



The SENATE

Safeguarding Devolution

Issue No. 0088

Weekly

Senate to repeal 94 anti-devolution laws

IGTRC has identified the laws it says are clawing back the implementation of devolution.



Wajir Governor Abdullahi Ahmed, who also chairs the Council of Governors, speaks during the retreat. Others are from left, Devolution PS Michael Lenasolan, Senator Mohamed Abbas, Ms Saadia Kontoma, vice chair IGTRC, and Mr Seth Mwatela Kamanza, the Chairperson of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF).

An intergovernmental agency has challenged the Senate to urgently repeal laws saying existence of the laws is undermining devolution.

The Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGTRC), a state agency that promotes good working relationship between the two levels of Government, also wants Senators to enact a law that will facilitate intra-government disputes when, and if, they arise.

The agency has identified 94 pieces of legislations that undermine the devolved system and which must be repealed to facilitate a smooth implementation of devolution and promote service delivery

The laws mainly touch on the sectors in health, agriculture, water, energy, land

and urban development and environment and forestry.

They create state agencies that grant the national Government the power to control and execute devolved functions.

“Our plea is that you, as the guardian of devolution, must repeal these laws as they clawback on devolution,” Ms Saadia Kontoma, the IGTRC vice chair, told Senators.

She was speaking in Naivasha during the 2026 Assessment and Planning retreat for Senators on Friday 27, 2026.

The retreat offered Senators the opportunity to review their performance in plenary and committee business in 2025, identify best practices and interventions for this year, 2026.

It was also used to identify challenges that have hindered effective discharge of Senate’s representative, legislative and oversight roles and propose solutions, align priorities for this year and strengthen teamwork, collegiality and camaraderie among Senators in the discharge of their mandate.

It was also designed to renew Senators’ commitment to their call to service while providing a platform for reflection, strategic planning and collaboration in seeking a clear path forward for this year (the Fifth Session), with a view to enhance the Senate’s effectiveness in fulfilling its constitutional mandate.

One of the discussions was on devolution and Intergovernmental Relations

and the panel discussed key issues and priority areas that call for the Senate’s intervention.

Ms Kontoma told the Retreat that the law created State agencies whose key mandate is to execute devolved functions as captured in the fourth schedule of the constitution and advised the Senate to address this issue as a matter of urgency.

In December 2024, after a meeting of the Summit, which brings together the President, Deputy President and all the 47 county Governors, a directive was issued that all functions must be unbundled and transferred. The directive also declared that resources were to follow the unbundling by July 2025.



Senator Mohamed Abbas

In compliance with the order of the Summit, IGRTC took a giant step and unbundled all the devolved functions. “We want further and issued a notice in the Kenya Gazette for all the unbundled functions,” Ms Kontoma said, only for the national Government to recall it, compromising the process.

“After the Gazette, we brought together all the agencies to identify the resources, agreed and shared the total figure,” she told.

The agency has gone a step further and developed an omnibus Bill through which it hopes the push to amend the 94 laws will be actualised.

While the agency has done its legal bit and unbundled all the functions, she told senators that the national Government

has refused to let go some of the functions that are devolved and was clinging on them and the funds.

“The National Government is holding on devolved functions and the resources,” she said.

The chair of Council of Governors Abdullahi Ahmed claimed the Government recalled the Gazette Notice after the total cost of the unbundled county functions stood at Sh224 billion.

“There are people in the national Government who believe that money is too much to go to counties,” said the Governor, noting that the CoG can only watch as things happen.

He said in the last three years, the equitable shareable revenue for counties has increased by a paltry Sh35 billion,



Senator Catherine Mumma

while some agencies in the national government have seen their budgets grow in excess of Sh200 billion during the same period.

“Some Parastatals have more money to undertake devolved functions than counties do,” he said, supporting the push to amend the 94 laws.

Devolution PS Michael Lenasolan called on stakeholders to take a collective approach in addressing the challenges that affect the implementation of devolution. “We have improved our sectors and unbundled all immovable assets,” he said, adding that currently the Ministry is developing the county Own Source Revenue enhancement plan to make the collection of revenues more predictable.

Senator Catherine Mumma said the challenge is for the Senate to get resources required to start the process of repealing the laws.

The issue of intra county disputes has hampered service delivery and the solution lies with the enactment of the law.

She also revealed that the four issues had been identified as contentious during the unbundling process: Water, fisheries and sports but they had agreed on the way forward

Senator Catherine Mumma who chaired the session expressed regrets that Devolution is being implemented in a manner that suggests that stakeholders are in competition and challenged the State Department in charge of devolution to help de-escalate the disputes among devolution stakeholders.

Senators want Sh454B for county share

The House has adopted the report of the Committee on Finance on the 2026 Budget Policy Statement (BPS). During debate on the report, Senators supported the proposal to push the county equitable share to Sh454 billion for the 2026/27 financial year, Sh34 billion more than what the National Treasury is proposing.

The County Governments received Sh415 billion in equitable share in the 2025/26 financial year and the National Treasury proposal translates to a paltry Sh5 billion increase.

The legislators said the proposed Sh5 billion increase is not just paltry but inequitable, accusing the National Treasury of undermining devolution, particularly because the shareable revenue is projected to increase by Sh147.2 billion in this financial year. This translates to a 5.3 percent increase from the approved revenue of Sh2.754.7 trillion for FY 2025/26.

The total shareable revenue for the 2026/27 financial year is estimated at Sh2.9 trillion, of which Sh2.4 trillion is to be allocated to the national government, Sh420 billion for county governments and Sh9.6 billion to the Equalisa-



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

tion Fund.

The BPS identifies debt resurfacing costs and revenue underperformance as the primary reasons for allocating Sh420 billion to counties. This comprises the baseline of Sh415 billion and 5 per cent inflation upward adjustment, inclusion of Sh84.9 billion for transition of UHC workers to permanent and pensionable terms and Sh20.75 billion for implementation of SRC third and fourth review cycle and remuneration for county staff.

The Equalisation Fund will be allocated Sh15.163 billion.

While the Committee is cognisant of the various debt management strategies in place, it took great exception to the proposed Sh5 billion increase. “Allocations to counties are not a residual consideration in the fiscal framework but a constitutional requirement. A top-down allocation approach defeats the purpose of fiscal decentralisation,” says the Committee in the report.

