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Gender Bill: IEBC raises implementation concerns

The Commission highlights potential conflicts in the Bill as it raises concerns over practical enforcement should it be enacted.



Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, sponsor of the Bill

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has welcomed the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2025, but warned that some of the proposals could pose implementation challenges.

The Bill, sponsored by Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, seeks to address gaps in achieving equitable gender representation in both Houses of Parliament and County Assemblies.

Introduced in October 2025 as part of the National Dialogue Committee reports, the Bill aims to implement the two-thirds gender principle by allowing additional nominated members where the threshold is not met.

It also proposes a minimum 5 per cent representation for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in both the National Assembly and the Senate, and introduces term limits for party list seats.

Further, the Bill seeks to amend Article 90 of the Constitution to enhance transparency in party list nominations by requiring political parties to involve members through fair and democratic processes.

It provides a mechanism to ensure that where either House fails to meet the two-thirds gender threshold, additional members are nominated through party lists to achieve compliance.

The Bill amends Article 97(1) of the Constitution, which defines the composition of the National Assembly, including the 290 single-member constituencies.

To boost women's representation, Senator Cheruiyot proposes a new sub-article allowing post-election nominations where results do not meet the gender threshold.

Currently, the National Assembly has 12 special seats, while the Senate has 18 nominated seats for women. The Bill proposes that the number of additional members be determined after each general election.

It also seeks to raise PWD representation in the Senate to 5 per cent of total membership, in line with Article 54(2), which calls for progressive inclusion of persons with disabilities in public bodies.

Article 27(8) requires that no more than two-thirds of members of elective or appointive bodies be of the same gender. While County Assemblies have an enforcement mechanism under Article 177, no similar framework exists for Parliament.

While the IEBC supports the Bill's objectives, it warns that the proposals could create practical challenges in implementation.

The Constitution fixes the number of PWD representatives in the Senate at two, but does not specify numbers for the National Assembly or County Assemblies, where they fall under marginalised groups.

Under Article 177(1)(c), the number of marginalised representatives in County Assemblies is determined by legislation, with the Elections Act currently setting the number at four.

The Commission notes that enforcing the 5 per cent PWD quota alongside gender top-ups could create conflicts.

"Enforcing the 5 per cent quota for persons with disabilities after allocating the gender top-up may result in a shortfall in meeting gender parity," says the Commission in its comments on the Bill,

adding that it could result in perpetual allocation as the Commission will be required to strike a balance between the gender and PWD quotas.

It warned that this could lead to continuous adjustments as the Commission tries to balance gender and PWD quotas.

“This raises the question of whether there is a hierarchy or priority among the different categories of marginalised groups. Intersectionality and its application within the party list framework also need to be considered.”

The Commission appreciates the proposed amendment to Article 97(1)(c), noting that it would be prudent to establish the specific categories of marginalised groups to be included in the list of 12 members.

Whereas Article 54(2) provides for progressive realisation, the Commission says it may require political parties



Senator Wakili Sigei, chair, Committee on Justice which is considering the Bill.

to prioritise categories of marginalised groups, such as persons with disabilities, that remain underrepresented.

“The allocation could also be done in the same manner as in County Assembly lists, where a marginalised list is administered first before the gender top-up

list,” says the IEBC memorandum on the Bill.

The memorandum was presented to the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights, which is considering the Bill.

“The PWD quota should precede

the gender top-up allocation. It would be imperative to have a consequential provision that ensures representation of PWDs in each County Assembly.”

The IEBC, however, backs the proposed amendment to Article 97(1)(c), saying it would help clarify categories of marginalised groups under the 12 special seats.

It also suggested prioritising under-represented groups such as PWDs and aligning allocation with the County Assembly model, where marginalised lists are filled before gender top-ups.

“The PWD quota should precede the gender top-up allocation. It would be imperative to have a consequential provision to ensure representation of PWDs in each County Assembly,” the Commission said.

The Bill also proposes to limit nominated MPs and MCAs to a maximum of two terms.

Parliament faces Sh4.2bn bill for Gender Rule compliance



Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye with Women Senators in a past event.

Parliament will require an additional allocation of Sh4.2 billion per year to meet the costs of the expected new MPs in the two Houses should the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2025, be enacted into law, the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has projected.

PBO, a professional, non-partisan unit within Parliament that provides independent analysis on budget, finance, and economic matters to lawmakers, estimates that the 14th Parliament will have a minimum of 71 new lawmakers should the law be enacted.

The Bill, which is sponsored by Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, proposes to amend Article 97(1)(c) to provide for the nomination of an additional number of special seat members in compliance with the constitutional provision that no more than two-thirds of the members of the National Assembly and the Senate are of the same gender.

The additional number of members to be nominated will be determined after every general election, says the Bill, adding that the exact number would vary depending on the election outcome.

The Bill also seeks to separate People with Disabilities (PwDs) from the

list of special interests, which currently provide 12 nominated members to represent youth, PwDs, and workers. Instead, it introduces a new paragraph to create a dedicated category of seats for PwDs, which would be equal to 5 per cent of the total members in the categories provided under Articles 97 and 98(1), which are: members elected from single-member constituencies (for both Senate and National Assembly), the 47 Woman Representatives, and the 12 special seats.

In the Senate, the 5 per cent will be an aggregate of both elected and nominated Senators.

Borrowing from the trends of the last three election cycles, the PBO estimates that the number of Members of the National Assembly will grow by 63 women, while in the Senate the numbers will increase by four women Senators, if both Houses are to comply with the two-thirds gender rule, resulting in a total increase of 67 members in the 14th Parliament.

“Based on the assumptions, and in order to implement the two-thirds gender rule, the National Assembly will require an additional allocation of approximately Sh3.64 billion in the first financial year upon commencement of the 14th Parliament, while the Senate will require



Women Senators join their National Assembly counterparts in a dance during a Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) event.

an additional allocation of approximately Sh231.2 million, totalling approximately Sh3.87 billion in additional allocation for both Houses,” the PBO says in a report to the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

The report focused on the cost implications of implementing the provisions in the Bill, should be enacted and assented to by the President.

According to the PBO estimates, the cost of maintaining one Member of Parliament (National Assembly or Senate) is Sh4.4 million. This comprises direct earnings by a member (salaries and allowances), which total Sh1.2 million; indirect earnings accruing to a member (domestic travel, foreign travel, constituency offices), totalling Sh2.1 million; and indirect costs (consumption of utilities, maintenance of offices), Sh1.1 million. The one-off cost of a member’s car grant is Sh5 million, and an average annual inflation of 5 per cent is assumed.

On the gender top-up alone, the total number of members of the National Assembly will rise to 412, and the total number of Senators will be 71.

The numbers will rise to 71 if you factor in the proposed increase in PwD representation to 5 per cent. According

to calculations by the PBO, on average there will be two additional Senators and six Members of the National Assembly to enable both Houses to meet the requirement of 5 per cent of total membership being persons with disabilities.

In order to implement the amendment, which seeks to create seats for PwDs equal to 5 per cent of the total members in each House, the National Assembly will require an additional allocation of approximately Sh346.8 million in the first financial year, while the Senate will require an additional allocation of approximately Sh115.6 million, both totalling approximately Sh462.4 million in additional allocations for both Houses in the first financial year.

The PBO says the Bill, if enacted, enhances constitutional compliance by providing a clear and enforceable mechanism to actualise the two-thirds gender principle and the 5 per cent PwD representation requirement, besides strengthening inclusive governance by promoting equitable representation of women and persons with disabilities in elective and nominated positions.

