



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT – THIRD SESSION

THE SENATE

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019 AT 2.30 P.M.

1. The Senate assembled at thirty minutes past Two O'clock.
2. The Proceedings were opened with Prayer said by the Speaker.
3. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Speaker conveyed the following Communications from the Chair: -

a) Appointment of Senators to the Mediation Committee in respect of the Irrigation Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 46 of 2017)

“Honourable Senators,

As you may recall, in concurrence with the Speaker of the National Assembly on the constitution of a Mediation Committee in accordance with Articles 112 (1) (a), 112(2) (b) and 113 of the Constitution, I appointed the following Senators to serve in the Mediation Committee on the Irrigation Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 46 of 2017):

1. Sen. Peter Ndwiga, EGH, MP;
2. Sen. (Dr.) Christopher Lang'at, MP;
3. Sen. Falhada Iman, MP;
4. Sen. Judith Pareno, MP; and
5. Sen. Fredrick Outa, MP.

Honourable Senators,

Upon further consultations with the leadership of the Majority and Minority, I have appointed Sen. (Dr.) Ochilo Ayacko, MP, and Sen. (Canon) Naomi Jilo Waqo, MP to replace Sen. Fredrick Outa, MP, and Sen. (Dr.) Christopher Lang'at, respectively.

I urge the Mediation Committee to move with speed and deal with this important assignment.

I thank you!”

b) Visiting Pupils and Teachers from Mbondeni Primary School, Makueni County.

“Honourable Senators,

I would like to acknowledge the presence, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, of visiting Pupils and Teachers from Mbondeni Primary School, Makueni County.

On behalf of the Senate and on my own behalf, I welcome them to the Senate and wish them well for the remainder of their stay.

I thank you.”

4. **STATEMENTS**

(i) Statements Pursuant to Standing Order 47 (1)

- a) Nominated Senator (Sen. (Dr.) Alice Milgo, MP) made a Statement on the impact of mobile phone-based loans.

The senator informed the House that mobile phone-based lending platforms have taken over the lending space left by traditional banking since the law on capping of interest rates was introduced.

She further informed the House that the digital loan platforms have made Kenyans prisoners of these systems and raised concern about the risk of excessive borrowing and over –indebtedness to these loans, especially among lower income households. She further said the digital loans, which are easy to obtain in the short term, carry a high interest rate and are available from numerous banks as well as non-banking institutions.

The Senator informed the House that the growing unhealthy appetite for quick loans is best illustrated by the phenomenal growth of “*Fuliza*”, the new overdraft platform by Safaricom Ltd, which, within three months of its launch transacted KShs. 29 billion, and KShs. 45 billion within six months.

She raised concern that those who have developed a huge appetite for digital loans through the multiple mobile phone-based platforms are the jobless youth and other low income-earners, who either do not have clear repayment plans or have irregular income, the result of which is an emerging trend of borrowers borrowing from one platform to pay another.

The Senator urged the Government to regulate these mobile lending platforms and establish an oversight authority to scrutinize the lucrative interest rates

and penalties applied by the digital loan providers and initiate an awareness and education programme on digital credit.

- b) The Senator for Bungoma County (Sen. Moses Wetang'ula, MP) made a Statement on the demise of former Member of Parliament for Amagoro Constituency, Hon. Fredrick Oduya Oprong', who passed away on 25th May, 2019.

The Senator eulogized the former Member of Parliament, who rose from a trade unionist to being one of the most astute politicians of his era, for serving the nation with distinction and winning multiple re-elections as a Member of Parliament. The Senator observed that Hon. Oprong' would also be remembered for bringing peace and friendship among the Iteso and the Abaluhya communities.

Sen. Wetang'ula recounted the shooting of the late MP in 1994 and stated that, although the late MP survived the shooting, a bullet remained lodged in his head for the rest of his life. He thanked retired President Daniel arap Moi for assisting the late MP access specialized medication abroad following the shooting.

The Senator regretted that, while the late Member of Parliament is a celebrated leader in the country, he had lived his sunset years in abject poverty and his family was struggling. He urged the Senate to enact legislation that would ensure leaders who served the country diligently enjoy a good retirement.

Thereupon, the Speaker led the House in observing a minute's silence in memory of the late Hon. Oprong'.

(ii) Statement Pursuant to Standing Order 48(1)

Nominated Senator (Sen. Rose Nyamunga, MP) sought a statement from the Standing Committee on Energy on the status of "*Gas Yetu – the Mwananchi Gas Project*", a government project initiated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining.

5. **THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND HERITAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL (SENATE BILLS NO. 7 OF 2019)**

(Sen. (Dr.) Alice Milgo, MP)

Order for First Reading read;

Bill read a First Time and committed to the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare.

6. **THE CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL (SENATE BILLS NO. 9 OF 2019)**

(Sen. (Dr.) Abdullahi Ali, MP)

Order for First Reading read;

Bill read a First Time and committed to the Standing Committee on Health.

7. **THE NATIONAL COHESION AND PEACE BUILDING BILL (SENATE BILLS NO. 35 OF 2018)**

Order for Second Reading read;

Motion made and Question proposed-

THAT, the National Cohesion and Peace Building Bill (Senate Bills No. 35 of 2018) be now read a Second Time.

(Sen. Judith Pareno, MP – 22.05.2019)

Debate interrupted on Wednesday 22nd May, 2019 resumed;

And the time being thirty minutes past Six O'clock, the Temporary Speaker (Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, MP) interrupted the proceedings and adjourned the Senate without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Orders.

8. **SENATE ROSE** - at thirty minutes past six O'clock.

M E M O R A N D U M

*The Speaker will take the Chair on
Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 2.30 p.m.*

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