An assessment of the proposed county equitable share indicates that the BPS did not take a holistic view of what would constitute an equitable allocation to counties of nationally raised revenue. “This misalignment has persisted since the inception of devolution. The starting point is Article 203(2) of the Constitution but is certainly not the end. Equity demands that county share of nationally raised revenue takes into account not only the 15 per cent constitutional threshold but also factors such as optimal financing for the delivery of services at the lowest level of governance, inflation, expenditures relating to employee remuneration and benefits.”

The Committee noted that counties have an outstanding obligation to implement the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) 3rd and 4th review cycle of benefits and remuneration of county staff.

It argues that a holistic approach reinforces the fact that counties are not simply spending units but are active contributors to the GDP of the country through the delivery of crucial devolved functions and creation of a conducive environment for economic investment.

Defending devolution is Senate's core obligation, Speaker Kingi

Speaker Amason Kingi has reaffirmed that the mandate of the Senate is the defence of devolution, which remains its core constitutional obligation.

Deliberations on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations was a major talking point during the 2026 Assessment and Planning Retreat that ended in Naivasha, Nakuru County, on Saturday.

The Speaker noted that the deliberations on devolution and intergovernmental relations had reaffirmed that counties remain the theatre and epicentre of service delivery.

“We have interrogated emerging concerns around budgetary allocations, oversight by County Assemblies and the Senate, and the evolving architecture of intergovernmental collaboration.”

The Speaker insisted that Senators have a critical oversight and facilitative role to ensure transparency, accountability and optimal utilisation of funds within counties.

The roll-out of the Social Health Insurance framework marks a critical shift in financing healthcare, with tangible gains already evident in expanding coverage and rationalising contributions.

The Speaker told the lawmakers that implementation of the challenges in the health sector—ranging from system integration to public sensitisation—require vigilant oversight by the Senate to ensure that healthcare becomes not merely affordable, but truly accessible to every Kenyan.

The Climate Change phenomenon continues to cause unprecedented devastation across the country and globally, destroying lives, livelihoods, infrastructure through floods and droughts, and placing economic strain on our economy.

He said Climate Change and Climate Action must at all times constitute a key part of Senate deliberations given that its devastation is felt most in the counties.

“The unprecedented rise in water levels of Lake Naivasha, alongside other lakes in the Rift Valley demonstrate that perils of climate change are closer home than we earlier assumed,” he said, even as challenged Senators to support ongoing interventions aimed at countering and mitigating climate risks.

“Senators must also move forward and promote building of resilience in our communities.”



1. Speaker Amason Kingi joins President William Ruto in cutting the cake to celebrate 100 years since the establishment of Alliance High School. The Speaker is a former student at the School.
2. Speaker Kingi shares a light moment with Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen during the ceremony to celebrate 100 years since Alliance High School was founded. The President listens.
3. Speaker Kingi was received at Alliance High School when he arrived for the celebrations.
4. Speaker Kingi and National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah, who is also an old boy of the School.
5. President William Ruto, Speaker Kingi, CS Murkomen and PS Julius Bitok sing the Alliance School anthem.

Senate invites public memoranda on Thika City bid

The push to elevate Thika Municipality to city status has entered a decisive phase after the Senate formally invited the public to submit their views on the proposal, setting the stage for what could become Kenya's sixth city.

If approved, Thika will join Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru and Eldoret as Kenya's recognised cities.

Nakuru became the first municipality to be elevated under the devolved system in December 2021 while Eldoret recently attained city status after meeting the legal and infrastructural requirements.

In a public notice issued by the Clerk of the Senate, Jeremiah Nyegenye, the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations is inviting residents and stakeholders to submit memoranda on the application for conferment of city status to Thika Municipality.

The public participation exercise, which will run for two weeks and close on March 9, 2026, is being conducted pursuant to Section 8(5) of the Urban Areas and Cities Act.

It is also in line with Article 118 of the Constitution on public participation in parliamentary processes.



Senator Mohamed Abbas, chair, Devolution Committee.

In the advert, published in the newspapers, Mr Nyegenye asked interested members of the public to submit their written representations to the Office of the Clerk in Nairobi or through the official Senate email addresses.

The Committee will also hold a public hearing on March 6 at the Thika Municipal Chambers.

The public hearing is intended to give residents an opportunity to present their views on the proposal in person.

The Kiambu County Assembly passed the resolution for the conferment during a special sitting on June 19, 2025, which

was formally communicated to the Senate by the Clerk of the Kiambu County Assembly.

The Kiambu County Assembly's decision was informed by the recommendation of its Committee on County Planning and Urbanisation. The Committee report affirmed Thika's eligibility for elevation.

Under the law, the process of awarding city status begins with a resolution by a municipality board.

In the case of Thika, Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi formed a municipality board that assessed the applica-

tion by the Thika Municipality Board in accordance with Section 8 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act.

The application was then considered by the County Executive Committee before the Governor established an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate compliance with statutory criteria, including infrastructure, population thresholds, economic viability and administrative capacity.

Upon approval by the County Assembly, the resolution is transmitted to the Senate for consideration.

If endorsed by the Senate, the resolution is forwarded to the President, who has the final authority to confer city status.

For Thika, a fast-growing industrial hub in Kiambu County known for its strategic proximity to Nairobi and expanding population, the conferment would mark a significant milestone.

Beyond the prestige, city status would usher in enhanced governance structures, improved urban planning frameworks and greater potential for investment, firmly positioning the town among Kenya's elite urban centres.

Senator Faki wants unplanned urban development explained

Senator Mohamed Faki is seeking a Statement from the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources regarding rampant and unplanned urban development in counties. Since 2013, counties have witnessed a surge in construction of residential and commercial properties but there is concern that the developments are not properly regulated.

Rapid urban growth, especially in major centres has placed enormous pressure on roads, water supply, sewer systems and electricity networks.

Senator Faki noted that the constructions have brought about an urban planning and infrastructure crisis, particularly in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kiambu, Nakuru, Kisumu and Uasin Gishu counties.

The rapid expansion has placed immense pressure on infrastructure systems meant to support growing populations noting that the existing emergency response facilities, road networks, water supply and sewerage systems are overstretched and unable to keep pace with the rising population.



