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Governors given 90 days to reduce Sh15.6bn water losses

Lawmakers estimate that the unbilled water translates to a total potential revenue loss of Sh15.6 billion across water entities.

The Senate has given County Governors 90 days to develop and implement measures to mitigate Non-Revenue Water (NRW), addressing both physical and commercial losses.

Non-revenue water (NRW) is water that has been produced and supplied into a distribution system but does not generate income for the water utility.

The lawmakers further directed county chiefs to segregate NRW into physical and commercial losses so that water companies can ascertain and identify specific mitigation measures to effectively address and reduce NRW levels.

Senators issued the directive when they adopted the report of the County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee on the Auditor-General's reports on the audited accounts of water companies, municipalities, hospitals, and funds for the 2024/25 financial year.

The report was adopted on March 31, 2026, and county governments have until June 30 to act.

Senators agreed with the Committee's findings and ordered county governments to collaborate with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to ensure pre-emptive measures are put in place to reduce cases of theft and illegal connections.

"EACC should investigate the causes of high NRW, including potential commercial theft, illegal connections, staff collusion, or administrative lapses, and provide a status update to the Senate within 90 days of adoption of this report."

The directive targets water companies whose NRW exceeds 50 per cent.

In its consideration of the audited reports, the Committee noted that a number of water firms had registered high levels of NRW above the sector benchmark of 25 per cent, as per WASREB guidelines.

The main causes of NRW include il-



Senator Godfrey Osotsi, chair of CPISFC.

legal connections, the use of flat rates to bill water consumption, leakages from dilapidated infrastructure that has not been replaced due to low funding, and faulty water meters.

A number of water companies did not maintain records of the volume of water produced, as there were no master meters installed at intake points. This made it impossible to establish acceptable NRW levels, despite financial statements reflecting operating revenues from the sale of water.

The Committee estimated that the unbilled portion of water translates to a total potential revenue loss of Sh15.6 billion across the examined entities.

"This massive loss of revenue se-

verely compromises the ability of these companies to maintain infrastructure and discharge their mandates effectively," the Committee noted in its report to the House.

Senators approved the report on March 31, 2026.

Nolturesh Water and Sanitation Company Ltd in Kajiado County topped the list of companies with the highest NRW above the sector benchmark.

During the 2024/25 financial year, the company produced 3,024,000 cubic metres of water, out of which only 612,352 cubic metres was billed.

Another 2,411,648 cubic metres—equivalent to 80 per cent of total production—was classified as NRW, translating

to a loss of Sh11.9 million.

In second place is Gulf Water Services Company Ltd, whose NRW stood at 71 per cent, translating to a loss of Sh414,000.

The company, a peri-urban water utility operating within Kisumu County, produced a total of 893,795 cubic metres during the year ending June 30, 2025.

However, only 256,111 cubic metres was billed, while 637,684 cubic metres was lost.

Migori County's Nyanas Water and Sanitation Company Ltd produced 1,149,971 cubic metres of water, of which 740,492 cubic metres (64 per cent) is lost.

Bomet Water and Sanitation Compa-



Senators follow House proceedings during one of the sittings of the House.

ny Ltd produced 1,296,892 cubic metres, out of which 819,277 cubic metres was lost, accounting for 63 per cent of total production.

Tana Water and Sanitation Company Ltd in Tana River County produces 700,933 cubic metres, of which 428,230 cubic metres was lost, while only 272,703 cubic metres was billed.

Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company Limited produces a total of 215,292,106 cubic metres of water, out of which only 108,383,164 cubic metres is billed. The difference of 106,908,942 cubic metres is lost and classified as NRW.

Kakamega Rural Water and Sanitation

Company Ltd used an unapproved tariff structure. The company billed customers using a tariff meant for Busia Water and Sanitation Company Ltd, contrary to Regulation 45(1) of the Water Act Regulations, 2016, which requires that a licensed water service provider implement the tariff approved and gazetted by the Regulatory Board for the prescribed period.

Eldoret Water and Sanitation Company Limited had 19,862 active meters that were not billed. This gap may indicate weaknesses in the billing system, meter reading processes, or customer account management, suggesting potential inefficiencies or control lapses.

“Over time, prolonged non-billing can lead to accumulated arrears, making recovery more difficult and potentially straining customer relations,” observed the Committee, noting that reducing NRW would have a significant positive impact on the financial health of water companies.

“For those currently operating with negative working capital and incurring losses, minimising NRW would increase cash flows, enhance liquidity, and improve operational sustainability.”

Senators said that by converting lost water into billable revenue, companies could reduce losses, move towards profitability, and better meet their financial obligations. Additionally, lowering NRW would bring these entities closer to the sector benchmark of 25 per cent, demonstrating greater efficiency, sound governance, and improved service delivery.

The Committee’s investigation revealed that 26 water companies irregularly spent customer deposit funds to finance operational expenses without the approval of their Boards of Directors.

“Using customer deposits for operations is a major risk, as it hinders the

ability of companies to issue refunds upon request. Deposit money is refundable on demand for customers terminating their service contracts without outstanding bills,” the Committee noted.

The total unauthorised amounts reported across the 26 water companies for the 2024/25 financial year amounted to Sh1.7 billion, highlighting significant concerns regarding the management of customer deposits and other funds.

Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company Limited reported substantial unauthorised use of customer deposits amounting to Sh1.31 billion, indicating persistent or systemic challenges in safeguarding deposits and revenue collection.

Eldoret Water and Sanitation Company Limited installed 1,322 new meter connections; however, no deposits were collected for these connections.

The Committee observed that the company is exposed to significant revenue risk, as the installation of new meter connections without collecting customer deposits leaves it without financial safeguards against non-payment.