Treasury calls for caution on Gender Bill

The National Treasury has advised caution on the proposed Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2025, because of its impact on the public wage bill and fiscal sustainability.

The Bill proposes an increase in special seats, which the National Treasury says could lead to a substantial increase in the number of representatives in both the National Assembly and the Senate, and with it, additional funding.

In its comment on the Bill, which is currently before the Senate, Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi advised Parliament to explore revenue-neutral alternatives to achieve the Bill's objectives.

He argues that the potential increase in members introduces unpredictability in recurrent expenditure, complicating fiscal planning and conflicting with the government's fiscal consolidation efforts.

"The increase contradicts ongoing efforts to reduce public sector wage bills and maintain discipline," he said in a memorandum to the Committee on Jus-



CS John Mbadi

tice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

The increase will also undermine the stability of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), which relies on predictable expenditure.

"The increased costs could crowd out essential development expenditures, thereby negatively affecting economic growth and development trajectories."

An analysis of the composition of the National Assembly and Senate in the last three election cycles by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) indicates that the 14th Parliament may have 71 new members should the Bill be enacted into law.

The PBO, which is the parliamentary office charged with advising Parliament

on matters of finance and budget, projects that the total number of members of the National Assembly will rise to 412, and the Senate to 71, based on gender top-up and the proposed increase in representatives of PWDs.

The PBO further estimates that Parliament will require an additional allocation of Sh4.2 billion per year to meet the costs of financing the new members.

In his memorandum on the Bill, CS Mbadi called for caution because the proposed amendments require careful fiscal assessment due to concerns about the availability of fiscal space to accommodate the increased costs associated with an expanded Parliament.

Among the revenue-neutral alternatives, the National Treasury proposed that political parties be mandated to ensure gender and PWD representation during the nomination process.

"Political parties should be made to ensure stricter compliance with candidates' lists rather than creating additional seats funded by the Consolidated Fund."

Parliament's many attempts to implement Gender Rule

Parliament has made at least 12 failed attempts to enact legislation to implement the two-thirds gender rule since the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, —each collapsing under political resistance, lack of quorum or waning will.

The earliest push came through the Mutula Kilonzo Bill (2011), sponsored by the then Justice Minister Mutula Kilonzo, but it lapsed with the end of the 10th Parliament, setting the tone for a decade of stalled reform.

The Bill proposed a mechanism for the post-election nomination of women to fill the gaps necessary to reach the mandatory gender threshold, rather than setting aside special constituencies.

In 2012, the Supreme Court directed Parliament to enact the legislation to implement the provisions of two thirds gender rule by August 27, 2015. Parliament failed.

Two years later, in 2014, the Mutambo Bill, sponsored by then Mwingi Central MP Joe Mutambo, proposed a radical restructuring—reducing constituencies and counties to align with gender quotas. It was quickly overwhelmed by political opposition.

A flurry of attempts followed in 2015, marking the most intense but ultimately futile legislative push.

Then Majority Leader Adan Duale spearheaded multiple efforts—Duale I, II and III Bills—all aimed at increasing special seats for women. One proposed a 20-year "sunset clause," while others sought to tweak representation formulas.



Senator Beth Syengo

None survived: some collapsed for lack of quorum, others failed to meet the constitutional two-thirds threshold, and one simply lapsed with the 11th Parliament.

Parallel efforts fared no better. The Sijeny Bill (2015), introduced by nominated Senator Judith Sijeny, failed twice in the Senate, unable to marshal sufficient support.

The Chepkong'a Bill (2015), fronted by then Justice and Legal Affairs Committee chair Samuel Chepkong'a, was rejected for proposing a "progressive implementation" model instead of immediate compliance. A second attempt by Chepkong'a also lapsed.

Even attempts to bypass constitutional amendment hurdles proved futile. The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill (2015), another Duale initiative, sought to address the gender question through electoral law reforms, but it too failed.

In March 2017, the High Court faulted Parliament for the failure to implement



Former Senator Judith Sijeny

the gender principle. The court directed MPs to enact the legislation within 60 days, failure to which the provision of Article 261 of the constitution was to apply. Despite the court order, parliament did not enact the legislation within the 60 days.

Article 261(7) provides that if Parliament fails to enact any court-ordered legislation to implement the constitution, "the Chief Justice shall advise the President to dissolve Parliament and the President shall dissolve Parliament." This is the sole constitutional remedy provided for the failure and/or refusal by parliament to enact constitutionally required legislation. Perhaps because it is a last resort, the language in Article 261(7) is mandatory for both parties. Neither the chief justice nor the president is granted any discretion; nor incidentally, does it require the chief justice to be petitioned to act.

The momentum spilled into subse-

quent years but with the same outcome. The Sijeny Bills of 2017, introduced in the Senate, again failed to secure the required votes. In 2018, Duale IV Bill, a reworked version of earlier proposals, collapsed despite high-profile backing from President Uhuru Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga—undone by low attendance and a lack of political will.

Perhaps the most powerful attempt to deal with the issue was introduced by the Building Bridges Initiative in 2020, which was spearheaded by President Kenyatta and the late Raila Odinga.

Known as BBI, it sought to fix the gender rule through constitutional design, not repeated legislation. It expanded Parliament and introduced a formula to ensure compliance with the two-thirds gender rule through additional nominated seats. But the initiative was nullified by the courts in 2021, halting what had been the most comprehensive reform process.

BBI offered the most practical fix yet to the two-thirds gender rule—automatic, formula-driven, and constitutionally anchored. But it died on process, not principle.

After the 2022 general election, Senator Beth Syengo made another effort. Her Bill proposed the introduction of special seats in both the National Assembly and Senate. The seats were to be added after elections to fix gender imbalance.

Committee to probe Eldoret Pharmacy over minor's sight

On Friday, February 27, 2026, a video emerged on social media showing a woman storming a pharmacy in Eldoret City, accusing the owner of dispensing the wrong medication for her child, leading to loss of eyesight following a medication error at the facility.

She claimed that the pharmacy mistakenly sold her a skin medication instead of prescribed eye drops, an error that reportedly worsened the child's condition.

The child suffered severe complications, leading to loss of eyesight.

The matter has now reached the Senate, with Senator Hezena Lemaletian arguing that the case underscores systemic gaps in pharmaceutical practice, with serious implications for public health and regulatory accountability.

The Senator has sought a statement from the Committee on Health on the state of due diligence, professionalism, regulatory oversight and ethical compliance within Kenya's pharmaceutical sector.

She wants the Committee to investigate the circumstances under which the pharmacy issued the wrong medication, outlining the applicable dispensing protocols and whether they were complied



Senator Richard Onyonka

with.

She also wants the Committee to explain whether any legal, regulatory or administrative action has been taken against the pharmacy and the personnel involved.

"The Committee should explain the mechanisms used by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya and any other relevant professional or regulatory bodies to verify the registration, qualifications, licensing status and continuing professional competence of practitioners, including the date of the last nationwide audit or inspection," she said.

She further wants the Committee to

outline the current compliance status of pharmacies and chemists countrywide, including the number of licensed outlets, recent inspection and enforcement outcomes, and sector-wide reforms by the Ministry of Health to strengthen oversight and accountability in pharmaceutical practice.

Describing the matter as weighty, Senator Richard Onyonka said the problem points to weak standardisation in handling medicines.

"We do not have a very strict regimen on how the Pharmacy and Poisons Board handles issues of serum used in the treatment of snakebites," he said in support of the statement.