Senator Mohamed Faki and Senator Joseph Githuku.

In his request, Senator Faki wants the Committee to detail the steps being taken by the county governments to accelerate development and expansion of emergency response facilities, road networks, water supply, sewerage and other critical urban infrastructure systems to match the growing urban population.

The measures being taken to address the increasing incidences of unregulated sinking of boreholes in urban centres, especially without prior geological hydrogeological assessments, are necessary to

ensure that the structural integrity of the surrounding ground and buildings is not compromised.

"The House in Mombasa which was demolished sometime last year, collapsed as a result of a failure in the geological assessments by the county government," said Senator Faki.

He also wants details on the prevailing practice and procedures for approving change of user of parcels of land in the specified counties, including whether procedures comply with the statutory

provisions in the change of user processes, the steps taken by the national Government and the specified county governments to identify and reclaim land designated for road reserves, way leaves and service corridors, open spaces, parks and urban forests and green belts, as well as road and riparian reserves that have been encroached upon

He also wants clarification on the extent to which the plans are enforced in the counties pointing to enforcement gaps as a possible driver of disorderly growth.

The Senator wants data provided on the number of physical planners, engineers, environmental officers and building inspectors employed in the counties, the measures in place to ensure progressive realisation of the required staffing levels for effective service delivery.

In addition, Senator Faki asked the Committee to outline the steps being taken to accelerate development and expansion of emergency response facilities, road networks, water supply, sewerage and other critical urban infrastructure systems.

Governor Sakaja defends cooperation deal



Devolution Committee in session.



Governor Johnson Sakaja before the Devolution Committee.

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has defended his county's landmark cooperation agreement with the National Government.

The Governor told the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations the deal is necessary to improve delivery of service in the Kenyan capital.

The Committee, tasked with safeguarding the sanctity of devolution, approached the session with a mixture of cautious optimism emphasising the need for a proper legal instrument to protect county autonomy.

Senators raised concerns regarding constitutional adherence, questioning whether the heavily weighted implementation committee, composed largely of National Government Principal Secretaries, might inadvertently sideline county officers and dilute the role of the County Assembly.

"Governor, you need to come out clearly on where the county assembly of Nairobi is left when it comes to this kind of cooperation. They need to be involved in this," Senator Mohamed Abbas, the Chairperson of the Committee, counselled.

Governor Sakaja addressed the committee with a palpable sense of urgency, framing the specialized agreement as a pragmatic necessity rather than a political choice, arguing that Nairobi's unique status as the seat of national power and a global diplomatic hub demands a resource base far beyond what the current devolution framework provides.

According to the Governor, the combined Sh40 billion received from the Senate and the county's own-source revenue is hardly adequate for a capital city, drawing a stark comparison to the capital's global peers.

Central to the Governor's defense was

the distinction between this cooperation and the previous Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) model. The county boss was explicit that this agreement is not a transfer of functions under Article 187 of the Constitution.

He reassured the committee that no new institutions are being formed and that the county government remains the primary authority.

"This is not a handover; it is cooperation," Governor Sakaja clarified, insisting that the framework is designed to facilitate a direct injection of funds from the National Government into critical sectors like education and infrastructure.

He cited the Sh50 billion sanitation project along the Nairobi River as a prime example of a massive infrastructure undertaking that the county could not possibly fund in isolation.

Beyond the river restoration, Governor Sakaja highlighted the potential for the agreement to resolve the city's perennial water deficit, informing members of the Committee that he has secured funding for a reverse backwash system that could provide 55 million liters of water a day in less than 18 months.

He staked his entire career on the success of this implementation, confident that the collaboration would result in a "huge difference" in the city's cleanliness, lighting, and road networks.

However, Senators remained focused on the basic tenets of the Constitution, particularly regarding public participation and oversight, warning against cosmetic public engagement, insisting that the people of Nairobi must have a genuine say in an agreement that affects their home.

"Governor, you should have ensured that meaningful public participation was carried out before finalising or sign-



Senator Mohamed Abbas, the chair of the Committee on Devolution, shares a light moment with Senator Catherine Mumma, the vice chair, during the meeting with Nairobi County Executive.

ing the agreement. What happens if the views of the public are against the agreement?" Senator Catherine Mumma, the Vice Chairperson of the Committee, posed.

Governor Sakaja pointed to ongoing efforts by the Nairobi City County Assembly to conduct forums across all 17 sub-counties. He argued that the constitutional mandate for the two levels of government to cooperate already reflects the sovereign will of the people.

The Devolution Committee reiterated that for the agreement to work, it must preserve the county's identity, protect

the Assembly's oversight powers, and maintain budget integrity.

While the Senators acknowledged that Nairobi requires more resources, they emphasised that the Nairobi lifestyle cannot be achieved through shortcuts that undermine the law. For Governor Sakaja, the agreement represents a bold step toward making Nairobi a world-class capital. He cautioned against a "paralysis of analysis," suggesting that staying trapped in old fears would prevent the city from moving forward.

Lawmaker calls for probe on spread of intimate content

Senator Catherine Mumma wants the investigative agencies to identify and disrupt individuals who have been circulating videos on social media platforms exposing Kenyan women being secretly recorded without their knowledge or consent in a moment of intimacy with a foreigner.

The content was captured using concealed recording devices and disseminated online for voyeuristic consumption, but the Senator says this has exposed the women involved to humiliation, stigma, reputational damage and profound psychological harm.

“I urge the relevant investigative and prosecutorial agencies to act with speed, diligence, and sensitivity to identify the perpetrators,” she told the House in a personal Statement, adding that the digital evidence should be secured and distributional networks disrupted.

“Those responsible must be brought to justice. The communications regulator and the digital platforms operating in Kenya should strengthen prompt takedown procedures and the circulation of non-consensual intimate images and videos consistent with our laws and constitutional standards.”

She said the act is a gross affront to the values and protections enshrined in the Constitution.

Article 8 guarantees every person the right to inherent dignity. “That dignity should be respected and protected, while



Senator Catherine Mumma

Article 31 guarantees the right to privacy, including the right not to have one’s private affairs unnecessarily required or revealed.” She said secretly recording and distributing intimate encounters without consent is not only immoral, but it is an egregious violation of constitutional rights and may constitute offenses under the Data Protection Act and the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act.