Governors given deadline to grant municipalities autonomy



Members of CPISFC during a session of the Committee.

Senators have given Governors until July 1, 2026, to fully operationalise municipalities by granting them operational autonomy as mandated by the Urban Areas and Cities Act.

Senators who contributed to the Motion noted that a number of municipalities had been granted charters, but Governors had failed to operationalise them.

They also observed that functions delegated and gazetted under the charters continue to be performed by the County Executive, alongside inadequate funding of municipalities, lack of strategic plans, and municipal boards that are not operating as required by law.

Citing the example of Maralal Municipality, Senators noted that although its Charter was granted in 2018, the municipality has not been operationalised in line with its delegated functions.

“The Governors should ensure that

by the commencement of the 2026/27 financial year, municipalities are fully operationalised in line with their delegated functions as gazetted by their respective county governments,” Senator Godfrey Osotsi told the House.

Senator Osotsi, who chairs the County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee, was moving the Committee’s report on its consideration of audited accounts of water companies, municipalities, hospitals, and funds for the 2024/25 financial year.

The report was adopted by the House on March 31, 2026.

While the Committee established that municipalities are adequately resourced in accordance with Section 172 of the Public Finance Management Act, it directed the Office of the Auditor-General to keep the matter under review and report in the subsequent audit cycle.

Governors have also been given 90 days to ensure that municipal boards put in place Integrated Development and Economic Plans, as well as Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plans (ISUDP), in line with the provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities Act.

“The Auditor-General should review the matter in the subsequent audit cycle and report on the progress made by counties in granting municipalities operational autonomy in line with applicable laws,” Senator Osotsi argued.

In practice, municipal operations remain significantly constrained: budgets are prepared by the County Executive, revenue collection is conducted centrally by the County, payments are processed through the County Treasury, and municipal staff remain on the County payroll.

The Committee observed that this centralised control undermines municipalities’ ability to make independent operational and financial decisions, thereby hampering their functional and financial independence and limiting their effectiveness in delivering services efficiently to urban residents.

The Committee further noted that unsupported or undisclosed Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) was the most common audit query across many municipalities.

According to the Auditor-General, municipalities either failed to maintain

comprehensive fixed asset registers, could not provide valuation reports and ownership documents, had material PPE balances that could not be verified, or disclosed nil PPE values despite assets physically existing.

In numerous cases, assets remained under County Executives instead of being transferred to municipalities. Some municipalities could not even demonstrate ownership of the land on which their offices sit.

Budget execution across municipalities was characterised by severe underfunding, often due to delayed disbursements from County Treasuries and the National Treasury, significant revenue shortfalls, and in some cases, over-expenditure beyond approved ceilings.

Many municipalities depend almost entirely on County Government transfers and lack independent revenue bases, making them financially fragile and unable to deliver services when disbursements are delayed.

The Senate also approved the Committee’s proposal that Governors fast-track the transfer of ownership documents for assets held by County Executives to the respective municipalities within 60 days of adopting the report.

Governors should further direct municipal management to undertake valuation of all municipal assets and submit the valuation reports to the Auditor-General for verification.

Counties ordered to fix water loans, asset ownership dispute



Senator Godfrey Osotsi, chair CPISFC, and Senator Eddy Oketch during one of the Committee's meetings.

The Senate has given all the 47 County Governors 60 days to engage with the relevant Water Works Development Agencies to facilitate the transfer of ownership documents concerning loans they are servicing.

The House agreed that the huge loans have heaped undue financial strain on the Water Service Providers leading to high rate of defaults that appear as queries in reports of the Auditor General

on the financial statements of the water companies.

The lawmakers say the non-repayment of loans has further increased the liabilities owed to the agencies through accumulation of resultant interest and accruing penalties.

The House made the resolution on the report of the County Public Investment and Special Funds Committee on the reports of the Auditor General on au-

dated Accounts of the water companies, municipalities, hospitals and funds for 2024/25 financial year.

Data shows that 89.2 percent of the water companies that were interrogated by the Committee received a qualified audit opinion, another 5.2 percent received an unqualified audit opinion, 2 percent received an adverse opinion while 1.7 per cent of the water companies received a Disclaimer audit opinion.

In the process of interrogating audit reports of the water service providers, the Committee noted that water companies were servicing loans owed to Regional Water Works Development Agencies as a result of projects implemented by the agencies.

The Agencies take out loans on behalf of water service providers in the counties to develop water projects and thereafter, transfer the loan repayment obligations to Counties whereas the agencies retain the resultant assets.

The Committee further noted that there existed no formal agreements between the Water Works Development Agencies and the Water Service Providers and their counties, contrary to the provisions of section 69 of the Water Act.

“Within 60 days of the adoption of

this report, the Governors, through the respective CECM responsible for matters of water, should engage with the relevant Water Works Development Agencies to ensure the transfer of ownership documents of the donated items is fast-tracked,” said Senator Godfrey Osotsi while moving the Motion.

The House adopted the reports on March 31 and the Governors have until June 1, 2026 to ensure compliance.

The Governors will also be required to ensure the management of the water companies carry out the valuation of all assets of the water companies is fast-tracked and submit the valuation report to the Auditor-General for verification.

The Auditor general is expected to provide a status update on the matter in the subsequent audit cycle.

Upon completion of the transfer and valuation, the Accounting Officers will be required to prepare an updated asset register within 60 days and submit to the Senate and a copy to the Auditor General for verification.

The governors are expected to ensure that the accounting officers undertake adjustments to the financial statements so as to reflect the true value of the assets and the auditor general should keep the matter in view in the subsequent audit cycle.

Senate tasks MCAs to legalise CAF, SOCATT operations

Senators have asked Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) to kick-start the process that will anchor the operations of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) in law.