He warned that unscrupulous actors are exploiting regulatory gaps to push substandard drugs into the market.

"The medicines that help our people most, including malaria tablets, are being targeted by unscrupulous individuals who manufacture fake drugs and sell them to hospitals," he said.

Senator Onyonka urged the Committee to examine best practices from other countries that have successfully regulated the pharmaceutical sector.

He also called for stronger state involvement in the production of essential medicines, including antimalarial drugs, and a proper system to audit pharmacies and map their locations across the country.



Senator Hezena Lemaletian

Blood collection crisis triggers concern in Senate

The Senate has demanded urgent action from officers managing the national blood bank, with lawmakers accusing them of sleeping on the job.

Senators warned of a systemic failure in the country's health sector, saying the situation requires immediate attention.

Senator William Kisang said the House should even consider probing basic issues that require minimal resources, such as blood donation.

"You need minimal resources for people to donate blood," he said, faulting those in charge for inaction.

"They need to roll out a blood donation campaign because people are willing to donate to save lives. They should stop sleeping on the job. We have regional banks in Kisumu and Eldoret, and the National Blood Bank in Nairobi. They need to mount a serious campaign," he added.

Concern was raised by Senator Seki ole Kanar, who flagged a shortage of blood collection bags at Kenyatta National Hospital, the country's main referral facility, saying it has severely disrupted donation services.



Senator Tabitha Mutinda

"This shortage has gravely disrupted blood donation services despite the presence of willing donors, thereby endangering patients in urgent need of transfusion, including accident victims, mothers with childbirth complications, surgical patients and those suffering from chronic conditions," he said.

He has now tasked the Committee on Health to provide details on the availability of blood collection bags and related supplies at KNH and other public referral facilities, the number of potential donors turned away, and the extent to which patients have been affected.



Senator Lenku ole Kanar

The Committee is also expected to explain the cause of the shortage, when the Ministry of Health was first notified, and the immediate and long-term measures put in place to restore supplies and prevent recurrence.

Senator Aaron Cheruiyot said Parliament must adopt a more holistic approach to funding KNH to ensure it has adequate resources to meet the growing demand for services.

"I know that as a Senate we have no powers to allocate budgets, but we can certainly plead with our colleagues in the National Assembly to ensure refer-



Senator William Kisang

ral hospitals are adequately funded," he said.

Senator Tabitha Mutinda said the shortage of blood collection bags reflects misplaced priorities in the health sector.

Health Committee chair Senator Jackson Mandago said the matter is already under review and promised a swift probe.

"We will report to the House within a week. My committee will make a quick visit to KNH to ascertain the situation before giving feedback," he said.

Cancer treatment failures irk lawmakers



Senator Jackson Mandago, chair, Health Committee, with staff during an inspection visit at Machakos Level Four Referral Hospital.

Cancer treatment is a matter of national interest and should not be confined to Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), Senators have said, urging that all county referral hospitals be equipped to offer the service.

Senator Jackson Mandago, chair of the Committee on Health, challenged lawmakers to ensure more resources are channelled to counties through the equitable share.

He specifically urged the House to provide conditional allocations to support healthcare services.

“When funds go to counties, competing priorities make it almost impossible for the health function to receive the requisite resources for services such as cancer treatment,” he said, adding that there is also a need to increase human resources in the sector.

“The oncologists we have in this country are few. That is why most of the equipment is centralised at national referral facilities. This is a matter of national interest. Let us ensure we provide conditional allocations for counties to use.”

He pointed to ongoing efforts by the national government through the National Equipment Service Programme (NESP), under which referral facilities can access equipment through a placement model without immediate capital expenditure.

Under the arrangement, facilities are expected to utilise the programme to ensure adequate equipment, while the Ministry increases the human resource capacity required for the sector.

Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire raised concern over cancer treatment at KNH, saying patients have been forced to seek costly alternatives after the hos-

pital’s only linear accelerator for radiotherapy broke down.

“The breakdown, now persisting for approximately two months, has completely disrupted radiotherapy services. Patients have been forced to seek treatment in alternative facilities, many of which are significantly more expensive,” he said.

He wants the Committee on Health to outline measures being taken to expedite repair of the machine, timelines for restoring services, and alternative treatment options available to affected patients.

He also called for clarity on budgetary allocations and procurement plans for additional or backup radiotherapy equipment to prevent future disruptions.

“The Committee should also examine the broader structural and operational challenges facing KNH, including steps being taken to address them comprehensively,” he said while requesting a statement.

Senator Tabitha Mutinda questioned how a national referral hospital can lack such critical equipment.

“How can a national hospital like KNH lack such a machine and people sit comfortably without it? You can do everything right, but when this disease strikes, everything stops. It is high time we prioritise health,” she said.

The Social Health Authority (SHA) has increased funding for cancer patients from Sh550,000 to Sh850,000, but Senator Mutinda said the increment falls short if key facilities lack essential equipment.

“No Kenyan should suffer or die from a disease that can be prevented or treated. It requires early diagnosis. Radiographers are scarce in this country, and the few available should be deployed across



Senator Gataya Mo Fire and Senator Fatuma Dullo



Senator Okongo Omogeni

counties because they play a critical role,” she said.

She added that late diagnosis remains a major challenge and called for a significant reduction in the cost of cancer medication.

Citing HIV treatment as an example,

she said patients can access free medication and manage the disease effectively.

“The same should be extended to cancer patients. Radiotherapy machines should be procured in all referral hospitals,” she said.

Senator Okongo Omogeni described the matter as a test of leadership and humanity.

“When such an issue is brought before us, we should treat it with urgency. What else are we doing as leaders if we cannot fight for the poor? Anyone going to KNH has nowhere else to go. They rely on a public facility where Article 43 of the Constitution should guarantee their right to healthcare,” he said.

He warned that the breakdown of critical equipment effectively denies Kenyans access to treatment.

“Denying patients treatment forces them into desperation, where they may sell land or deny their children education just to afford care,” he said.

Queries over delay in release of Shakahola bodies



Speaker Kingi consults Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo in the House.

Senators are demanding answers from the Ministry of Interior on why the 286 bodies of victims of the Shakahola killings are still being detained at Malindi Sub-County Hospital three years later.

The bodies are part of the victims linked to the Shakahola massacre, where followers of a controversial cult leader died in large numbers in Kilifi County in what investigators described as a case of starvation and abuse.

The lawmakers say patients at the hospital are psychologically affected by the presence of the bodies and are demanding that they be removed as a matter of urgency.

“DNA tests have been conducted. What is happening? Is someone using them for sorcery or witchcraft? Why are the bodies not being released to their families?” asked Senator Samson Cherarkey.

Senator Enock Wambua said the

continued detention of the bodies is hardly the way of dealing with the dead in the African and Kenyan context.

“It does not matter what explanations are available for this. You cannot have bodies lying inside a container outside a public hospital while the relatives and kin are crying out to be given the bodies to accord them a dignified send-off.”

The two were commenting on a request for a statement by Senator Stewart Madzayo, who wants the bodies removed from the facility for reasons of public health.

Senator Madzayo says the continued detention of the bodies at the facility is causing tension and threatens public health for staff at the hospital and residents of the county.

The delay in releasing the bodies has largely been attributed to challenges in identification, with authorities relying on DNA testing to match the remains with relatives, a process that has taken longer than expected.

He wants the Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations to provide details of the total number of bodies lying at the facility and the reasons for the delay in their identification, which has caused an emotional toll on the affected families.