“This incident underscores the dangerous intersection between technology and gender-based exploitation. The mis-

use of digital tools to commodify women’s bodies and private lives reflects a broader pattern of online gender-based violence that continues to threaten the safety, dignity, and equality of women and girls in our country.”

She added: “Digital spaces must not become safe havens for abusers, predatory contact and impunity.

She was particularly concerned about the speed and the scale at which such harmful content spreads online and the inadequacy of deterrence and response

mechanisms to prevent the capture, upload and redistribution of non-consensual intimate material. Equally troubling is the secondary victimization that occurs when members of the public continue to share, forward, or trend such content, thereby compounding the harm suffered by victims and entrenching a culture of cruelty and impunity.

Beyond enforcement, the victims require protection and support, she said.

“This matter calls for strengthened survivor centered responses, including confidential reporting channels, psycho-social support, legal aid and public education on the criminality of recording, processing, sharing, or recirculating intimate content without consent.”

She also called for renewed national commitment to combating technology-facilitated gender-based violence through prevention, accountability, and the promotion of responsible digital citizenship

“The dignity of Kenyan women is not negotiable. This House must send a clear message that exploitation, whether physical or digital, will not be tolerated, and that the rights of privacy and dignity guaranteed under our Constitution shall be protected without hesitation or exception.”

Senator demands answers on Commodities Fund sharing

Senator James Murango has expressed concern after Kirinyaga County, one of Kenya’s leading coffee producing counties, was excluded from the allocation of the Commodities Fund.

This despite the existence of significant cooperative debts and the centrality of coffee farming to the county’s economy and livelihoods.

Reports indicate that a substantial amount of money from the Commodities Fund has been disbursed to coffee cooperatives in counties such as Embu, Murang’a, Nyeri, Machakos, Bungoma, Kisii, among others, with some cooperatives receiving allocations running into hundreds of millions of shillings.

The Senator is demanding information on the eligibility and selection criteria used to identify beneficiaries, coffee cooperatives and counties and the process through which the assessment, approval, and disbursement decisions were made.

He wants the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to investigate the matter and submit before the House the current status of the Commod-



Senator Murango Kamau

ities Fund Programme for coffee debts clearance, including the total amount allocated, disbursed to date and the list of beneficiary cooperatives and counties with corresponding amounts.

“The Committee should explain why Kirinyaga County was excluded from the allocations, including whether the coffee cooperative’s accounts were assessed and the outcome and justification for non-allocation,” he said.

He said all indebted coffee coopera-

tives nationwide were subjected to the same objective assessment and verification process and the measures the Ministry is taking to ensure fairness, equity, and transparency in the programme.

He wants the Committee to explain the measures being taken to remedy the apparent imbalance, including whether the Ministry intends to review the allocations and provide for the inclusion of eligible coffee cooperatives in Kirinyaga County in subsequent disbursements

with clear timelines.

Senator Edwin Sifuna supported the Statement arguing that Kirinyaga County is one of the counties that ranks highest amongst the coffee producers in the country.

“If you look at the number of corporate societies that are in that county and the debts that they are holding on their books, one would expect that because this Commodities Fund was set up precisely to provide access to cheap credit, then you would expect that Kirinyaga County would be on that list,” he said

Embu county received Sh171 million in one cooperative and Sh59 million in another. Bungoma received Sh6 million in one cooperative, Sh2 million in another and Sh1 million in another.

“We need to be told the criteria that is used for the distribution of resources. Where is the fairness? Where is the objectivity in the distribution of these resources? This is because it just does not make any sense. We do not grow any coffee here in Nairobi. So, I want this Committee to provide these answers to me, so that I can understand what is going on in the distribution of resources in this country.”

At 40%, poverty still high despite years of interventions

Kenya's poverty rate currently stands at 39.8 per cent, the Senate heard on Wednesday.

The National Treasury admitted that the level remains unacceptably high despite years of social and economic interventions.

Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning John Mbadi presented updated poverty data while responding to a question by Senator Tom Ojienda.

The question was asked on his behalf by Senator David Wakoli.

"The poverty headcount ratio stood at 54.9 per cent in 2009. This reduced to 36.1 per cent in 2015/16 and 33 per cent in 2019. However, due to COVID-19, in 2020 this ratio rose to 42.9 per cent, but it has since reduced to 39.8 per cent," CS Mbadi told the House during the Questions Time on Wednesday.

He acknowledged the seriousness of the situation, adding: "However, that is still very high and interventions are necessary."

In his question, Senator Tom Ojienda wanted the Cabinet Secretary to provide to the House an update on the implementation status of all ongoing economic and social programmes aimed at reducing poverty and alleviating household economic hardship. The total number of beneficiaries reached from 2019/20 financial year to date, and the measurable outcomes achieved under the programme. He also wanted the CS to indicate the regions or counties experiencing the highest levels of poverty and the specific measures being undertaken to address the disparities, the steps being taken to ensure effective targeting, transparency and equitable allocation of resources in national poverty reduction programmes.

The Cabinet Secretary outlined a range of interventions aimed at reversing the trend, including direct social transfers, youth empowerment programmes, food security initiatives, health sector reforms and education funding expansion.

On social protection, he detailed the expansion of cash transfer programmes under Inua Jamii.

The elderly cash transfer programme, he noted, originated from a 2008 Motion he personally moved in Parliament.

"It would interest this House to note that the older persons' cash transfer pro-



CS John Mbadi

gramme came as a result of a Motion which the Cabinet Secretary standing in front of you moved in 2008. It has since risen to Sh2,000. However, the admission age has since been revised to include all elderly persons aged 70 years and above," he said.

He noted that beneficiary numbers have grown significantly.

"Under orphans and vulnerable children in Financial Year 2019/20 only 294,000 were benefiting. The next category of all elderly persons, used to be 763 now it is 1.2 million Kenyans," he said.

The Hunger Safety Net Programme, targeting extremely poor households in arid and semi-arid regions, now provides Sh2,700 per month, up from Sh2,300.

Beyond social transfers, the CS high-

lighted agriculture as central to poverty eradication.

"Inability of Kenyans to feed themselves is the first indicator of poverty," he said, pointing to the Kenya National Fertiliser Subsidy Programme, which he said has significantly lowered fertiliser prices.