A similar directive was issued to the Society of Clerks at the Table (SOCATT), an association of clerks working in county assemblies.

The House has given CAF and SOCATT 90 days from March 31, when the resolution was made to engage the relevant legislative bodies to develop a legal framework to anchor their operations in law.

Since the inception of devolution, the Office of the Auditor General has flagged payments made by county assemblies to CAF and SOCATT, terming them unlawful and irregular.

Senators have previously pushed for a stop to the contributions, citing them as unauthorised expenditures, and have threatened to surcharge accounting officers responsible.

However, in a report on its consideration of the Auditor General's reports for county assemblies for the 2024/25 financial year, Senators appear to have softened their stance.



Senator Moses Kajwang, chair CPAC and Senator Johnes Mwaruma, the vice chair.

While they acknowledge the role of the two organisations in promoting co-ordination and capacity building among county assemblies, they have insisted that public funds must only be spent within the law.

In its report, the County Public Accounts Committee recommends that both CAF and SOCATT be given a specific timeframe to develop a legal framework to anchor their operations in law.

The recommendation was approved by the House.

“Failure to anchor the operations within the provided timeframe will mean

that all payments to the two organisations should cease,” said Senator Moses Kajwang while moving the debate on the report.

The report shows that several county assemblies made annual subscriptions to CAF and SOCATT despite the entities lacking legal backing.

“These bodies are not established by any Act of Parliament or the Constitution,” the committee says in the report, terming the payments irregular and unlawful.

The audit established that some as-

semblies spent up to Sh2.75 million annually on such subscriptions, raising concerns over accountability and the prudent use of resources.

The practice constitutes irregular and unlawful expenditure, violating Section 149(1)(a) of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act and the constitutional principle that public funds shall only be used for authorised purposes under Article 201(d).

The committee noted that the practice violates Article 201(d) of the Constitution, which requires public funds to be used only for authorised purposes.

Senators have now directed that the payments be stopped immediately until a proper legal framework is established.

“The irregular payments should be stopped immediately until a legislative framework is developed,” the committee says in its recommendations.

The Senate further directed county assembly service boards to strictly adhere to financial regulations and ensure all expenditures are lawful and justified.

“The payments were not anchored in any law,” the report states, adding that they should be stopped immediately until a proper legal framework is established.

Counties given June deadline to fix hospital staffing gaps



Members of Health Committee during an inspection tour of health facilities in Baringo County.



Senator Jackson Mandago and members of Health Committee inspection a health facility in Nandi County.



Senator Agnes Muthama, member CPISFC



Senator William Kisang during a meeting of CPISFC.

Governors have until June 1, 2026, to submit to the Senate a comprehensive plan outlining the specific measures they are taking to address staffing shortages in their health facilities.

The measures should include both short-term and long-term solutions, focusing on optimising existing resources, improving employee welfare, and ensuring sustainable staffing levels moving forward.

Senators said most hospitals have failed to meet the minimum staffing and equipment requirements prescribed by the Kenya Quality Model for Health (KQMH) Policy Guidelines and the First Schedule of the Health Act for their respective facility levels.

Critical clinical cadres — including anaesthesiologists, radiologists, gynaecologists, paediatricians, and general surgeons — are severely understaffed.

Similarly, essential equipment, including ICU beds, HDU units, dialysis machines, CT scanners, MRI machines, functional operating theatres, newborn unit incubators, and basic diagnostic

tools, are either missing or non-functional.

“These failures directly undermine the constitutional right to health under Article 43(1) and the government’s Universal Health Coverage (UHC) commitments,” said Senator Godfrey Osotsi.

Senator Osotsi, who chairs the County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee, was moving the Committee’s report on its consideration of audited accounts of water companies, municipalities, hospitals, and funds for the 2024/25 financial year.

The report was adopted by the House on March 31, 2026.

Across multiple counties, the Committee noted, hospital stores were found to contain expired pharmaceutical products — including drugs, medical commodities, laboratory supplies, and programme commodities — stored alongside valid stock, with no documented disposal plan, no established disposal committee, and no expiry tracking system.

“This poses serious public health and patient safety risks, as expired drugs may be accidentally dispensed, and it reflects

weak inventory management practices that allow stock to expire without timely intervention,” said the Committee in its report.

The Committee recommended that hospitals develop and implement a comprehensive plan, with appropriate budgetary allocations, to acquire and operationalise the required facilities and equipment to provide all services required for a Level 4 hospital.

Governors should ensure that the officers in charge of the facilities have the requisite academic and professional qualifications in accordance with the Health Act, and provide evidence of measures taken to address the matter to the Senate within 60 days.

The most prevalent failures noted by the Committee included the absence of a comprehensive fixed asset register; failure to obtain title deeds for land occupied by hospitals; PPE balances without supporting valuation reports; assets not physically tagged or identified; and opening PPE balances inconsistent with prior year audited figures.

In several cases, hospitals occupied

and operated on land that is not legally registered in their names, exposing county health infrastructure to legal and security risks.

For example, at Butere Sub-County Hospital, a review of the land file showed that the hospital is involved in a land boundary dispute with Butere Boys Secondary School due to failure to demarcate the hospital’s land boundary with the school.

The House granted the Governor 60 days, from March 31, to engage with the Ministry of Health of the National Government to ensure that the transfer of ownership documents for land and buildings is fast-tracked.

Governors are also required to ensure that hospital management undertakes the valuation of all hospital assets and submits the valuation report to the Auditor-General for verification during the subsequent audit cycle.

“Upon completion of the transfer and valuation, the Governor should prepare an updated asset register within 60 days and submit it to the Auditor-General for verification.”

Senate cites Treasury over delayed funds to counties



Senator Okongo Omogeni and Senator Enock Wambua during a session of CPAC.

