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all actions,” she said in a personal Statement.

She cited the killing of Shantel Waruguru, a nine-year-old child from Kianjathi Village, Mathira West Constituency, Nyeri County saying that the tragic and senseless act compels the Government to urgently interrogate the effectiveness of child protection systems, community vigilance structure and law enforcement response.

“Shantel’s case is not an isolated incident. In the recent past, several other children have lost their lives under horrific circumstances,” she noted.

They are Eliza Wamaitha, a three-year-old whose body was found in a borehole in Maragwa, Murang’a County, the murder of Tamara Blessing Kabura, a seven-year-old girl who was abducted, raped and killed in Nyeri Town. Her body was found buried inside the residence and a suspect was subsequently arrested.

The murder of Tabitha Wanjiru Macharia, an eight-year-old girl from Mbombo Village, Ol Joro Orok Constituency, Nyandarua County, who was reported missing after leaving school and later found dead, showing signs of assault. There the case in Mlolongo, Machakos County, where a mother allegedly poisoned her three young children, a four-year-old boy and a one-year-old twin girl, resulting in their deaths, in Kikuyu, Kiambu county, a mother is suspected to have killed two siblings, a seven-year-old boy and a five-year-old boy under suspicious circumstances.

In Kirinyaga County, a mother allegedly threw her three-and four-year old children into a well following a domestic disagreement, while in Nyamira County, a suspected murder-suicide claimed the lives of a mother and her two children, an eight-year-old girl and a five-year-old girl.

“Every child in Kenya has an inherent and inalienable right to life, dignity, care and protection,” she told the House, adding that Article 53 of the Constitu-

tion places a solemn duty upon the state, parents, guardians and society to protect children from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, and all forms of violence.

“These guarantees must be upheld in practice and not merely exist in law. While Kenya has enacted progressive legislation, including the Children’s Act 2022, the persistence of violence against children exposes gaps in implementation, a weak reporting mechanism, inadequate coordination among duty-bearers and a delayed response to children at risk.

She proposes that the Government should strengthen and adequately resource community-based child protection systems, including Nyumba kumi structures, local administration, faith-based institutions, and Community Health Promoters (CHPs) to support early identification, reporting, and timely intervention for children at risk and enable identification of potential child predators.

It should also establish and enforce mandatory national rapid response protocols for missing children requiring immediate action by the National Police Service (NPS), real-time interagency coordination and clearly defined timelines for investigation; operationalise and integrate national child protection data, and case management linking relevant ministries, county governments, the NPS and Judiciary to enhance information sharing, case tracking and accountability;

Stop packaging imported sugar under local brands, Senators demand

Senator Catherine Mumma wants the Government to explain why imported sugar is always packaged in the bags of local brands even as she threatened to mobilise farmers to burn sugarcane on their farms as a protest to the actions of the cartels.

The lawmaker told the House that burning the crop is a logical step because the Government is pretending to be promoting sugarcane farming in Kenya.

“We need to understand what makes commercial sense so that farmers, especially small-scale farmers in Western Kenya, can determine whether we should burn sugarcane,” she said, when she contributed to a request for Statement by Senator Edwin Sifuna.

Senator Sifuna’s request was in regard to the lapse of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) sugar safeguard regime and its impact on the sugar sector in Kenya.

The Government has indicated that the sugar sector in the country has attained competitive levels and will not experience any disruption following the lapse of the COMESA sugar safeguard regime on November 30, 2025.

However, Senator Sifuna noted that the declining interest in sugar cane growing within the larger population, coupled with the old production mills in the sugar belt, may undermine the sustainability of the perceived competitiveness.

The lawmaker wants the Committee on Agriculture to provide details of the total acreage of land currently under sugar cane cultivation compared to the data from 2023 and 2024 and obtain information on the strategies being implemented to encourage sugar cane farming and sustain its growth.

He also wants the House given details on the projected local sugar production



Senator Catherine Mumma

in 2026 vis-à-vis the estimated domestic consumption demand in the year, the anticipated tonnage of sugar imports for

2026, including details on the quantities already in shipment to Kenya or at the port awaiting clearance and offloading and the measures in place to address any anticipated shortfalls or surplus, particularly with regard to locally produced sugar.

He also wants the Ministry of Agriculture to tell the House how farmers will be protected from the unscrupulous traders who import sugar and repackage it as locally produced sugar.

Supporting the Statement, Senator Mumma demanded the Ministry to explain why imported sugar is packaged under local brands.

“I propose that we pick a day when we can burn the sugarcane and grow something else, instead of allowing cartels to bring in sugar while we waste our time pretending that we are promoting sugarcane farming.”

Committee gets 21 days more to consider Bixa regulations



Senator Consolata Wakwabubi



Senator Danson Mungatana

The House has given the Committee on Delegated Legislation 21 more days to consider the Crops (Bixa) Regulations. The instrument was tabled in the House on Thursday, September 25, 2025, and referred to the Committee for consideration in line with Section 12(1) of the Statutory Instruments Act.