"A 50-kilogramme bag of fertiliser which used to sell between Sh6,000 to Sh7,000 per bag is now selling at between Sh2,500 to Sh3,500."

During the 2025 long rainy season, approximately 7.4 million bags were procured and distributed.

In education, the Treasury is scaling up funding dramatically.

"The budget for education is increasing from Sh703 billion in this year's budget to Sh767 billion in the next

year's budget. As a matter of fact, when this administration came into office, the education sector was only receiving Sh546 billion," said CS Mbadi.

Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) funding will rise from Sh41 billion to a proposed Sh58 billion.

To ensure transparency and accountability, CS Mbadi disclosed that the Government had cleaned up the beneficiary register for cash transfers.

"In fact, in the last financial year, we saved over Sh2 billion by cleaning the register for cash transfer. This is to ensure that the right people are targeted."

He added that the savings were reallocated to support health programmes for vulnerable Kenyans.

22 counties exceed national poverty average

Kenya's regional poverty disparities came into sharp focus after the National Treasury tabled county-by-county data revealing that 22 counties have poverty levels above the national average of 39.8 per cent.

CS John Mbadi told Senators that Turkana tops the list.

Turkana County leads with a head count rate of 82.7 per cent followed by Mandera. The lowest is Nairobi City at 16.5 per cent and then Kiambu at 19.9 per cent.

He listed Turkana, Mandera, Samburu, Garissa, Tana River, Marsabit, Wajir, West Pokot, Kitui, Isiolo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Busia and Kwale as counties with poverty rates above 50 per cent.

However, he cautioned that poverty percentages do not tell the full story, especially in urban areas.

"Although the poverty levels in some



CS Mbadi and senior officials from the National Treasury in the Senate.

counties were lower, they still contribute more to the poor nationally. For instance, Nairobi City County which had a poverty rate of only 16.5 per cent contributes 3.8 per cent of the total poor nationally," said the CS.

He described the growth of urban poverty as a planning challenge, saying: "This necessitates robust planning, not only to curb poverty in regions with high poverty levels, but also to consider the emerging growing urban poor."

To address disparities, the CS said the Government is using an equitable share allocation formula that includes a poverty component, conditional and targeted grants, the Hunger Safety Net Programme, food security interventions and infrastructure expansion.

"This administration is seeing a lot of Government intervention towards infrastructure development in northern Kenya, an area that had been neglected and forgotten for so many years," he told the House.

The programme covers over 700 kilometres of roads.

CS Murkomen defends police, admits rising mob justice

Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration Kipchumba Murkomen has admitted that rising fatalities linked to mob justice reflect deep mistrust in the justice system.

He made the admission on Wednesday when he faced tough questions from Senators over mob justice, extrajudicial killings and police accountability.

During the session, Senator Murkomen tabled county-by-county figures, revealing alarming numbers on mob justice.

"In counties like Machakos, we have 22 fatalities, Embu 33, Kisumu, 36, Vihiga 20, Kilifi 18, Kisii 18, Migori 19, and Nairobi 55 fatalities were reported. Kiambu was higher with 58," he told the House during last week's Question Time on Wednesday, even as acknowledged that the numbers point to a deeper systemic problem.

"That points to a very serious issue with the rule of law. People generally do not believe in the judicial system and the justice system of the country, all the way from arrest to prosecution to conviction," the CS stated.

He said public frustration over bail and bond processes often fuels mob action.

"When you ask this question all the time, why do people resort to mob justice the answer is always that if this person is taken to court, he will be released on bail. People do not understand bond or bail," he said.

On extrajudicial killings and police accountability, CS Murkomen confirmed that investigations remain ongoing in



CS Murkomen responds to members' concerns during last week's Questions Time.

cases under scrutiny.

He noted that both the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) are involved.

"The IPOA commenced its investigations concurrently with the DCI which

had opened an inquiry file and forwarded the two firearms surrendered by the officers to the National Forensic Laboratory for ballistic examination to preserve the evidence," he said.

He assured Senators that safeguards have been put in place to prevent inter-

ference with investigations.

"Mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that the accused person have no access to the files or the witnesses," he said.

The CS further stated that any officer found culpable would face the law.

"The Police Service ensures that any officer found culpable of committing any criminal offence or serious breach of discipline is promptly interdicted pending the conclusion of the case," he told the Senate.

Pressed on delays in investigations, he acknowledged limitations in his office's authority.

"On the part of the timeline, the areas that the ODPP requested to be covered are yet to be completed and the ballistic analysis is also ongoing," he explained.

"In terms of directing on when and how, the Cabinet Secretary does not have the capacity or is not allowed by law to direct how the investigations will be carried out and at what speed. However, it is important to know that justice delayed is justice denied," Murkomen stated.

On compensation for victims of crime, the CS was categorical that no standing government policy exists.

"Unfortunately, there is no law or Government policy that provides that victims of crimes must be compensated in any way," he told Senators.

He referenced a previous political agreement that had contemplated compensation mechanisms for victims of police brutality but noted that court orders had halted the committee established to implement it.

Pursue SHA scammers, Senators direct CS Duale

Senators have asked the Ministry of Health to aggressively pursue individuals involved who have scammed the Social Health Authority billions of shillings through fraudulent claims.

While the legislators welcomed the CS Aden Duale assurance there was no loss of Sh11 billion, they demanded a quick action on the files that have been submitted to the Directorate of Public Prosecution on noncompliance claims.

“While we appreciate the assurance you have given us, we need to see commensurate prosecution on all the files the Ministry has submitted to the ODPP,” said Senator Edwin Sifuna, expressing concern over the slow pace of investigations and prosecutions.

Mr Duale had denied there was a loss of Sh11 billion from the SHA, a figure he said represents claims that were flagged, rejected, and unpaid by the new digital gatekeeper. Therefore, this represents money saved, not lost.

He instead revealed that it was through artificial intelligence and big data engines that SHA was able to detect the anomalies that led to the Sh12.7 billion in rejected claims.

Guided by the data from the engine, the Ministry formally submitted 1,188 files of fraudulent and non-compliant claims to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI). Currently, 248 healthcare facilities are under active investigation by the DCI.



Health CS Aden Duale speaks at the retreat as Governor Abdulswamad Nassir listens.