Senators have directed the National Treasury to strictly comply with its constitutional and statutory mandate by ensuring the timely and predictable release of funds to county governments, in line with the cash disbursement schedules approved by the House.

Article 219 of the Constitution mandates that a county's share of revenue raised by the national government must be transferred to the county treasury without undue delay and without deduction.

Exceptions to this transfer only apply where payments are lawfully stopped under Article 225 of the Constitution.

The Senate's decision arose from a report of the County Public Accounts Committee on its consideration of financial reports of 13 county assemblies for the 2024/25 financial year.

The Committee says a common external factor affecting all County Assemblies is the late disbursement of funds by the National Treasury, which is contrary

to Section 17(6) of the PFM Act, 2012.

"This has led to budget underfunding, under-utilisation of development funds, and the accumulation of pending bills, thereby negatively affecting service delivery and cash flow," said the Committee in its report to the House.

The committee established that the Assembly was underfunded by Sh171.6 million due to delayed exchequer disbursements and ongoing projects that remained incomplete at the close of the financial year.

The audit also reported that the Assembly received Sh154.8 million after June 30, 2025, contrary to Section 17(6) of the Public Finance Management Act.

Similarly, the County Assembly of Wajir received Sh98 million after the close of the financial year on 30 June 2025.

The Auditor-General reported that Sh28.2 million related to delayed exchequer disbursements, while the remaining balance pertained to ongoing projects



Treasury CS John Mbadi when he appeared before CPAC.

for which contractors were paid only amounts equivalent to certified completed works.

The Assembly's leadership indicated that the under-utilisation of Sh1.3 million represented funds that were returned to the County Revenue Fund.

The committee noted that the Assembly experienced material underfunding of Sh171.6 million, representing 13 per cent of its total allocation against the final receipts budget, adversely affecting its ability to implement planned programmes and deliver essential services.

"Of the total shortfall, Sh28.2 million was attributable to delayed exchequer disbursements from the National Treasury, which hindered timely budget absorption and project implementation, violating the Public Finance Management Act, which mandates disbursement not later than the 15th day from the commencement of each quarter," the committee noted.

The committee observed that the de-

layed release of funds adversely affected the Assembly's cash flow, disrupted planned operations, and contributed to the accumulation of pending bills.

"The National Treasury must strictly comply with Section 17(6) of the PFM Act and Article 219 of the Constitution by ensuring timely, predictable, and quarterly disbursements as approved by the Senate."

The lawmakers ordered the County Executive to put in place measures to enhance its own-source revenue in order to meet its revenue targets and address shortfalls, as authorised under Article 209(3) of the Constitution, and to submit a revenue enhancement plan to the Senate within 90 days.

The County Assembly was also directed to exercise its powers as outlined in Article 201 of the Constitution to ensure budgets are realistic and reflect the aspirations of the people through effective public participation, as required under Article 196 of the Constitution.

County Assemblies faulted over persistent audit failures

The Senate has raised the alarm over widespread misuse of public funds in county assemblies, resulting from deep-rooted weaknesses in financial management, oversight, and compliance across devolved units.

The revelation is contained in a report by the County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC), which has since been adopted by the House, following the interrogation of 13 county assemblies.

The report, by the committee led by Senator Moses Kajwang, is based on the Auditor-General's findings for the 2024/25 financial year and paints a troubling picture of how public resources are being handled in the assemblies.

The assemblies are Marsabit, Wajir, Meru, Siaya, Busia, Murang'a, Baringo, Kakamega, and Makuani.

Others that appeared before the committee are Nyeri, Tana River, Nyamira, and Kericho county assemblies.

The committee's examination re-



Speaker Amason Kingi and the Speaker of Busia County Assembly, Mr Fredrick Wafula Odilo during a past event.

vealed systemic weaknesses in financial management, internal controls, and compliance across the county assemblies.

According to the report, a major concern is the persistent failure by county assemblies to act on audit recommendations, a move the committee says is creating a cycle of repeated irregularities.

"A recurring and deeply concerning trend is the failure to implement recommendations from prior years' audit re-

ports," the committee observes.

It warns that such non-compliance undermines accountability and weakens oversight institutions established under the Constitution.

The report also highlights irregular expenditure, weak governance structures, and poor asset management as key drivers of financial mismanagement.

Many assemblies were found to lack effective audit committees and robust in-

ternal controls.

"These weaknesses expose public resources to wastage and misappropriation," the committee states in the report, even as it criticises accounting officers for failing to comply with legal obligations under the Public Finance Management Act.

This has led to inefficiencies and a loss of value for money.

To address the challenges, the committee has recommended stricter enforcement of financial regulations and the adoption of automated systems to enhance transparency and compliance.

It also directed that unresolved audit matters be tracked in subsequent audit cycles to ensure continued oversight.

"The findings in this report paint a concerning picture of widespread non-compliance, weak financial discipline, and a persistent disregard for audit recommendations," the committee says

Committee inspects North Rift health facilities



Senator Jackson Mandago and Senator Richard Onyonka, members of Health Committee, talk to staff at Baringo Level 4 Hospital during the inspection tour.



Senator Mandago, Senator Chemitei Cheburet (in mask) and Senator Onyonka inspect equipment and facilities at Baringo Level 4 Hospital.

The Committee on Health last week conducted an extensive oversight visit across four counties in the North Rift region: Nakuru, Baringo, Elgeyo-Marakwet and Nandi.

The visit forms part of the Committee's constitutional mandate to assess healthcare service delivery, infrastructure, and resource utilisation within public health facilities.

During the tour, the Committee observed significant congestion in hospitals, characterised by long patient queues. This, they noted, is largely due to inadequate human resources across the facilities.

