



The SENATE

For the Welfare of Society and the Just government of the People

Weekly

Issue No. 0019

House adopts report on Shakahola deaths, supports proposal to regulate religious institutions

The lawmakers welcomed the proposal in the report for the proposed Religious Organisation Bill, 2023, which will provide a legislative framework for the regulation of religious institutions



Senator Danson Mungatana, who chaired the Adhoc Committee, engages members of the Kilifi Security team when the committee toured Chakama Ranch within Shakahola Forest during its investigations

The House has adopted the report on the Shakahola deaths with a call to the Executive arm of the government to ensure that such unnecessary loss of lives does not happen again in Kenya.

Lawmakers who contributed to the debate of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Proliferation of Religious Organisations further insisted that tough action must be taken against those whose acts of commission or omission might have contributed in the security lapse that led to the deaths.

“As a country, we have the responsibility to ensure that such senseless loss of lives will never be experienced again in

this country. The actions of Paul Mackenzie ought to be condemned and all appropriate measures adopted to ensure such acts are not repeated in the future,” said senator Danson Mungatana who chaired the committee.

Until the process of exhumations of the bodies in the Chakama Ranch within the Shakahola Forest was halted, 428 people had been confirmed dead.

In its report, the Committee made a raft of recommendations to the various entities to ensure that, those who died, did not do so in vain and those who aided the crimes at Shakahola, are brought to justice.

The lawmakers welcomed the proposal in the report for the proposed Re-

ligious Organization Bill, 2023, which will provide a legislative framework for the regulation of religious organisations.

The proposal further provided for the establishment of the office of registrar of religious organisations, registration framework, qualification of religious leaders, offences and penalties for non-compliance.

“This Bill must be available. The tragedy that is Shakahola has given us the reason, opportunity, courage and excuse for us to face the religious leaders and tell them that they will be regulated. Religious organisations must be regulated,” said Senator Boni Khalwale who was the initiator of the motion that led to the formation of the Ad hoc Committee.

“Why do we have the Bible and the 10 commandments? Why do we have the teachings of the disciples of Jesus Christ? Why do we have the teachings of the Prophet Mohamed in the Quran? These teachings are meant to set standards to regulate. Regulation is already provided for in the Bible, Holy Quran and the Constitution. We must regulate churches. There are far too many. From Sigalagala Junction to Malinya, on the road from Sigalagala to Butere.”

Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot said as long as the country continues to register churches and religious organisations under societies, there is very little that that will be done to the Paul Mackenzies and the rest of the people who ex-

exploit religion for their own advantages.

“We must set up the office of registrar of religious organisations, someone properly trained in the field of religion. We are not short of men and women in this country who have the competence and we have the legal backing. We cannot fold our hands, sit down pretty in our loud silence and say, “oh! you know, religion is a sensitive topic. You cannot legislate or direct people on what to do,” said the Majority Leader.

Senator Catherine Mumma supported the proposal to regulate religious institutions urging the Country to take the proposal seriously.

“We currently have religious organisations registered as associations. They are registered by mortals and already regulated. The difference between a cult and a religious organisation is not something that may be distinguished easily. The only way you can prohibit cults and other terrorist-like organisations is to have regulations and requirements about those who claim to be running a religious organisation.”

Religious organisations and religion, warned Senator Mumma, are now starting to be the new frontier for the abuse of human rights.

“When you hear that a priest has sexually molested boys or girls, we do not cover that story for long. Politicians will not talk about it because they fear that they will lose votes if they criticise the



Senator William Cheptumo escorts Attorney General Justin Muturi out after the first Adhoc Committee meeting. On the right, the Senators see off Interior CS Kithure Kindiki when he appeared before the Committee during the investigations.



religious leaders doing these things. As a nation, we take this issue seriously and do what we have to do. We consider following what Rwanda has done to ensure that religious organisations are actually vetted properly and regulated to ensure that they do not do what has been happening.

Senator Crystal Asige said the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) should take the bull by the horns, by connecting with social media platforms like YouTube, Twitter, Meta platforms and others, to regulate content that po-

tentially has cult-like characteristics.

“The Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy should be proactive and put a stop to it before more harm occurs.”