Section 15 (2) of the Act, mandates the Committee to make a report within 28 sitting days after the date of referral of the instrument by the House, which would have lapsed on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Moving the Motion for extension of

time, Senator Danson Mungatana, the vice chair of the Committee, said they require more time to consider concerns raised by stakeholders on the Regulations.

“If we do not get the extension these regulations will take effect automatically. Some of the stakeholders have already expressed worries because they impose a levy,” he said while moving the Motion.

“As the Committee we request that we be given more time so that we can accord opportunity to those people who have concerns over these regulations.”

The Regulations have proposed to

impose a 1 per cent levy on processed BIXA. They are also proposing a 3 per cent levy on raw BIXA that is for export. They are proposing a 2 per cent levy on imported BIXA products.

“The public has raised concerns over these regulations. The public wants us to look at them again. The committee needs more time. We also need to listen to more small-scale farmers because these regulations that have been proposed by the Executive have put some heavy requirements on registration, licensing, traceability and quality standards for all producers and growers of BIXA in Kenya.”

Seconding the Motion, Senator Consolata Wakwabubi, a member of the Committee, said Bixa is an important crop that has a huge impact on human beings.

“As a committee mandated to look at legislation and scrutinise statutory instruments, it is important that we scrutinise it critically and bring out what is important and what can be consumed,” she said.

Bixa is used in the food industry as a colourant, for medicines and also in cosmetics.

Senator wants road accidents declared national disaster

Senator Veronicah Maina wants road traffic accidents declared a national disaster even as called for urgent, coordinated and sustained multi-sectoral intervention across prevention, emergency response, rehabilitation and long-term systemic reform.

The lawmaker says road traffic injuries are among the leading causes of death in Kenya and constitute the leading cause of mortality among adolescents and adults in their most economically productive years, surpassing many communicable and non-communicable diseases, resulting in significant loss of human capital and productivity.

Available data indicates that more than 4,400 Kenyans lost their lives in 2025, with over 17,000 injuries from road crashes, a 3 per cent increase over the previous year, while nearly 400 people were killed in road traffic accidents in January 2026 alone, representing an 11 per cent increase compared



Senator Veronicah Maina

to the same period in the previous year, illustrating a continuing trend of preventable loss of life.

In a notice of Motion she filed in the House last week, the lawmaker wants the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with

the county governments should set aside adequate resources to support road safety interventions, emergency medical services, trauma care systems and postcrash rehabilitation services and the National Treasury, in collaboration with the Ministry of Roads and Transport, should establish a Road Safety Disaster Response Fund to support road safety interventions, victims and families affected by road accidents.

She also wants the Ministry of Roads and Transport and the Ministry of Health in conjunction with the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), the National Police Service (NPS) and the Council of Governors (CoG) to urgently strengthen the implementation of the National Road Safety Action Plan (NRSAP), (2024–2028), including enhanced enforcement of traffic laws, safer road design, public education, data-driven interventions and improved emergency response capacity.

“Beyond loss of life, road traffic accidents result in long-term disability, psychological trauma, family disruption and significant economic loss, with estimates suggesting losses amounting to billions of shillings annually to the national economy, while placing severe strain on health facilities and emergency services,” says the lawmaker in her notice for the Motion.

Despite the existence of the National Road Safety Action Plan (2024–2028) and other statutory measures, she says, road carnage persists due to preliminary causes including speeding, impaired and distracted driving, non-compliance with traffic laws, inadequate driver training, unsafe road infrastructure, unroadworthy and overloaded vehicles, as well as systemic challenges arising from inadequate investment in road safety infrastructure, weak coordination among transport, enforcement, health and county authorities, and limited emergency medical response capacity.



1. Hansard officers from Busia County Assembly follow proceedings in the House during their orientation tour of the Senate.
 2. Students from Kalonzo Secondary School, Kitui County, follow House proceedings during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
 3. Teachers and students from Maranda Boys High School during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
 4. Serjeant-At-Arms from Migori County Assembly in the Senate Chamber during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
 5. Students from Othaya Boys pose for a picture after their study tour of Parliament.

Samburu maternal deaths alarm Senate

A Senator has raised the red flags over rising maternal deaths in Samburu County. And while the House expressed dismay over the issue, they described the situation as a symptom of systemic healthcare failures.

Senator Lelegwe Ltumbesi said the deaths point not to isolated clinical events but to systematic gaps in health services delivery. This includes shortage of skilled personnel, weak emergency response and referral systems, inadequate infrastructure and gaps in policy implementation and supervision, he said.

He noted that residents in remote pastoralist areas rely almost entirely on county health facilities which, he noted, is raising serious constitutional concerns over the right to the highest attainable standard of health.

The committee has been asked to provide data on maternal deaths over the last three years, staffing levels, ambulance availability, emergency response timelines and actions taken following maternal death reviews.

“Given that the residents of the remote and pastoralists areas rely almost



Senator Lelegwe Ltumbesi

entirely on the county health facilities, these incidences raise serious concerns regarding compliance with national maternal care standards and the realisation of the right to the highest attainable standard of health,” said Senator Lelegwe.