He also wants the Committee to explain to the House the efforts the Government is making to hasten the identification of the bodies so that the families can bring closure to the issue.

Senator Mohamed Faki said there is a need for the matter to be addressed as a matter of urgency, adding that the House had formed an ad hoc committee which gave very strong recommendations on the bodies.

“The Committee recommended that the bodies should be handed over to their families. They have not. It is clear that the money the Senate put into this investigation was a waste,” he said.

Nairobi Hospital: lawmakers demand answers on dispute

Senators have said the issues facing Nairobi Hospital need urgent attention because the public has invested heavily in the facility.

The Hospital is experiencing a severe governance dispute involving board infighting, allegations of financial mismanagement and claims of state interference.

Key issues include a high-stakes power struggle over control of the institution, a 61.3 per cent price increase for services, and a Sh527 million loss linked to disputes with insurers.

Directors have faced allegations of conflict of interest and failure to comply with financial reporting, leading to court cases.

The board has sued state officials, alleging unlawful interference and intimidation.

As of late March 2026, some directors have been charged and released on personal bonds, while others have resigned from the troubled board.

Senator Okiya Omtatah told the House that letters of grant issued in 1952 show that the hospital sits on trust land.

“It does not own that land; it only nominally occupies it. If it were to move out, and if the government wanted to take back that land, it would only be compensated for the buildings,” he told the House, adding that it is in the interest of all Kenyans to ensure it is given the attention it requires.



Senator Okiya Omtatah (centre) flanked by Senator Jackson Mandago (left) and Senator Mwenda Gataya during a tour of Busia Level Four Referral Hospital in 2025.

But he warned that this should not be an excuse for cowboys to begin raiding the hospital under all manner of pretexts.

“Cowboys have been hovering. In fact, they were not cowboys; they were vultures hovering, ready to go for the carcass.”

The Senator was contributing to a request for a Statement by Senator Hamida Kibwana on the governance, regulatory and service delivery concerns arising from the ongoing dispute affecting the hospital and its parent body, the Kenya Hospital Association (KHA).

She wants the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare to address the status of governance and administrative arrangements currently in place at Nairobi Hospital and the Kenya Hospital Association, strictly to the extent necessary



Senator Veronica Maina

to establish whether there is institutional stability and continuity in the management of the facility.

She also wants the Committee to explain whether the ongoing dispute has in any way affected the delivery of health services, patient care, staffing and other aspects of the hospital’s operations, and the measures taken to mitigate such effects.

She is also seeking an explanation on the oversight role of the Ministry of Health, the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) and other relevant regulatory bodies in ensuring that private hospitals of significant public importance continue to meet standards in patient safety, quality of care, ethical practice and institutional accountability during periods of internal disputes.



Senator Hamida Kibwana

She further wants measures in place to safeguard the interests of patients, members of staff and the public from any adverse effects that may arise from governance instability or leadership wrangles at the institution.

“The Committee should explain whether the existing legal and regulatory framework governing major private health institutions is sufficient to assure transparency, fiduciary accountability, continuity of care and protection of public interest where such institutions experience governance disputes.”

Describing the facility as a centre of excellence that supports not only Kenya but also East and Central Africa, Senator Veronica Maina said it was sad to witness the board plagued by infractions and internal disputes.

Senator demands probe into Kericho mass grave

A Senator has called for immediate investigations into the discovery of 33 bodies allegedly buried without authorisation at Makaburini Cemetery in Kericho County.

Two local gravediggers reported that on March 20, they were hired by unknown individuals to dig a large, deep grave. A white Toyota Land Cruiser arrived early in the morning and offloaded the bodies, which were quickly covered.

Preliminary investigations suggest the bodies may have originated from a mortuary in a neighbouring county, possibly Nyamira, which allegedly had limited space, though this is yet to be verified.

Two suspects, including a cemetery caretaker identified as Richard Towett and a medical superintendent from a hospital in Nyamira County, are in police custody assisting with investigations.

Senator Joyce Korir said the matter raises concerns over possible breaches of public health and legal procedures, noting that the incident is deeply troubling and demands accountability from the relevant authorities.

“Reports indicate that 33 bodies were



Senator Esther Okenyuri

buried at Makaburini Cemetery without following due process or obtaining the necessary authorisation,” she said, warning that the incident raises serious questions about adherence to burial regulations and oversight mechanisms.

The Senator is seeking a comprehensive statement on the circumstances surrounding the burials.

This, she said, should include how the bodies were interred without detection and whether proper documentation and approvals were bypassed.

She is demanding clarity on the identities of those buried, the institutions re-



Senator Joyce Korir

sponsible and details on the identities of the deceased and the persons or entities involved in the unauthorised burials.

She further wants to know the action taken against those found culpable even as she called for swift enforcement of the law to deter similar incidents.

“The statement should address measures put in place to ensure that such incidents do not recur, including enforcement of existing laws and regulations governing burial procedures,” she said.

Senator Okiya Omtatah supported the statement, saying that the issue of undisposed bodies and the disposal of bodies



Senator Agnes Muthama

requires serious attention.

Senator Agnes Muthama called for thorough investigations, expressing fears that the incident bears a strong resemblance to the 2023 Shakahola killings.

She said there is a risk that innocent people are being killed and buried in mass graves, adding that the probe should establish the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

Senator Esther Okenyuri also likened the deaths to what happened in Shakahola and warned that the matter should not end the way the Shakahola case did.

TRANSITION

House mourns Senator Daniel Karaba

The Senate has eulogised former Senator Daniel Karaba, who has died aged 78 years, as a respected leader, a dedicated teacher who built a distinguished career in the education sector, served with humility and touched many lives.

Mr Karaba, who served as the Senator for Kirinyaga County in the second Senate between 2013 and 2017, passed away on the morning of Monday, March 23, 2026 after a short illness.

The passing of the former Senator was communicated to the House by Speaker Amason Kingi who observed that Parliament and the nation at large has lost a diligent and selfless leader who consistently championed the interests of the people of Kirinyaga County and the welfare of teachers in Kenya.

“The late Senator, popularly known as Mwalimu Karaba, built a distinguished career in the education sector, rising through the ranks from teacher to deputy principal and later principal of various schools,” Speaker Kingi informed the House.

Senator Wahome Wamatinga described the late as a somebody who had a deep understanding of devolution and deep commitment of where devolution



The late Senator Daniel Karaba

needed to take the country and advocated for the formation of regional economic blocs so that it makes economic sense for the counties around Mount Kenya.

Senator John Kinyua described the late Senator as a humble leader, a selfless servant for the people of Kirinyaga who had passion for matters concerning

education.

While celebrating the life of the late Karaba, Senator Joe Nyutu hailed him saying he was a teacher who achieved what many of his colleagues never achieved, citing his rise from the classroom to the principal, the National Assembly and the Senate.

Senator William Kisang held the same view saying he rose from low until what he described as self-actualisation. “This is a great achievement; for one to rise from a classroom teacher, deputy principal, senior principal and eventually a member of parliament for 10 years,” he said, while Senator Munyi Mundigi said the late was known for the great work he did in Kirinyaga County as a teacher which led to his being elected to Parliament.

A graduate of University of Nairobi, the late Karaba served as Senator for Kirinyaga County from 2013 to 2017, having previously represented Kirinyaga Central Constituency as a Member of the National Assembly from 2002 to 2007.

During his stint, he served as chairperson of the Committee on Education.