Senator Mohamed Chute said the most important part of what happened in Shakahola is for those people who were involved to be taken to court. The Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) should take quick drastic actions. They can take these people to court with what they have now then keep adding.”

The Religious Organisations Bill, 2023, comes up with a hybrid legislative framework that allows for both State and self-regulation at the same time. The committee tried to balance where the Government and the state come in to bring order in the industry.

The legislative proposal has improved on how churches and all other religious organisations can do self-regulation

Key recommendations of the Adhoc Committee

- (1) The Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) expeditiously investigates the atrocious and heinous actions committed by Mr. Paul Mackenzie of Goodnews International Church with a view to recommending his prosecution within 30 days of the adoption of this report by the Senate.
- (2) The Director of Public Prosecutions to prosecute Paul Mackenzie following receipt of the report from the Director of Criminal Investigations.
- (3) Any individual directly or indirectly connected with, aided, or abetted the atrocious and heinous actions committed by Paul Mackenzie be investigated by the Director of Criminal Investigations with a view to recommending their prosecution to the Director of Public Prosecution within 30 days of the adoption of this report by the Senate.
- (4) The Director of Criminal Investigations in conjunction with the Department of Immigration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs investigates any foreign person or entity connected to the activities of Paul Mackenzie and Good News International Ministries with a view of prosecuting and/or deporting said person and preventing their future entry into the Republic of Kenya within 60 days of the adoption of this report by the Senate.
- (5) The Director of Criminal Investigations in conjunction with the Department of Immigration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs investigates, with a view to expel from the Republic of Kenya, any foreign person or entity advancing the doctrines or activities of the entity/group/religious outfit known as ‘A Voice in the Desert’ also known as ‘Jesus Christians’ connected to one Dave and Sherry Mackay and their associates and bar their future entry into the Republic of Kenya within 30 days of the adoption of this report by the Senate.
- (6) The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration submits a progress report to the Senate on the status of investigations, number of bodies exhumed, number of autopsies conducted, the progress of DNA testing and matching, number of survivors reunited with family members, condition of survivors particularly children every 30 days from the date of adoption of this report by the Senate until the completion of the investigation and handing over of the final investigation report to the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- (7) The Director of Public Prosecutions to pursue the prosecution of the existing charges against Paul Mackenzie as well as lodge fresh formal charges against Paul Mackenzie and other persons revealed to be culpable.
- (8) The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration formulates and issues guidelines setting out criteria for identification of harmful religious doctrines and clear procedures for county security committees to monitor and expedite action on intelligence reports pertaining to individuals and religious organisations advancing harmful religious doctrines within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the Senate.

Speaker Kingi roots for closer collaboration between Parliaments of Kenya and China



Speaker Kingi receives a gift from Mr Mao Dingzhi, Member of the Ministerial Board of the Organisation Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (ODCPC) during the courtesy call.

Parliaments of Kenya and China should explore new grounds for collaboration to expose their Members to the workings of the different political systems that are thriving in the two countries.

This was the call that resounded from a meeting between Speaker Amason Jephah Kingi and Mr Mao Dingzhi, Member of the Ministerial Board of the Organisation Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (ODCPC).

Mr Mao and his delegation made a courtesy call on the Speaker at Parlia-

ment Buildings on Thursday.

Mr Mao was accompanied by the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, Mr Zhou Pingjian, and other high level Chinese Government officials.

The meeting was also attended by Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo and Senator Tabitha Mutinda.

Under China's single party system, party officials play an overt role in State affairs which is markedly different from the state of affairs in Kenya.

"In Kenya, we have many political



Speaker Kingi, Senators Aaron Cheruiyot and Tabitha Mutinda pose for a picture with the Chinese delegation led by Mr Mao Dingzhi, Member of the Ministerial Board of the Organisation Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (ODCPC) during the courtesy call.

parties that participate in elections and nominate leaders to Parliament. Again, unlike in China, civil servants in Kenya do not participate in politics and are required to be neutral," the Speaker explained to his guests.

Nonetheless, the two systems provide an ideal learning curve for politicians, leaders and citizens of the two countries in appreciation of the success of the two systems in the two dispensations.

"There is so much we can share as political parties and political systems. I look forward to more collaboration and exchange programmes that will make this learning possible," the Speaker added.