Speaking during the visit, Senator Jackson Mandago, the chair of the Committee, emphasised the urgent need for increased staffing and improved medical equipment. "We need sufficient

personnel and adequate equipment in our health facilities to guarantee quality healthcare," he stated.

The Committee also raised concerns over the underutilisation of the Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) in some facilities. Members urged county executives to grant greater autonomy to facility managers to effectively utilise the funds for infrastructure and service improvement. Additionally, counties were encouraged to settle outstanding debts owed to Kenya Medical Supplies Authority to ensure consistent supply of drugs and medical equipment.

Citing a positive example, Senator Richard Onyonka highlighted the success of solarisation at Kiambu Level 5 Hospital, which has significantly reduced operational costs. He called on county governments to adopt clean en-

ergy solutions to enhance efficiency and sustainability in healthcare facilities.

Maintenance challenges also featured prominently in the Committee's findings. Senator Onyonka noted that while many facilities are well-equipped, poor maintenance undermines their effectiveness. He urged county executives to establish maintenance boards to ensure all equipment remains in optimal working condition.

While appreciating the efforts of the Committee and healthcare workers, Senator Chemitei Cheburet expressed concern over neglect in certain facilities, citing examples such as Kimelel in Baringo County. He stressed that despite increased funding in the health sector, more needs to be done to improve service delivery for citizens.

The Committee further encouraged

healthcare workers to intensify registration of citizens under the Social Health Authority (SHA) scheme. They also indicated plans to engage the Ministry of Health on challenges reported by facilities, including delays in remittances.

Another critical issue raised was the increasing number of bodies brought to hospital mortuaries by police, contributing to congestion. The Committee pledged to advocate for conditional grants to support the construction of dedicated police mortuaries across counties.

Additionally, the presence of asbestos in several health facilities was flagged as a serious health risk. Senator Mandago underscored the urgency of addressing the issue, noting, "We cannot claim to be fighting cancer while exposing patients and staff to cancer-causing materials within our own facilities."

Committee told of cancelled emergency fuel supply deal

Oryx Energies Kenya Ltd has told a Senate Committee that it acted on an urgent government request to supply fuel, only for the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum (MoEP) to cancel the arrangement at the last minute.

Managing Director Angeline Maangi disclosed that the company acted at the government's request under extreme market conditions, with the sole purpose of supporting Kenya's energy security.

She said they received a direct request for proposal from the State Department of Petroleum on March 19, 2026, seeking additional fuel supplies to cushion Kenya against disruptions caused by the ongoing Middle East conflict.

"The invitation was communicated directly to the company's Managing Director from the official email account of the Principal Secretary," the response reads, adding that it was unclear whether other oil marketers were invited to bid.

Oryx submitted its proposal within a tight two-hour window, quoting for the supply of petrol and confirming its ca-



Oryx Energies Kenya Ltd CEO Angeline Maangi and her team when she appeared before the Committee.

capacity to deliver.

"We submitted the quotation within the required timeline and confirmed our readiness to perform under the proposed terms," Ms Maangi stated.

By March 25, the Ministry had formally accepted the company's offer to supply 60,000 metric tonnes of fuel. Two

days later, the company secured an additional 36,000 metric tonnes to further bolster Kenya's reserves—an offer that was also approved.

"Our ability to respond with speed and certainty in conditions of acute market stress is precisely the operational value that an experienced regional operator

brings," she said.

The Committee is currently probing the circumstances under which emergency fuel procurement was undertaken, amid concerns over transparency, pricing, and adherence to the Government-to-Government (G2G) framework.

During the proceedings, Senators raised questions over the speed and structure of the deal, with Senator Danson Mungatana pressing the company on its decision-making process.

"Did you consult your lawyers or seek broader input before entering into a contract within two hours?" Senator Mungatana posed.

He further pressed, "The Committee wants to understand the role you played without a physical meeting."

He also questioned the company's awareness of existing government arrangements, asking, "Would you be comfortable entering such an arrangement knowing the existence of government-to-government contracts with Gulf states?"

Success of devolution hinges on strong County Assemblies, leaders say



Senator Miraj Abdulahi speaks during the 6th Legislative Summit in Mombasa County.

Senior government officials and legislators convened at the Sapphire Hotel in Mombasa from June 13 to 17, 2026, for the Sixth Legislative Summit, issuing strong calls for financially independent county assemblies, coordinated oversight and accelerated housing delivery. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi said the future of devolution hinges on the institutional strength of county legislatures.

The summit, held under the theme “Resilient County Assemblies: Reinforcing Representation, Legislation and Oversight,” brought together members of the National Executive, Senators, Members of County Assemblies (MCAs), state actors and development partners. Discussions focused on public finance, oversight, affordable housing and electoral preparedness.

Opening the summit, Mr Mudavadi acknowledged the gains made under devolution but said key gaps remain. He noted that while devolution has brought governance closer to the people, expanded access to resources and strengthened accountability, its success depends on strong institutions at the county level.

He described county assemblies as central to that framework, citing their growing role in budget scrutiny and citizen representation. He pointed to ongoing reforms, including a review of MCA remuneration, fast-tracking of the County Assemblies’ Pension Scheme Bill,

and efforts to anchor the County Assemblies Forum in law. He also underscored the importance of operationalising the County Assembly Fund to enhance legislative independence.

“Financial autonomy is necessary for legislative independence and credible oversight,” he said, adding that taxation issues affecting MCAs are under review.

Senate Majority Whip Wakoli Wafula, who represented Speaker Amason Kingi, said devolution has moved beyond experimentation and must now be strengthened for long-term sustainability. He warned that county assemblies cannot effectively discharge their mandate if constrained by financial dependence or institutional pressure.