Wellness drive hits 200M steps, doubles annual target

The Senate staff Step-up Challenge has overwhelmingly surpassed its initial target, underscoring not only the enthusiasm among employees but also a growing institutional shift toward prioritising health and wellness in the workplace.

Launched in September 2025, the initiative by the Welfare and Wellness Committee, set an ambitious goal of 100 million steps to be achieved over a one-year period ending September 2026. The challenge was designed to encourage staff to adopt more active lifestyles, improve physical fitness, and foster a sense of camaraderie across departments.

However, barely halfway into the challenge, the results have far exceeded expectations.

An analysis of data from the tracking system indicates that Senate staff had collectively recorded an impressive 203,247,768 steps by February 2026—just six months into the programme. This figure is more than double the original annual target, effectively placing the initiative far ahead of schedule and highlighting an unexpectedly high level of participation and consistency among staff.

At the current monthly average of approximately 33 million steps, projections suggest that the total could reach at least 500 million steps by the end of



Parliamentary staff hiking Ngong Hills as part of promoting wellness within the institution.



Posing for a picture after conquering Ngong Hills.

the challenge period in September 2026. If achieved, this would represent five times the initial target, marking the programme as one of the most successful internal wellness initiatives within the institution.

A closer look at the data reveals notable patterns in staff engagement. The most active period was recorded between October 12 and November 12, 2025, during which participants collectively

logged 40,559,924 steps—the highest monthly total so far. This spike may point to heightened enthusiasm following the official rollout of the programme, as well as possible internal competitions or awareness campaigns that drove participation.

In comparison, the first month of the challenge, between September 12 and October 12, 2025, saw staff record 33,406,056 steps. This was followed by a steady increase to 35,042,862 steps in the subsequent month, indicating that rather than tapering off after the initial launch, participation actually gained momentum.

Ms Caroline Njue has maintained a steady lead at the top of the log, with in excess of 5.2 million steps, followed by Nasser Ahmed, Marlene Andia, J Nde-

gwa, Javan Nangeyo and Nelly Mbuvi.

The sustained upward trend suggests that the challenge has managed to maintain interest beyond the typical early excitement phase that often characterises such initiatives.

The committee believes that the consistency is particularly significant, as workplace wellness programmes frequently struggle with long-term engagement.

Beyond the numbers, the success of the Step-up Challenge reflects a broader shift in workplace culture within the Senate.

Increasingly, institutions are recognising that employee wellness is directly linked to productivity, morale, and overall organisational performance.

Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegeny, who is also the Secretary, Parliamentary Service Commission, has argued that by investing in such initiatives, the Senate is not only promoting healthier lifestyles but also fostering team cohesion and a more supportive work environment.

The Challenge has evolved from a modest fitness target into a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved when employees are given the tools, motivation, and environment to prioritize their well-being.

This Week in History - On March 31, 2022

Senators want the cotton sub sector revitalised



Senator Njeru Ndwiga

Senators started debate on the Cotton Industry Development Bill, 2021, which seeks to reorganise the cotton industry by establishing the Cotton Industry Development Board, providing a framework for cotton farming and ensuring value addition to cotton and its related products. Moving the Bill, Senator Njeru Ndwiga, the chair of the Committee on Agriculture who said the cotton sub sector has continued to face colossal challenges, including but not limited to government bureaucracy, regulatory restrictions, inconsistent national and international economic realities and scientific unreliability. "Other factors challenging the sector are the cut-throat competition, competitive prices and introduction of imports," he said. The Bill requires counties to implement the policies, standards and strategies by the national Government and guidelines on corporate governance in cotton growers' institutions. Additionally, counties are required to facilitate the production of cotton in the respective county by implementing and expanding the planting and replanting programme of cotton in strategic areas identified as having the most potential and facilitate the rehabilitation and fertilization of existing cotton



Senator Agnes Kavindu said:

"For this industry to pick up and continue well, we must look after the cotton farmers and facilitate them, so that they can continue with farming. Farming is not cheap. It is expensive. You will find that the middlemen are the ones who benefit more than the farmers. We must encourage farmers to do farming so that they continue to provide food for this country. We must look at the wellbeing of the farmers by giving them seeds and fertilizers. We should also encourage them with good prices for their farm produce. When this industry is revived, people will have work to do. They will earn a living from it and even be able to support their families. We hear that there is unemployment in our country. However, there is a lot that can be done to enable the majority of Kenyans to get jobs. This cotton industry is one of them."



Senator Ochillo Ayacko said:

"Agriculture is the past, present and the future. Without agriculture, we become a sinning nation. Remember in all narratives of creation, God created the earth, meaning soil, water, human beings and the environment. It means that God's gift to us are the raw materials used in Agriculture. As a nation, we have immense untapped potential in terms of agriculture. We have human skill and human resources that should be utilised to engage productively in agriculture. If we do this as a nation, we will be able to use our resources like land, water and population. Our purchasing power is what has been produced."



Senator Gertrude Musuruve said:

"We need to diversify and see how to encourage our farmers. It is very clear that as Kenya we signed international treaties that affirmed that we are going to support agriculture. One of the treaties that Kenya signed was the Maputo Declaration. The declaration said that about 10 per cent of the National Revenue would go to farming. When it comes to agriculture, Kenya is bound by international laws. Therefore, as the Senate, we have to ensure that we deliver the international commitments that we have made in regards to supporting our farmers."

Senators fault sports funding, CS Mvurya defends Kisumu projects

The Senate has put the government on the spot over what lawmakers consider glaring inequalities, stalled projects and lack of transparency in developing sports across the country.

This is even as Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya defended State interventions on sporting activities in Kisumu County.

Responding to a question by Senator Tom Ojienda on Wednesday, Mr Mvurya said the government has stepped up efforts to develop sports in the lakeside county through infrastructure upgrades, talent nurturing and youth empowerment programmes.

“The national Government has continued to actively support sports development initiatives in Kisumu County through infrastructure improvement, talent identification and youth empowerment programmes,” he told senators.

Pointing to the ongoing upgrading of Moi Stadium and Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground as well as grassroots programmes such as the Talanta Hela initiative, the CS said the efforts are already yielded results.

“Kisumu boys’ team was positioned second and received a cash award of Sh3 million while the girls’ team also finished second and received Sh3 million,” he said.

But senators were unconvinced, raising sharp questions over how opportunities are distributed across the country.

Many of the senators warned that the current system locks out deserving talent.

Senator Beth Syengo, who asked the question on behalf of Senator Ojienda, questioned the criteria used to identify beneficiaries, arguing that the process is opaque and exclusionary.

“There are so many talented youths across the counties but the criteria used is not very clear and the communication is not sufficient,” she said.

Her concerns were echoed by Senator Danson Mungatana who termed the process discriminatory after his county failed to benefit from training opportunities.

“How can it be that in 2023, (some) 3,133 personnel were trained and none came from Tana River County? This system is unfair against some counties,” he said.

Senator Enoch Wambua also demanded answers on disparities in training slots.

He questioned the basis upon which



CS Salim Mvurya



Senator Beth Syengo

some regions received more opportunities than others.

“What informed these decisions and why are there huge disparities in the training opportunities across counties?” he posed.

CS Mvurya acknowledged the imbalance and promised corrective measures and noted that the Ministry will roll out affirmative action to uplift marginalised regions.

While attributing the disparities to historical infrastructure gaps, CS Mvurya said his Ministry will undertake an affirmative action beginning April to ensure more participants are picked from counties that are rating very low.