Mr Mao appreciated Kenya's close collaboration with China at the global stage, a situation occasioned by the de-

cadec-old diplomatic and bilateral ties.

As developing countries, China and Kenya shared many perspectives on global development and were committed to working together for the realisation of the two nations' aspirations, Mr Mao reiterated.

The leaders also discussed a wide range of issues spanning the realms of trade, diplomacy, politics, development, geopolitics and other matters of mutual interest to our two countries.

They concurred that Kenya and China have walked a great journey together as bilateral partners and there was need to escalate and consolidate these by incorporating other new dimensions of partnerships.

The meeting was also addressed by Senators Cheruiyot, Madzayo and Mutinda.

Speaker Kingi was the chief guest in KKK tournament in Kericho



Speaker Kingi, flanked by Senators Aaron Cheruiyot (right), Wakili Sigei (second left) and Raphael Chimera and Ainamoi MP Benjamin Langat during the final match of KKK tournament in Kericho.

Speaker Amason Kingi was the chief guest during the finals of the KKK sports tournament at the Kiprugut Chumo Stadium in Kericho County on Saturday, December 2, 2023.

Sponsored by Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, the Tournament brought together a total of 320 teams from the Ward level.

in the final, Luminous FC beat Chamama FC 2-0 in a highly competitive match to win the tournament.

In the dress rehearsal, Bunge FC lost 4-3 to Kericho County Assembly football team in a match that was settled on spot kicks after it had ended 1-1 in regulation time

Arnold Angaya had put Bunge FC ahead with a tap-in after Senator Cheruiyot had been parried his way by the Assembly keeper. The Speaker of the Assembly Patrick Mutai, equalised with a minute of the match remaining to take the match into penalties.

The best players of the tournament were scouted by agents of local football clubs who undertook to recruit them for the clubs in the Kenya Premier League.

Caption: Speaker Kingi, flanked by Senators Aaron Cheruiyot (right), Wakili Sigei (second left) and Raphael Chimera and Ainamoi MP Benjamin Langat during the final match of KKK tournament in Kericho.

Maseneta Asige na Madzayo washtumu vikali dosari kwenye matokeo ya KCPE ya mwaka 2023



Seneta Asige



Seneta Madzayo

Seneta Maalum Crystal Asige ameitaka Kamati ya Kudumu ya Elimu kwenye Bunge la Seneti kutoa taarifa rasmi kuhusu visa vingi vya dosari katika matokeo ya mtihani wa kitaifa wa KCPE wa mwaka 2023 yaliyotangazwa hivi maajuzi na Baraza la Kitaifa la Mitihani nchini Kenya (KNEC).

Akiwasilisha ombi la taarifa kwenye Seneti, Seneta Asige aliitaka Kamati hiyo kutoa ripoti kuhusu visa vyote vilivyosajiliwa vya dosari katika kuwapa watahiniwa alama kwenye matokeo ya mtihani wa darasa la nane wa mwa-

ka 2023 hasa ikiangazia alama zisizo za kweli ambazo watahiniwa walipewa, makosa katika alama kwenye masomo mbali mbali na dukuduku kwenye majibu yaliyotangazwa ikibainisha iwapo Baraza la Kitaifa la Mitihani limeyashughulikia malalamishi hayo kufikia sasa.

Kamati hiyo inapaswa katika ripoti yake kufafanua sababu za kuwepo kwa tofauti kati ya alama zilizopokelewa na watahiniwa kupitia kwa wavuti wa Baraza la Kitaifa la Mitihani na zilizopokelewa kupitia kwenye ujumbe mfupi wa rununu ikiweka bayana mianya iliyo-

sababisha makosa hayo na namna yanatatuliwa.

Aidha Seneta Asige anataka ufafanuzi utolewe wa namna watahiniwa walipata alama kwenye masomo ambayo hawakufanya mtihani wayo, Kamati ikihitajika kueleza madhara ya makosa hayo kwa watahiniwa husika kando na kufafanua hatua ambazo Wizara ya Elimu, Baraza la Kitaifa la Mitihani na wadau wengine wameweka kutatua lalama zilizobuliwa kabla ya kuandaa zoezi la kuwateua wanafunzi watakaojiunga na shule za upili ili kutowaweka katika hali mbaya watahiniwa wenye lalama.