“Legislatures cannot effectively perform their roles if they are constrained by intimidation, financial dependence or institutional weakness,” Senator Wafula told delegates.

Senator Moses Kajwang’, speaking on financial autonomy and governance, urged county assemblies to assert their constitutional role, noting that collective oversight is more effective than individual efforts.

He said about 20 per cent of assemblies have attained unqualified audit opinions, with some now reviewing Auditor-General reports within the required 90-day timeline, describing the progress as notable but insufficient.

Senator Kajwang’ said budget ceilings



Senator Wakili Sigei during one of the Panel discussions at the Legislative Summit in Mombasa County.



Senator Moses Kajwang delivers his submission on the importance of financial autonomy for county assemblies during the Summit.

and staffing limits continue to hinder assemblies from hiring critical technical staff, including legal counsel and fiscal analysts, while unpredictable funding disrupts planning.

Senator Wakili Hillary Sigei, addressing oversight and service delivery, pointed to weak follow-through on audit findings as a major challenge. He noted that recurring audit queries on unimplemented projects highlight gaps in accountability.

“It is not the questions that embarrass leaders. It is the report,” he said.

Senator Sigei also cited poor coordination between Senate committees and county assemblies as a structural weakness, warning that oversight efforts stall when county executives perceive scrutiny as political attacks. He emphasised that effective oversight must translate into improved service delivery.

Senator Miraj Abdillahi linked the oversight agenda to the country’s af-

fordable housing programme, calling on county assemblies to take a more active role. She cited an estimated annual deficit of nearly two million housing units, stressing the need for structured legislative involvement at the county level.

The Senator proposed joint oversight committees, shared information systems and coordinated site visits between the Senate and county assemblies. She also urged assemblies to enact laws that safeguard vulnerable groups and ensure equitable access to housing.

Across the sessions, speakers emphasised the need for better funding, stronger coordination and more assertive county assemblies to sustain the gains of devolution.

Senator Wafula urged delegates to remain focused on strengthening institutions to enhance accountability and service delivery.

Lawmakers fault Treasury over royalty payments delay



Senator Beatrice Ogola



From left, Senator Shakila Abdalla, Senator Munyi Mundigi and Senator Beth Syengo.

Senators have asked the National Treasury to release billions of shillings it is holding in mineral royalties, saying the issue remains unresolved by the parent ministry.

The lawmakers accused the Ministry of Mining of continuously failing to prepare the regulations that would facilitate the payment of the royalties.

During debate in the House, Senator Beatrice Ogola said communities have, over the years, preserved and protected natural resources, and the failure to release the funds is unfair.

She was making her submission during debate on the reported discovery of mineral resources in Embu County following recent geological surveys and assessments undertaken by the government through aerial surveys conducted in 2022 and 2023.

“It is unfortunate that the National Treasury keeps confirming that there are monies being held for royalties, yet

communities and county governments are not able to access these funds,” noted Senator Ogola, adding that the issue of regulations for the payment of royalties must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

On the issue of Embu County, Senator Munyi Mundigi said various minerals, including strategic ones, have been identified in Kiangunguru Hill in Mavuria Ward, Mbeere South Sub-County.

The discovery has generated considerable interest, expectations, and concern among local communities and stakeholders regarding potential economic benefits, environmental implications, and resource ownership.

Senator Mundigi wants the Committee on Lands, Environment and Natural Resources to investigate the reports of the mineral discovery and submit to the House the current status of verification, mapping, and comprehensive assessment of the identified deposits in Embu

County.

He also wants details of the plans by the State Department for Mining regarding further exploration, licensing, and eventual extraction of the identified minerals.

“The Committee should provide an indicative timeline within which excavation or commercial mining activities are expected to commence, and the measures being put in place to ensure local community participation, environmental protection, sustainability, and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the exploitation of these resources,” he said.

Senator Ogola said that even though the people of Embu are excited about the prospects of exploring the minerals, there are other issues that come into play, such as the safety of miners.

“We have seen a lot of accidents where a number of miners have lost their lives after being buried in gold mines. We have seen the challenges in western

Kenya, particularly in gold mining areas in Kakamega and Siaya. It is probably time that the government pays attention to how contractors are engaged.”

She said communities must be involved through public participation and should also benefit from the minerals.

Environmental considerations must be taken into account, including the rehabilitation of mines once they are closed, as well as attention to social impacts.

Senator Okenyuri said there has been little intervention from the Ministry on mineral exploitation to ensure that whatever minerals exist across regions benefit the people.

“I hope the case in Embu will not be replicated in Turkana, where such minerals are discovered but residents take a very long time to see the value and purpose of why this was even brought to their attention.

Senate staff log 35 million steps in March Step Up challenge



The pictures show different faces of Senate staff during a hiking mission at Ngong Hills.

Senate staff recorded an average of 1,225,978 steps daily between March 12 and April 12, 2026, translating to about 557 kilometres per day, according to data from the Staff Step Up tracking system, a workplace wellness initiative designed to promote fitness and healthy lifestyles among employees.

Cumulatively, the staff made 35,417,432 steps during the entire period, covering a total distance of 25,908 kilometres between March 12 and April 12, 2026.

To put this into perspective, the data shows that staff collectively covered the

equivalent of about 13 marathon races every single day, based on the standard marathon distance of 42 kilometres and the average daily distance of 557 kilometres.

In total, the 230 participants ran the equivalent of more than 500 marathons over the month, derived from the total distance of 25,908 kilometres.

While Ms Caroline Njue maintained the lead, having walked 1,207,484 steps (883 kilometres) during the period, the biggest shift of the month came from Ms Dorcus Ambuto.

Previously outside the top ten, she surged into second place with 1,180,646

steps, covering 863.6 kilometres over the period.