The DCI has forwarded 30 case files to the ODPP, with 9 cases already pending before the court.

26 suspects have been arrested and charged, including facility directors and former SHA officials who colluded to bypass controls.

SHA has also aggressively executed financial recoveries, recouping Sh305.8 million through administrative surcharges, and over Sh3.2 million via ADR by the ODPP, with processes underway to recover a further Sh817.3 million.

Addressing the 2026 assessment and planning retreat for Senators, the CS described the move as a profound constitutional milestone and one of the greatest equalisers in the nation's history. “Because of devolution, we have functional Level 4 and 5 hospitals across all 47

counties delivering life-saving interventions closer to the people,” he told the gathering in Naivasha, Nakuru County.

He hailed Parliament for undertaking a historic legislative marathon, enacting the four critical laws that form the legal spine of the national healthcare system: The Social Health Insurance Act, 2023 – establishing SHA to replace the NHIF, The Digital Health Act, 2023 – creating the digital superhighway for health data, The Primary Health Care Act, 2023 – operationalizing the hub-and-spoke model and Community Health Promoters and The Facility Improvement Financing Act, 2023 – ensuring funds raised in hospitals stay in hospitals.

“Prior to these reforms, our system was ailing. We had a fragmented financing model where the NHIF paid out more in fraudulent claims than it collect-

ed in legitimate premiums. We had no visibility of data; patient records were paper-based, making portability impossible,” he said.

Senators have welcomed a declaration by Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale that the devolution of health function was not a mistake.

Senator William Kisang asked the CS to explain what happens to registered members of SHA but who do not pay their subscription in time.

Senator Julius Murgor demanded that detention of patients within the health facilities for non-payment of bills should be discontinued as it is demeaning.

The lawmakers also directed the Ministry to put in place policy interventions to stop the incessant industrial actions that have undermined service delivery in health facilities in the country.

We can withdraw ECDE tutor circular, PS Bitok

Basic Education PS Julius Bitok has said the Ministry has never received a request to withdraw a circular that merges the training of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teachers with that of primary school teachers.

Prof Bitok told the meeting of Senators that while he has had the calls, mainly from the media, there is no formal request that has been lodged by the Council of Governors.

“Give us a formal request and we shall consider it,” said the PS, even as indicated that discussing the matter was sub judice as it is being adjudicated before the courts.

The PS was speaking during one of the Panel Discussions at the 2026 Senate Assessment and Planning Retreat in Naivasha, Nakuru County.

The Ministry issued the directive on January 19, consolidating the Diploma in Early Childhood Teacher Education (DECTE) and the Diploma in Primary Teacher Education (DPTE) into a single qualification — the Diploma in Teacher Education Pre-Primary and Primary (DTE PP&P).



Senator Betty Montent and PS Bitok listen during the Panel Discussion on Education during the retreat.

Although the aim of the policy shift is to harmonise teacher training within basic education, stakeholders have rejected and want the Ministry to recall the circular.

Senator Margaret Kamar said the effects of the policy is that ECDE learners will be denied quality care givers and called for the circular to be withdrawn to facilitate consultations.

The Senators joined the fray and argue that the policy shift ignores very pertinent issues related to the teacher ratio to learners within the ECDE Centres.

While Senators welcome the devolu-

tion of ECDE function, they are unhappy that the attendant resources were not transferred, an act that has compromised delivery of service.

It emerged during the discussion that the ECDE function has not been costed, meaning that the financial implication of an ideal ECDE function is not known.

This has affected the quality of education young learners receive from the centres. The consequence is that the recruitment of ECDE teachers has suffered from lack of budgetary allocations while books, feeding programmes and other materials necessary to deliver on the

function remain out of reach.

Senator Margret Kamar said although the ECDE has been devolved, resources have not been transferred. Counties are struggling,” she said, as she challenged the Ministry to consider budgetary allocation in future.

Senator Consolata Wakwabubi regretted that lack of budgets has seen cases of teacher/learner ratio rise significantly.

“There are centres in Bungoma County where the ratio is as high as 1 teacher to 70 learners,” she noted.

Senator Betty Montent, who chairs the Education Committee, said research by her Committee shows that the ratio in 25 counties is as bad as 1 teacher to 100 learners.

Senator Catherine Mumma accused the counties of budgeting on bursaries and scholarships, which are not their functions, and ignoring ECDE education.

Senator Julius Murgor said ECDE classrooms in West Pokot are in bad shape, there are no learning materials and the feeding programme is in shambles. “Teachers are being taken into circles when it comes to payment,” he said.

2025 was productive, Majority Leader says of House Business

Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot has said the Fourth Session (2025) of the 13th Parliament was both productive and instructive as the Senate significant milestones in legislation, oversight, and representation.

The Leader said during the year the House also confronted persistent challenges in quorum, discipline, member participation, and enforcement of resolutions.

“These experiences must guide us as we enter the Fifth Session – 2026,” he said, citing the approval of the fourth basis for revenue sharing among county governments for the financial years 2025/26 to 2029/30 as one of the most notable success stories for the House in 2025 because it fulfilled a critical constitutional mandate.

Other successes he noted include improved output on Question time and appearances by Cabinet Secretaries in plenary to respond to Parliamentary Questions in line with the Standing Orders, Senators exercised their oversight role through questions, statements, petitions, and committee work, ensuring county governments, ministries and agencies were held accountable, Senators represented Kenya in multiple international and regional forums, amplifying the country’s voice in global debates on governance, climate, development, and peace and the installation of the new chamber system, which, once fully adopted, will prevent previous system failures and ensure smoother running of the House.

He gave the scorecard while addressing the 2026 assessment and planning retreat in Naivasha, Nakuru County.

The Senate held a total of 127 Sittings during the year: 112 ordinary sittings 14 special sittings and one joint sitting. A total of 24 Senate Bills were published during the period. Three of these Bills have been assented to. They include the County Governments Additional Allocation Bill, 2025, The County Governments Additional Allocations, 2025 and the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2025.

In addition, the President assented to The Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2023 and the County Public Finance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023. The two Bills were published and introduced in the Second Session (2023).

Similarly, the House passed 29 Senate Bills and referred them to the National Assembly, where they are pending conclusion, while a total of 17 Bills were



Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot.

referred to the Senate by the National Assembly.