He wants the Committee on Health to address the exact number of maternal deaths recorded in Samburu County for the last three years, identify the facilities where they occurred, state the medical causes of death and confirm whether each case was reviewed under the Maternal and Peri-natal Death Surveillance

and Response Framework and its recommendations implemented.

He also wants the Committee to look into the process to approve staffing establishment and the actual number of obstetricians, doctors, clinical officers, midwives, anaesthetists and laboratory staff available in each maternity facility and establish whether 24-hour skilled birth attendance is provided in all sub-county hospitals.

The Committee should establish whether Suguta Level 4 Hospital and other sub-county hospitals have func-

tional operating theatres, blood transfusion capability, essential emergency obstetric drugs and monitoring equipment.

Senator Beatrice Ogola said it is unfortunate that women have to die in this century in the process of giving birth.

“Why is delivery a punishment in this country?” she asked, even as she argued every woman has a right to access, in a timely manner, maternal services, which must be availed.

“The services must be of good quality so that the services that mothers get are efficient and effective.”

Senator Lelegwe wants the Committee on Health to give details of the number of ambulances assigned to each sub-county, their operational status, average emergency response time and whether emergency referrals from maternity units meet national referral timelines and standards.

“The specific actions taken following maternal death reviews, including disciplinary measures, if any, budget allocation to maternal health services and a clear time-bound plan to prevent recurrence of similar deaths,” he said.

This Week in History - On February 26, 2019

House starts debate on Human Dignity Bill, 2018



Senator Abshiro Halake

On February 26, 2019, the House debated The Preservation of Human Dignity and Enforcement of Economic and Social Rights Bill, 2018. The Bill seeks to establish a framework for the preservation of human dignity for the promotion, monitoring and enforcement of economic and social rights; to establish mechanisms to monitor and promote adherence by county and national Government to Article 43 of the Constitution. Moving the Bill, Senator Abshiro Halake Kenya is a country of extremes; the super-rich people and some of the poorest people on earth. “The inequality gap is unacceptable. Until such time that we put certain frameworks in place to correct this, we will not be doing justice to our country as legislators,” she said, noting that the Bill comes at a time when we need to ensure that we do not leave anybody behind. “I am not saying that the minority and the majority who are poor have access to these things, but while the minority super-rich are accumulating so much wealth, the poor are getting forgotten and becoming poorer. Extreme inequality is getting out of control. We have an impressive economic growth of perhaps 5.8, and we expect to grow even more. But is that trickling down to the poor and the most vulnerable in our society? We must put in place systems and mechanisms and start giving effect to our Constitution that guarantees decent livelihood; good quality of education, water, food and shelter to our citizens.”



Senator Farhiya Ali said:

“One of the reasons why I sometimes fear that this country might not attain the required development is because it needs hardworking people. There has to be output. The population of the country has to produce and add value to the product, have functioning industries and brains that work. For this country to harness that opportunity, it needs a level playing field. We need such legislation to enable that environment to exist. The inequality that exists in this country is due to corruption. People like shortcuts, for example, during examination period, people steal the exams so that they can take an opportunity that is not theirs. When they are caught cheating, they say that they have been targeted. Also, in terms of employment, merit is not taken care of. Whenever there is an election, people think about whether their leaders are in the presidential race so that they can benefit. If this legislation did not only exist on paper but on real terms, then everybody will demand for their right as provided by the Constitution.”



Senator Petronilla Were said:

“The Bill is at the core of humanity. The basic values are respecting each other, caring for each other and trying as much as possible to provide a bare minimum towards human dignity. Sanitation is one of the issues that gives us dignity as human beings. It reminded me of somewhere in my county where there is a signpost in a village that says that this village is open defecation free. Every time I pass that signpost, I keep wondering, whose function it is to provide sanitation to our people. This Bill says that the provision of basic social economic rights is both the role of the national Government and the county government. For us to have, for example, latrines in the village so that we do not have open defecation in our villages, that would be a role that is squarely for the county from this Bill. Therefore, that alone makes this Bill necessary that we do not just have provisions of the Constitution and yet there is no law or way of operationalizing these articles in the Constitution. If the bare minimum is provided by the Government, both at the county and at the national level, people will have reason to struggle and reason for hope.”



Senator Agnes Zani said:

“Across the world, various countries have various levels of inequalities. Some developmental theories have tried to capture the level of inequalities by having, for example, various measures. One of these measures is a Gini co-efficient, which gives a figure of zero to one. The more a person or county is closer to one, the more unequal they are; and the more they are closer to zero, the more equality they seem to exhibit. It is, therefore, difficult to have a national Gini coefficient. We have it proposed at 0.445 per cent, which gives a level of almost in the middle there; suggesting that when they report, there is still quite a high level of inequalities. However, there is a variation. If you go to Tana River County is at 0.62; Kwale County is at 0.6; and Kilifi County is at 0.57. But with other counties like Turkana, for example, probably because they do not have a lot of distribution and variation with lower Gini co-efficient. We do not even have to look at the Gini coefficient to realise that we have a problem. Inequalities are likely to come about, then there are various levels of inequalities that will be there. Inequalities of income; and that discrepancy is very high.”



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