Marlene Andia dropped to third place with 782,608 steps (572 kilometres), while Nasser Ahmed, with 632,940 steps (463 kilometres), ranked fourth. Martin Njuguna came in fifth with 552,706 steps (404 kilometres).

Ms Eunice Gichangi maintained her position in the top ten, walking a total of 548,030 steps (400 kilometres). Innocent Mbaya recorded 535,551 steps (391 kilometres), while Javan Nangoyo covered 484,463 steps (354 kilometres).

Ms Agnes M walked 483,331 steps (353 kilometres), while Mr Otiato An-

dayi rounded off the top ten with 475,761 steps, translating to 348 kilometres.

Overall, the data reflects not just participation but sustained performance, underscoring a growing culture of fitness, consistency, and collective achievement within the institution.

Since its launch in September 2025, the challenge has maintained strong participation levels. The consistency displayed is particularly notable, as workplace wellness programmes often struggle with long-term engagement, highlighting the initiative's success in embedding healthy habits among staff

From Office to Forest: Senate staff find wellness in Kereita



Images captured during the Senate Staff hiking excursion at Kereita Forest, Kiambu County.

Senate staff took part in a fitness and wellness hike at Kereita Forest, combining physical activity, nature exploration, and team building in an initiative aimed at improving staff well-being and workplace cohesion.

The excursion, which took place on Saturday, April 18, was organised by the Senate Staff Wellness Committee as part of its planned programmes.

Kereita Forest is one of the most underrated natural escapes near Nairobi, located in Limuru in Kiambu County, about 60 kilometres from the city. It remains relatively pristine and less exploited, offering a refreshing alternative to more crowded urban green spaces.

The forest is unique for its blend of wild nature and adventure. Originally a quiet indigenous forest, Kereita has evolved into a hybrid of conservation and adventure tourism, characterised

by dense vegetation, bamboo sections, waterfalls, caves, scenic valleys, and sweeping escarpment views. Its serene environment, compared to busier locations such as Karura Forest, makes it an ideal destination for relaxation and reflection.

During the excursion, staff members were immersed in nature, with many taking the opportunity to engage in bird-watching and nature photography. The guided hike allowed participants to appreciate the forest's biodiversity while also benefiting from moderate physical activity through walking and trail navigation.

The experience also incorporated structured physical activities aimed at promoting wellness. These activities not only contributed to improved physical fitness but also provided a mental break from the demands of the workplace.

Being in a natural environment helped reduce stress levels, enhance mood and improve overall mental well-being among participants.

Beyond individual wellness, the excursion created a platform for staff to interact outside the formal work setting. The shared experience of navigating trails, participating in group activities, and exploring the forest fostered stronger interpersonal connections, encouraged teamwork, and enhanced collaboration among colleagues.

The event also served as a valuable team-building exercise, enabling staff to bond in a relaxed and informal environment. This kind of engagement is essential in strengthening workplace relationships, improving communication and boosting morale.

The excursion highlighted the importance of integrating fitness and wellness

initiatives into the workplace. By combining physical activity, nature exposure, and social interaction, the programme contributed positively to the holistic well-being of Senate staff, reinforcing the Committee's commitment to promoting a healthy and productive workforce.

Mr Njenga Ruge, the director of Legislative and Procedural Services, thanked the staff who made the trip: "Your presence here today is commendable. By choosing to take part in this nature trail, you are not only investing in your personal well-being but also strengthening the institution as a whole. A healthy body supports a sharp mind, and when staff are physically well, productivity improves, resilience increases and we are better able to serve for longer hours with focus and dedication," he said.

CS Murkomen invited to explain rising political violence

Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen is scheduled to appear before the Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations to explain the rising culture of intolerance that has led to increased political violence targeting elected leaders.

Mr Murkomen had been invited to appear before the Committee on Thursday last week but did not show up, forcing the Committee to reschedule the meeting to Thursday, April 23, 2026.

The Committee has expressed dismay over the emerging pattern of politically motivated attacks targeting political leaders and wants the CS to explain what the Government is doing to address the problem.

Mr Murkomen had been scheduled to appear on April 17 but instead sent a letter to the Committee citing prior official engagements.

The CS instead dispatched the Principal Administrative Officer at the Ministry, Mr Nareko, to represent him at the meeting.

Others who had been invited to accompany the CS were Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja and DCI boss Mr Amin Mohamed.

Like the CS, Mr Kanja was a no-show, and only Mr Amin honoured the invitation and appeared before the Committee.



Citing the Senate Standing Orders, which require parliamentary committees to hear directly from Cabinet Secretaries, the Committee rejected the CS's absence and turned away Mr Nareko.

"The matter before us is weighty and serious," said Senator Dullo, the chairperson of the Committee, citing the Standing Orders.

"We only listen to the CS because he is the one accountable to Parliament and the people of Kenya. We appreciate your presence, but we regret that we cannot hear from you."

Senator Dullo directed the CS and Mr Kanja to appear before the Committee

on Thursday, April 23, without fail.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Senators Edwin Sifuna, Lelegwe Ltumbesi, and Tom Ojienda, the Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

Senator Sifuna said the Committee is keen to engage both the CS and the Inspector General, who bear responsibility on matters of policy in their respective roles.

He noted that the CS has publicly spoken on the issue of political violence and the rising culture of goonism, and it was important that he appears to clarify the matter.

"With all due respect to the officers

before us, we want to engage the CS on this matter because it is important," he said.