A total of 144 Motions were filed by members in 2025 out of which 107 were adopted, 2 were negatived and three were withdrawn. In addition, 31 Motions are still pending determination while two lapsed.

The Majority told the House that 55 resolutions passed by the House during the year were conveyed to the relevant ministries and agencies for implementation.

A total of 1,574 papers were laid on the Table of the Senate during the Fourth Session. The Office of the Auditor General accounted for the highest number with 1,303 reports, 120 committee reports, and 26 Regulations from various ministries, and 12 were reports of various constitutional and independent offices.

Further, there were three reports from mediation committee and three joint reports of the National Assembly and the Senate.

Senator Cheruiyot said Petitions sub-

mitted for consideration by the Senate in the Fourth Session were on issues relating to Constitutional amendments, land matters, inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), scientific research, labour and remuneration matters.

A total of 162 Petitions were filed during the year but only 15 were admissible while the remaining 147 were rejected for failing to meet the legal test.

“A majority of the Petitions were inadmissible for non-adherence to the requirements set out under Section 3 of the Petition to Parliament (Procedure) Act and under Standing Order 235 of the Senate Standing Orders,” said the Majority Leader.

During the Fourth Session, 130 Questions were filed by 32 Senators and processed pursuant to Standing Orders: 93 Questions were responded to, two were withdrawn by their respective senators and four Questions were dropped by the Speaker due to the absence of the Senators.

A total of 31 Questions lapsed at the end of the Session.

During the year, Senators sought or issued 561 Statements and also considered three impeachment Motions during the year. The Motion to remove from office Governor Abdi Ibrahim of Isiolo County in July, 2025.

The Senate upheld the preliminary objections raised by the Governor on whether the County Assembly held sittings to debate and vote on the Motion.

The second Motion involved Governor Erick Kipkoech Mutai of Kericho County held in August, 2025.

Like, in the case of Isiolo, the Senate upheld the preliminary objections raised by the Governor, that the requisite threshold of two-thirds was not met to pass the impeachment Motion.

The trial of Governor Amos Nyaribo of Nyamira County in December 2025.

The Senate upheld the preliminary objections raised by the Governor, that the requisite constitutional and statutory requirements had not been met to pass the impeachment Motion.



1. *Speaker Amason Kingi with Education PS Julius Bitok during the retreat.*
2. *Speaker Kingi, Majority Whip David Wakoli and Deputy Minority Whip Edwin Sifuna.*
3. *Senator Veronica Maina Speaks at the retreat.*
4. *Senator Consolata wakwabubi.*
5. *Senator Joseph Githuku consults Senator Hamida Kibwana during the meeting.*
6. *Health CS Aden Duale speaks to Senators during the retreat.*
7. *Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye, who is also the Secretary, Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), makes his presentation during the retreat.*



1. Senator Tabitha Mutinda and Senator Hamida Kibwana follow the proceedings at the retreat.
2. Senator Mariam Omar and Senator Beatrice Ogola.
3. Senator Issa Boy Juma.
4. Senator Esther Okenyuri follows the discussions. Senator Okiya Omtatah is in the foreground.
5. Senator Peris Tobiko.
6. Senator Betty Montentt reacts to the discussions at the retreat.
7. Deputy Minority Whip Edwin Sifuna shakes hands with Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Nassir as Speaker Kingi looks on.



1. Senator Enock Wambua, the Deputy Minority Leader.
2. Senator Wakili Sigei.
3. Senator Hezena Lemaletian.
4. Senator Eddy Oketch.
5. Senator George Mbugua.
6. Senator Karungo Thang'wa.



1. Senator Miraj Abdulahi.
2. Senator Joyce Korir.
3. Senator Margret Kamar during the Panel discussion of education matters. Kericho Governor Erick Mutai listens.
4. Senator Wahome Wamatinga and Senator Mohamed Abbas at the retreat.
5. Basic Education PS Julius Bitok makes his submission as Senator Betty Montent listens.
6. Senator Beth Syengo shares a light moment with Senator Consolata Wakwabubi.



1. *Senator Moses Kajwang’.*
2. *Senator Joseph Githuku*
3. *Senator Okongo Orogeni and Senator Wahome Wamatinga.*
4. *Senator David Wakoli and Livestock PS Jonathan Mueke during one of the Panel discussions.*
5. *Senator Beatrice Ogola.*



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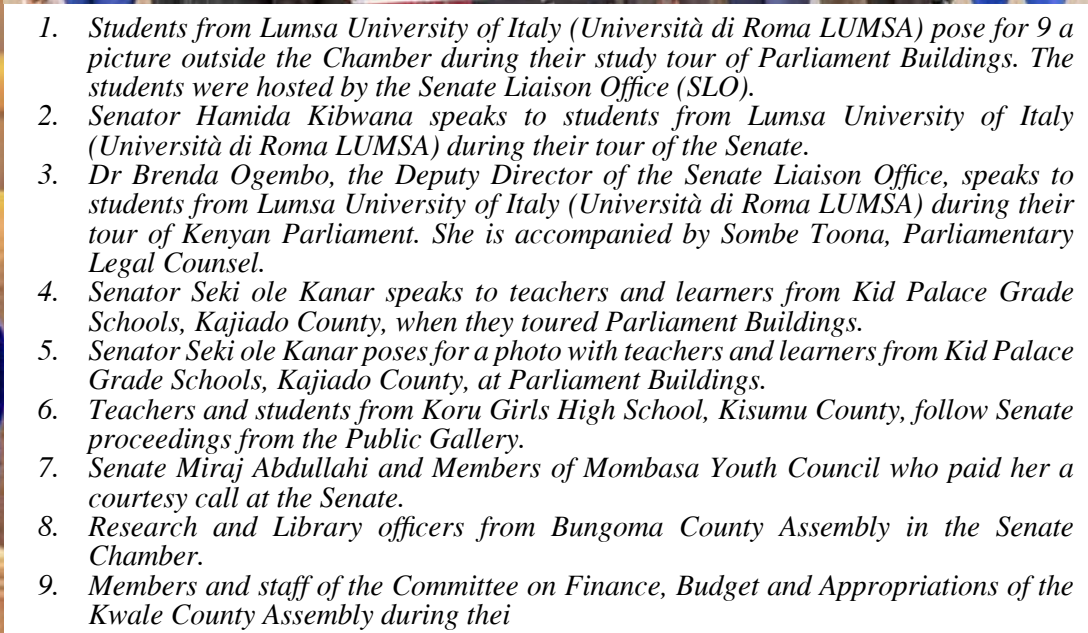