The debate also exposed concerns over funding to sports federations, with

Senator Mohamed Faki questioning the criteria used to allocate resources.

“Some federations get funding promptly while others like deaf sports and martial arts struggle. What criteria is being used?” asked Senator Faki.

The CS said federations submit their budgets for joint review with the government but cautioned against overreliance on public funds.

“They need to engage the private sector much more so that we can commercialise sports,” he said.

On infrastructure, the CS revealed that Sh800 million had been earmarked for the modernisation of Moi Stadium into a 10,000-seater facility following a Presidential directive.

However, Senator Mohamed Chute sought clarity on whether the funds had been formally budgeted.

This prompted the CS to concede that some projects rely on allocations from the Sports Fund and other ministries.

Senator Tabitha Mutinda questioned Kenya’s preparedness to host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations while Senator Daniel Maanzo decried delays in the construction of Wote Stadium.

At the same time, Senator Jackson Mandago warned that the country risks losing its global sporting edge due to underinvestment at the grassroots.

“We cannot continue flying the national flag while the government is not investing in sports locally,” he said.

Hoja kuwakumbuka waathiriwa wa mkasa wa Likoni feri



Seneta Miraj Abdulahi na Seneta Veronica Maina.

Seneta Miraj Abdillahi amewasili-sha Hoja katika akitaka kufanyika kwa uchunguzi wa kina kubaini idadi ya familia zilizoathirika kufuatia mkasa wa feri ya Likoni wa mwaka 1994.

Seneta Miraj anataka uchunguzi huo ufanywe ili kuhakikisha waathiriwa wote wanapata haki.

“Kamati ya Barabara, Uchukuzi na Makazi ifanye uchunguzi wa kina ili kubaini idadi ya familia zilizoathirika,

fidia iliyolipwa hadi sasa, madai yoyote ambayo hayajalipwa na kubainisha familia zipi bado hazijapata fidia na sababu za kutolipwa fidia hiyo,” alisema Seneta Miraj.

Alieleza kuwa licha ya hakikisho na ahadi zilizotolewa na mamlaka mbalimbali kufuatia janga hilo, bado kuna mashaka kuhusu iwapo fidia ilitolewa kikamilifu na kwa haki kwa familia zote zilizoathirika.

Aidha, Seneta huyo ameitaka Serikali ya Kaunti ya Mombasa kwa kushirikiana na Wizara ya Barabara na Uchukuzi kuanzisha kumbukumbu ya kudumu kwa heshima ya wahanga wa ajali ya feri ya Likoni ya mwaka 1994.

“Kuanzishwa kwa kumbukumbu ya kitaifa ni hatua muhimu ya kuheshimu na kuwaenzi waliopoteza maisha na pia njia ya kuendeleza uponyaji wa pamo-

ja wa kijamii na kuimarisha uwajibikaji wa Taifa kwa raia wake,” alikariri Seneta Miraj.

Kadhalika, Seneta huyo alieleza masikitiko kuhusu mkasa wa Aprili 29, 1994, akisisitiza umuhimu wa kuweka kumbukumbu ya kudumu kwa wahanga kama njia ya kuwaheshimu na kuwakumbuka.

“Janga la ajali ya feri ya Likoni lilisababisha vifo na majeraha kwa wananchi wasio na hatia, wengi wao wakiwa wakaazi wa Likoni na Kaunti ya Mombasa na hivyo kuleta majonzi makubwa kitaifa na madhara ya muda mrefu ya kimwili, kisaikolojia, kijamii na kiuchumi kwa familia zilizopoteza wapendwa wao na manusura,” alifafanua Seneta Miraj.

Hoja hiyo sasa itajadiliwa na Maseneta ili kutoa mwelekeo muafaka.

Kamati yaamuru kusitishwa kwa uvuvi Ziwa Nakuru

Kamati ya Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Mahusiano ya Kigeni imeamrisha kusitishwa mara moja kwa shughuli zote za uvuvi katika Ziwa Nakuru kufuatia madai ya kutoweka kwa vijana wavuvi katika eneo hilo.

Agizo hilo lililolewa na Mwenyekiti wa Kamati hiyo, Seneta Fatuma Dullo, wakati wa kikao kati ya Kamati hiyo, maafisa wa Huduma ya Wanyamapori nchini Kenya (KWS) pamoja na walalamishi, kufuatia ombi lililowasilishwa kwenye Seneti likidai kuwepo kwa ukiukaji wa haki katika Hifadhi ya Taifa ya Ziwa Nakuru.

“Uvuvi wowote katika Ziwa Nakuru lazima usitishwe mara moja. KWS ihakikishe kuwa hakuna shughuli zote za uvuvi zinazoendelea katika ziwa hilo. Ikiwa, kulingana na maelezo yaliyowasilishwa hapa, samaki wa Nakuru walitangazwa kutofaa kwa matumizi ya binadamu, kwa nini watu wanaruhusiwa kuvua na kusambaza samaki hao walio-katazwa katika masoko? Hili lazima likome leo,” alikariri Seneta Dullo.

Ombi hilo, lililowasilishwa na Shirika la Gaplink International (walalamishi), linaiomba Seneti kuingilia kati, kuchunguza madai ya kutoweka kwa vijana wavuvi na kutoa mapendekezo madhubuti. Walalamishi hao wanataka uchunguzi wa kina ufanyike kuhusu matukio yanayodaiwa kutokea, hususan iwapo kunao maafisa wa KWS waliohusika, na kuwekwa kwa hatua za kuimarisha ushirikishwaji wa jamii na kulinda haki za binadamu.

Aidha, waliitaka Kamati kupendeke-



Kikao cha Kamati ya Usalama wakati wa mkutano na maafisa wa Huduma ya Wanyamapori (KWS).



Bwana Erastus Kanga, Mkurugenzi Mkuu KWS.

za mapitio ya sera na miongozo ya kiutendaji ya KWS ili kudhibiti matumizi mabaya ya mamlaka na kuimarisha uwajibikaji, huku ikihimiza mazungumzo kati ya taasisi hiyo, wavuvi wa eneo hilo na wadau wengine ili kutatua migogoro inayohusiana na haki za wavuvi.

Gaplink International iliieleza Kamati kuwa wakazi wanaotegemea uvu-

vi kama chanzo chao kikuu cha riziki wamekuwa wakikumbana na vitisho na vurugu kutoka kwa baadhi ya maafisa wa KWS. Shirika hilo lilidai pia kuwa licha ya marufuku iliyotangazwa, shughuli za uvuvi usio halali zimeendelea kufanyika katika ziwa hilo bila kuzuiwa ipasavyo. Shirika hilo liliwakilishwa na Tom Mboya, huku Dakta Peter Mbae

akihudhuria kama mlalamishi mwenza.

Hata hivyo, shirika la KWS, chini ya uongozi wa Mkurugenzi Mkuu Erustus Kanga, lilikanusha vikali madai hayo na kuisitiza kuwa taasisi hiyo haivumilii ukiukaji wa haki za binadamu.

“Shirika la KWS liko tayari kushughulikia malalamishi yoyote mahususi yaliyoandikwa na kuwasilishwa kupitia njia zinazotambulika kisheria. Hatujapokea taarifa rasmi, malalamishi au arifa za kiutawala kuhusu kutoweka kwa lazima kwa vijana wavuvi katika Hifadhi ya Taifa ya Ziwa Nakuru,” alieleza Profesa Kanga.