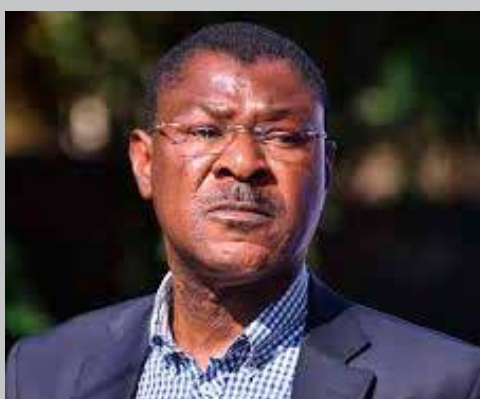
Senator Lelegwe supported the adjournment of the meeting, saying that proceeding would set a bad precedent.

"This Committee has never engaged anyone other than the CS," said the lawmaker, adding that it would not be the first to create such a precedent.

Senator Ojienda said the responses the officers would provide would not sufficiently help the Committee develop an actionable plan to address the problem.

This Week in History - On April 21, 2020

Senators expressed frustration with how World Bank grant was shared



Senator Moses Wetangula

Senator Moses Wetangula sought from the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, regarding the World Bank funds to improve the production of specialty coffee in the country. In the statement, he wanted the Committee to explain the criteria the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture has used in determining that the funds be allocated to the counties of Murang'a, Kiambu, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Machakos, Kirinyaga and Nyeri, at the exclusion of other coffee growing counties, indicate when the other coffee growing counties such as Bungoma, Kakamega, Vihiga, Kisii, Nyamira and Trans Nzoia will receive the funds and the rationale for excluding them in the first allocation in the first place. He also wanted the Committee to state the extent to which county governments have been involved in the process given that agriculture is one of the devolved functions. He also wanted the Committee to explain the method and parameters that will be used to measure the proper utilisation of the funds. "I seek this Statement with a lot of concern because this country knows that coffee has always been grown in the central and western parts of Kenya. Of late, I am aware the current Governor of West Pokot is planting a lot of coffee. Why would a Cabinet Secretary take resources given to the Government and lump them in one region with the exclusion of all other regions that grow coffee? This is not what the Constitution 2010 expected. We desire and demand equitable distribution of resources and opportunities to all people of Kenya."



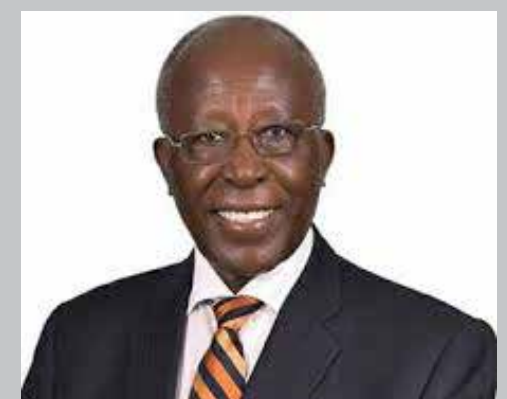
Senator Aaron Cheruiyot said:

"This is a very important matter that the distinguished Senator for Bungoma has brought to this House. I wish to remind him that he needs to add Kericho County in his list of coffee growing regions. My county is well known for growing tea, but coffee ranks second in our cash crops. This is because we have a large chunk of our population growing this particular crop. You will recall that last week, while debating the Division of Revenue Bill, I brought up an issue for the attention of the House. If we do not check the operations of the National Treasury through this mitigation projects, and all these funds such as the conditional grants and loans that do not bypass the checks and balances of Parliament, we will end up practising marginalisation and exclusion that brought us to the precincts of violence in the years that preceded the 2010 Constitution."



Senator Cleophas Malalah said:

"This is a disturbing matter considering the amount of money involved. We are talking about Sh1.6 billion. Article 10 (2) of the Constitution is very clear. It describes what the national values and principles of governance entail. Equity and equalisation are key in exercising any form of governance in Kenya. It is sad to realise that a colossal amount of Sh1.6 billion was given to the Government of Kenya and it has been allocated to one region of the country. This country consists of eight regions and 43 tribes. Therefore, equity in distribution of resources is mandatory. Next time we consider the Division of Revenue Bill let the Executive disclose all the grants they are receiving from donors. Let us distribute those grants when we discuss the Division of Revenue Bill. There is a need for us to know how much money was allocated to Nakuru, Kakamega and Kisii counties. Therefore, we shall not be allowing and giving the Executive the discretion of choosing where the donor funds should be directed to."



Senator Sam Ongeri said:

"Obviously, this is a very worrisome event that there are certain geographical locations in this country that can only grow cash crops. For example, there are crops that are grown in the highlands and the other areas. Coffee happens to be one such crop that can be grown in these areas that have been mentioned in the western region; Kericho, Kisii, Kakamega, Bungoma and other places that have been left out. When you hear that a fund which is supposed to help farmers to stay afloat, particularly at this moment of COVID-19 disaster and that it is only being distributed to favourite counties, that is unacceptable. We all accept the principle of equity. Therefore, resources must be equitably shared with all counties. In Kisii and Nyamira counties, we grow a lot of coffee. We are one of the pioneers of coffee growing in this country. Therefore, when we have not been catered for in these resources, to say the least, it is discriminatory."



1. Senator Veronica Maina speaks to the leadership of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) at the sideline of the 6th Legislative Conference in Mombasa County.
2. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with Senator David Wakoli (left), Senator Mwenda Gataya, Senator Veronica Maina and Senator Beth Syengo during the 6th Legislative Summit.
3. Senator David Wakoli and Senator Miraj Abdullahi in Mombasa during the 6th Legislative Summit.
4. Senator Shakila Abdalla addresses the 6th Legislative Summit.
5. Senator Beth Syengo and Senator Veronica Maina at the Summit in Mombasa.
6. Senator Moses Kajwang confers with the Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakango and Kapenguria MP Samuel Moroto at the Legislative Summit.



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