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1. Senator Crystal Asige
2. Senator Julius Murgor
3. Senator Joyce Korir and Senator Okongo Omogeni.
4. Senator Shakila Abdallah reacts to some of the presentation at the retreat.
5. Senator Mwenda Gataya and Senator Margret Kamar.
6. Senator Tabitha Keroche



1. Students from Lumsa University of Italy (Università di Roma LUMSA) pose for 9 a picture outside the Chamber during their study tour of Parliament Buildings. The students were hosted by the Senate Liaison Office (SLO).
2. Senator Hamida Kibwana speaks to students from Lumsa University of Italy (Università di Roma LUMSA) during their tour of the Senate.
3. Dr Brenda Ogembo, the Deputy Director of the Senate Liaison Office, speaks to students from Lumsa University of Italy (Università di Roma LUMSA) during their tour of Kenyan Parliament. She is accompanied by Sombe Toona, Parliamentary Legal Counsel.
4. Senator Seki ole Kanar speaks to teachers and learners from Kid Palace Grade Schools, Kajiado County, when they toured Parliament Buildings.
5. Senator Seki ole Kanar poses for a photo with teachers and learners from Kid Palace Grade Schools, Kajiado County, at Parliament Buildings.
6. Teachers and students from Koru Girls High School, Kisumu County, follow Senate proceedings from the Public Gallery.
7. Senate Miraj Abdullahi and Members of Mombasa Youth Council who paid her a courtesy call at the Senate.
8. Research and Library officers from Bungoma County Assembly in the Senate Chamber.
9. Members and staff of the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations of the Kwale County Assembly during thei

Senator seeks answers on NTSA's failure to address road fatalities

The rising cases of road traffic fatalities and serious injuries have attracted the interest of the Senate. Over the past three years, they have claimed thousands of lives, causing life altering disabilities and costing the economy hundreds of billions of shillings.

Senator Okiya Omtatah says the National Transport Safety Authority (NTSA) has failed to enforce key statutory safety measures, including ISO 39001 of 2021- Road Traffic Safety (RTS) Management Systems, structured accident investigations, journey and fatigue management and real-time monitoring.

The lawmaker says the Authority has not adequately considered professional proposals to strengthen road safety management.

The lawmaker wants the Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing to investigate measures the NTSA has taken to implement and enforce RTS Management Systems as required under the existing law, including compliance with monitoring stakeholder co-ordination,

capacity building and accountability mechanisms.

He also wants a probe on the underlying factors contributing to the continued rise in road traffic fatalities and serious injuries despite the presence of legislative and regulatory frameworks and an explanation of gaps in enforcement, oversight and inter-agency co-ordination that may be undermining their effectiveness.

He also wants to know whether the NTSA has evaluated or adopted structured road safety management frameworks aligned with international best practices, including globally recognised standards and evidence-based interventions and the specific policy, administrative, institutional and enforcement reforms currently being implemented or planned to curb the increasing trend of road traffic accidents, improved compliance, strengthened monitoring and evaluation systems and ensure measurable reductions in fatalities and serious injuries.



Senator Okiya Omtatah

This Week in History - On March 3, 2021

Kenya Power has failed, Senators complain as they debate Statement on outages



Senator George Khaniri

On March 3, 2021, Senator George Khaniri sought a Statement from the Committee on Energy concerning the frequent power outages in Vihiga County. In the Statement, demanded the chairperson of the committee explain why the County experiences frequent power outages that cause disruptions in the economic and social-economic activities. He also wanted the Committee to explain to the House what has been done about it so far, considering that this is an issue that had been going on for a long time. "I have brought it here before on the Floor of this House," he said.



Senator Mithika Linturi said:

"It is worth noting that power outages are not only a common phenomenon in Vihiga. Meru is one of the worst hit counties in terms of power outages despite there being some sub-stations within the county, especially in Maua where I come from. I have stayed without power. I have a generator which runs my house yet I have KPLC next to my door. The problem that we are talking about cuts across this country. As the Committee looks into this matter, there are a few other things that they must bring to the attention of this country. This is because a lot of resources have been channeled to KPLC through various agencies to make sure that power distribution in the country is effective, efficient and accessible to most common citizens."



Senator Farhiya Ali said:

"Power outage is everywhere in this country including the Lavington, Karen and Wajir areas of this world. Sometimes what I do not understand in public sector is; if somebody does not deliver, why are you keeping them there? This problem of Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) has been there for some time. In my county, for example, every year during Ramadhan time, there is a complete power outage. Sometimes you just wonder whether they work with the devil. There is no other explanation. Marsabit County produces 210 megawatts of electricity. Wajir County is a neighbor to Marsabit County. What is the problem of just pulling that power from Marsabit County to Wajir County? This is so that people of Wajir County can feel part of this country and be served as well."



Senator Mutula Kilonzo

Junior said:

"It is actually a misnomer to call this company Kenya Power and Lighting Company. It is Kenya no Power and no Lighting. It is a misnomer. The second point is that when all of us got tired of talking about Kenya Airways, we formed a Select Committee. It is when we discovered what the problem of Kenya Airways was. It was mismanagement and looting by the group of Mr. Titus Naikuni and Mr. Mbuvi Ngunze. What nobody is going to say is that KPLC is overwhelmed by faulty transformers brought here by tenderpreneurs. They will never tell you. In Makueni County alone, there are 300 failed transformers."



Senator Ali Ibrahim said:

"I thank Senator Khaniri for bringing this Statement which should not only be about Vihiga County but the whole country. This is because Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) has failed the country. They are collecting money from everybody but failing in every way, not only in the rural areas but also in Nairobi. A person has to pay Sh30,000 or Sh40,000 for a House which has five people. KPLC is a looter and something should be done about it. In Wajir, we have had problems with KPLC day in day out for the last one month. The whole town is on rationing. We are going into the month of Ramadhan soon and if we continue with this, there might be riots in Wajir."



A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

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