Katika kuimarisha amri ya Kamati, Seneta Dullo alisisitiza kusitishwa mara moja kwa shughuli zote za uvuvi katika ziwa hilo na kuwataka walalamishi kuwasilisha ushahidi wa zaidi na taarifa za kina ili kuunga mkono madai yao.

Kamati hiyo imeahidi kupanua juhuzi za uchunguzi kwa kuwashirikisha wadau muhimu wakiwemo Wizara ya Usalama wa Ndani, Mamlaka ya Kitaifa ya Usimamizi wa Mazingira (NEMA), Serikali ya Kaunti ya Nakuru na Huduma ya Uvuvi nchini Kenya kabla ya kuanadaa na kuwasilisha ripoti ya kina yenye mapendekezo muafaka.

Kadhalika, Kamati ilisisitiza kuwa lengo lake ni kuhakikisha usalama wa wananchi, ulinzi wa mazingira na hifadhi za taifa na kulinda haki za binadamu, huku ikiweka mizani sahihi kati ya uhifadhi wa maliasili na maslahi ya jamii zinazozitegemea kwa maisha yao ya kila siku.

Senate protocol team trains to enhance VIP services at airports



Clerk of Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye pose for a photo with Parliamentary Protocol staff attached to the Senate during the training.



Clerk Nyegenye delivers his address to Protocol staff during the training.

The Senate's public communications officers last week conducted their inaugural departmental training session, bringing together key stakeholders to explore ways of improving protocol facilitation for VIPs at airports.

The two-day training brought together representatives from the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA), the Immigration Department, and the Customs Office. It was officially opened by the Clerk of the Senate, Jeremiah Nyegenye.

The Clerk commended public communication and protocol officers for their dedication and resilience despite the challenges associated with protocol work, including delays in the approval of airport access passes required for VIP facilitation.

Emphasising the significance of protocol, Mr Nyegenye noted: "Protocol is not mere ceremony. It is a language of respect, an architecture of order, and a custodian of tradition that requires decorum and precision."

He further underscored its broader importance, noting that protocol communicates hospitality, national identity, and the country's image abroad.

"It is critical in shaping the country's international perception," he said, even as he urged officers to strike a balance between tradition and innovation while remaining adaptable to the evolving demands of their work environment.

He expressed optimism that the training would address key areas of concern,

including the standardisation of operating procedures (SOPs), the establishment of clear points of contact for issue resolution, the adoption of pre-clearance systems for high-profile VIPs, and the timely approval of airport access passes.

The training, held under the theme "Synergy and Collaboration for Effective and Efficient Service Delivery," also included a guided tour of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

COMMITTEE ROUND UP

NACADA questioned on jurisdictional overlap



NACADA CEO Anthony Omerikwa



A sitting of the Devolution Committee and NACADA managers.



Senator Margret Kamar and Senator Richard Onyonka.

The Senate Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations has flagged a mismatch between the resources allocated to NACADA and the functional capacity of public rehabilitation services available to citizens.

During a consultative session last week, the Committee raised concerns over National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA)'s persistent involvement in devolved functions.

The core of the dispute rests on the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, which assigns health services—including alcohol control and rehabilitation—to county governments.

The Committee's inquiry was anchored on notices published in the Kenya Gazette in December 2024, highlighting that while the National Government manages policy and international trade, the actual delivery of services lies at the

grassroots level.

During the proceedings, NACADA Chief Executive Officer Anthony Omerikwa defended the agency's position, framing alcohol control as a matter of national security and international standards.

He argued that alcohol control requires a coordinated national strategy to curb the proliferation of illicit brews and related fatalities. Dr Omerikwa maintained that NACADA's primary role is now focused on upstream regulation—specifically the licensing of importers, exporters, and manufacturers—which he said remains a national function necessary to safeguard international trade and consumer standards.

However, this defence was met with scepticism from members of the Committee, particularly regarding the mismatch between national funding and local capacity.

Financial and structural dependen-

cies further complicated the testimony. Although NACADA reported disbursing approximately Sh69 million to support rehabilitation centres in nine counties since 2013, the Committee questioned whether such voluntary support creates a de facto dependency that undermines county autonomy.

The governance structure of NACADA also came under scrutiny over its lack of inclusivity. Senators noted that the Board is dominated by five Principal Secretaries and national government appointees, with no representation from the Council of Governors.

In explaining why NACADA was not restructured as a joint national-county entity following the 2013 Presidential Taskforce on Parastatal Reforms, the Authority argued that Article 189(2) of the Constitution does not make joint entities mandatory. It justified its current structure by defining its role as a national intelligence and coordination hub for

security and treaty compliance.

The Authority revealed that a comprehensive legislative overhaul is currently underway to address these systemic overlaps.

Through proposed amendments, including the Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill, 2023, the Authority aims to clearly delineate roles by separating national regulation of manufacturing from county-level licensing of sales.

The reform agenda also includes integrating import and export licensing into the single-window system via KenTrade, and formalising joint inspection frameworks where NACADA enforces national standards while counties handle registration and supervision.

Despite these proposals, the Senate remains firm that as the July 2025 deadline for resource transfer approaches, national standards must translate into accessible local services—without blurring the lines of constitutional authority.

Committee and CoG agree to prioritise pending bills settlement



Senator Ali Roba, chair, Finance and Budget Committee, (centre) and Senator Tabitha Mutinda and a member of the Committee secretariat during the meeting with CoG.



Senator Mohamed Faki and Senator Mariam Omar.



Governor Ahmed Abdullahi, chair CoG, (left), and Governor Muthomi Njuki.



CRA chairperson Mary Chebukati and Mr Koitamet ole Kina (right), the vice chair, before the Finance Committee.

The Committee on Finance and Budget has reached a consensus with the Council of Governors (CoG) to lobby for an increase in the county equitable share of revenue.

In exchange for legislative support, the CoG has committed to prioritising the settlement of billions of shillings in pending bills that have stalled development across all 47 counties.

The consensus, reached during a high-stakes consultative meeting, marks a significant shift in efforts to safeguard the core tenets of devolution.

Moving away from the National Assembly's proposed Sh420 billion, the Senate and the CoG have found common ground aimed at addressing the financial strangulation facing devolved units.

The Senator Ali Roba-led Committee was firm: any budgetary enhancement must be tied to a clear, concrete roadmap

for settling the massive debts owed to contractors and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Nationally, the pending bills crisis has ballooned to a staggering Sh458 billion, with counties accounting for approximately Sh172 billion of that figure.

"Whatever additional increase over Sh415 billion, we need a firm commitment that it will go toward settling pending bills, so we can ease pressure on contractors across the country," said Senator Roba.

The Committee underscored that increased funding is not merely a fiscal adjustment but a moral obligation, noting that delayed payments have crippled the local private sector. Young Kenyans and business owners are now left at the doorsteps of governors, pleading for their dues.

The Commission on Revenue Allo-

cation (CRA), represented by Chairperson Mary Chebukati, provided technical backing for the push, terming the National Treasury's initial proposal of Sh415 billion fundamentally flawed.

The CRA argued that the current model treats county allocations as a "residual," a practice that directly contradicts the Constitution.

The Commission recommended increasing the equitable share to Sh458.9 billion, including a Sh34 billion adjustment for revenue growth and Sh8.94 billion for the absorption of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) workers.

While the Senate leans toward Sh450 billion, CoG Chairperson Governor Ahmed Abdullahi maintained that the true cost of devolution stands at Sh534.96 billion. He told Senators this figure factors in Sh10.06 billion in remuneration arrears and Sh65.97 billion for

functions—particularly in agriculture, health, and water—that have been unbundled from the National Government but remain underfunded.

A central pillar of the consensus is the full absorption of UHC staff into counties' permanent staff establishment. Leaders resolved that the Sh8.94 billion required for salaries must be embedded in the base equitable share, rather than treated as a fluctuating conditional grant. This will allow counties to transition the workers to permanent and pensionable terms starting in the 2026/2027 financial year.

Senator Roba clarified the legal position: "Any money allocated through the Division of Revenue Act (DORA) cannot be conditional. Once it is in DORA, it is subjected to the formula. That is the law."

Committees inspect projects in Kwale county



Senator Ali Roba, Senator Mohamed Faki and Senator Esther Okenyuri (right) at Bofu Dam, Kwale County.



Senator Roba, Tabitha MUtinda, Senator Faki and Senator Okenyuri speak to residents of Kwale during an inspection tour of Bofu Dam.



Members of the two Committees at Bofu Dam, Kwale County.

Two committees of the Senate have conducted an oversight visit to Kwale County to assess projects funded under the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLOCA) programme.

The Committee on Lands, Environment and Natural Resources and Committee on Finance and Budget jointly conducted the inspection tour.

During the visit, they inspected the water distribution project at Bofu Dam

in Kasemeni Ward, where members expressed satisfaction with the progress made through the collaboration between project funders and the County Government of Kwale. Senator Mohamed Faki, the chair of the Lands Committee noted that the project demonstrates promising impact, stating that it offers hope to the local communities. He urged stakeholders to ensure its timely completion to fully serve its intended purpose.

Senator Ali Roba, the chair of the Finance Committee, commended the positive transformation brought about by the initiative, emphasising the need for sustainability. He encouraged the County Government to prioritise expansion of existing successful projects to reach more beneficiaries, rather than initiating entirely new ones.

However, the Committee raised concern over the transfer of Sh28.5 million

from the FLLOCA account to other purposes. The County Executive was directed to provide a detailed explanation, supported by evidence, within 14 days outlining the reasons for the reallocation and how the funds were utilized.

The lawmakers further visited the rehabilitation of Sagalato Water Pan in Kibandaongo, Kinango Ward, as well as the Mabogi Water Pan in Ndauni B Village, Ndavaya Ward.

Call for paramilitary training for legislature security



CS Kipchumba Murkomen (centre), Senate Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye (left) and former Senate Speaker Ekwee Ethuro (right) follow proceedings as the deputy Chief Serjeant-At-Arms (Senate) Joel Nkubitu delivers opening remarks at the Conference.



A section of the Serjeant-At-Arms who attended the conference.



The Serjeant-At-Arms follow proceedings at the Conference.



Clerk of Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye speaks to Serjeant-At-Arms at the Conference.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen is calling for radical reforms within the security apparatus of Kenya's legislative institutions.

The CS has advocated the introduction of paramilitary training and enhanced legal protections for Serjeants-at-Arms, citing the June 25, 2024 invasion of Parliament as a defining moment for the nation's democracy.

Addressing the 3rd National Conference of Serjeants-at-Arms, the former Senator noted that while security at the national Parliament has since been bolstered through multi-agency coordination, the 47 devolved units remain high-risk zones requiring urgent attention.

"One of the lowest points in our recent history is the invasion of the precincts of Parliament," said CS Murkomen as he opened the three-day conference in Machakos County.

The conference brought together Serjeants-at-Arms from the Senate, the National Assembly, and all 47 County Assemblies. Its theme was: "Future-Proofing Legislative Support Functions in Times of Change."

The objective was to address the evolving nature of security threats, ranging from physical breaches to sophisticated cyber interference.

CS Murkomen did not mince his words on the vulnerabilities exposed

during recent civil unrest.

"If such a thing happens to a county assembly, we must be prepared to anticipate and respond," he said. "I propose that Serjeants-at-Arms in County Assemblies have direct contact with county security teams and a permanent seat in County Security Committees."

He emphasised that modern threats have moved beyond the physical realm, warning that "new technology is both an asset and a risk," citing the rise of state-sponsored cyberattacks and the use of social media to mobilise flash crowds against government buildings.

To counter this, he proposed a shift in training doctrine towards a paramilitary model that equips officers with tactical skills for rapid crisis response and perimeter defence.

Beyond physical security, the Interior CS—who previously served as Senate Majority Leader—addressed the political pressures that often compromise the office of the Serjeant-at-Arms.

He cautioned officers against being used as pawns in political manoeuvres, specifically warning against procedural manipulation intended to suppress transparency.

"Do not participate in unlawful processes such as switching off microphones or CCTV to manipulate proceedings," he said. "Stand firm. The law must

protect you."

He also called for legislative amendments to insulate the office from political interference, proposing punitive measures for Members of Parliament or County Assembly who use force or intimidation to achieve legislative objectives.

"Institutions outlast individuals," he added. "The systems we build today will protect future generations and uphold the very fabric of our democracy."

Senate Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye underscored the professional evolution of the cadre, noting that the days when a Serjeant-at-Arms was viewed merely as a ceremonial mace-bearer are long gone.

"We meet at a time when legislative institutions face emerging and complex challenges," he said. "Security threats continue to evolve, technology is rapidly changing how we conduct parliamentary business, and the political environment remains dynamic."

Mr Nyegenye, who also serves as Secretary to the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), urged officers to maintain absolute impartiality—particularly in the Senate, where debates often carry high political stakes for counties.

He stressed that the dignity of the House rests on the integrity of its officers.

Even with limited budgetary resour-

es, he challenged participants to use the conference as a strategic platform to share best practices and build a more resilient support structure for the Kenyan taxpayer.

National Assembly Clerk Samuel Njoroge reminded officers that their role is central to a peaceful political transition.

With roughly 500 days to the 2027 polls, he noted that the order and decorum observed in chambers today will shape the national political climate.

"We are united by one common purpose: to uphold the dignity, order, and effectiveness of our legislative bodies," said Mr Njoroge.

"The order and dignity we see in our legislative institutions stem from the discipline and commitment you bring. Every day, you create the environment that allows leaders to debate, disagree, and ultimately make decisions on behalf of the people of Kenya."

He called for harmonisation of operations between the two Houses of Parliament and County Assemblies to ensure a seamless nationwide security protocol.

He noted that the Serjeant-at-Arms stands at the intersection of ceremony and order—requiring a unique blend of diplomatic tact and firm enforcement.



1. Senate Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye welcomes CS Kipchumba Murkomen to the meeting of Serjeant-At-Arms in Machakos County. Former Senate Speaker Ekwee Ethuro looks on.
2. Clerk of the National Assembly Samuel Njoroge welcomes CS Kipchumba Murkomen.
3. CS Murkomen speaks to Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye, Clerk of National Assembly Samuel Njoroge and former Senate Speaker Ekwee Ethuro before the start of Serjeant-At-Arms conference.

4. CS Murkomen was received by Parliamentary leadership when he arrived for the opening ceremony of the conference of Serjeant-At-Arms in Machakos County. He is flanked by former Senate Speaker Ekwee Ethuro, Clerk of Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye (back, centre), Clerk of National Assembly Samuel Njoroge (left) and chief Serjeant-At-Arms (Senate) Samson Sorobit (right).
5. Some of the officers from the Directorate of Serjeant-At-Arms at the conference.
6. Former Senate Speaker Ekwee Ethuro delivers his address at the Conference.



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