Kadhalika Kamati hiyo chini ya Uongozi wa Seneta wa Kaunti ya Murang'a Joe Nyutu imetwigwa wajibu wa kubaini utaratibu na muda uliopo kwa watahiniwa kuwasilisha lalama zao na ziangaziwe na hatua zilizowekwa na Baraza la Kitaifa la Mitihani na Wizara ya Elimu kuwasaidia wanafunzi wasiojiweza hususan kwenye jamii zilizotengwa kote nchini Kenya ambao labda hawana uwezo wa kufikia taarifa ama rasilimali kuwasilisha lalama zao.

Kwingineko Kiongozi wa upande wa wachache katika Seneti Jaji Mstaaifu Stewart Madzayo ameshatumu vikali makosa chungu nzima yaliyoripotiwa

kwenye matokeo ya mtihani wa darasa la nane KCPE ya mwaka 2023.

Seneta huyo wa Kaunti ya Kilifi ame-liomba Bunge la Seneti kuangazia kwa kina lalama zilizotolewa na watahiniwa ili kurejesha imani ya Wakenya kwa matokeo ya mitihani.

Akitoa taarifa kwenye Seneti, Seneta Madzayo alisema kuripotiwa kwa dosari nyingi kwenye matokeo hayo kumonesha sura duni ya Baraza la Kitaifa la Mitihani nchini Kenya kukiwepo na dukuduku kuhusu uadilifu wa matokeo yanayotolewa na Baraza hilo.

“Dosari hizo zimeonesha picha ya Baraza lililoshindwa kutekeleza wajibu wake kuwasilisha matokeo ya kuaminika kwa wanafunzi waliofanya kazi shuleni kwa miaka minane,” alisema Seneta Madzayo.

“Tunafahamu kuwa hili ndilo lili-kuwa kundi la mwisho la mfumo wa 8-4-4 kuifanya mtihani wa KCPE na tunatumai kuwa dosari nyingi kama hizo hazitashuhudiwa katika mfumo wa CBC. Mtihani wa mwaka huu wa KCPE utaingia kwenye historia kuwa mtihani uliokumbwa pakubwa na dosari tangu kuanzishwa kwa mfumo wa 8-4-4 mnamo mwaka 1985,” alikariri Seneta Madzayo.

Seneta Khalwale ataka majibu kuhusu kuuawa kwa wanaume wanne kwenye ardhi inayomilikiwa na KDF

Kamati ya Seneti kuhusu Usalama wa Kitaifa, Ulinzi na Masuala ya Uhusiano wa Kigeni imetakiwa kutafuta majibu kuhusu mauaji ya wanaume wanne waliouawa kwenye Shamba la Ngano yaani Ngano Farm linalomilikiwa na Kikosi cha Jeshi la Kenya (KDF), eneo bunge la Turbo Kaunti ya Uasin Gishu.

Akiwasilisha ombi la kauli kutoka kwa Kamati hiyo kwenye Seneti, Seneta wa Kaunti ya Kakamega Dkt. Boni Khalwale ameitaka kufafanua mazingira yaliyosababisha mauaji ya Kenneth Kipkemei, Shadrach Kipkemei, Daniel Kiprotich na Cornelius Kipkoech kwenye Shamba la Ngano linalomilikiwa na KDF katika Wadi ya Kiplomo eneo bunge la Turbo, Kaunti ya Uasin Gishu mnamo Novemba 25, 2023.

Kiranjia huyo wa upande wa serikali kwenye Seneti aidha anaitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta wa Kaunti ya Baringo William Cheptumo kubaini endapo kuna majeruhi wowote kufuatia



Seneta Khalwale

kisa hicho ikiorodhesha hatua ambazo serikali imechukua kurejesha amani na utulivu katika sehemu hiyo.

Kadhalika Seneta Khalwale ameionba Kamati hiyo kuwaeleza Maseneta iwapo kuna msaada wowote wa kifed-

ha au kisaikolojia ambao umetolewa na serikali kwa familia zilizowapoteza jamaa na zile ambazo jamaa wazo walipata majeraha kufuatia kisa hicho.

Kamati hiyo itahitajika pia kueleza sababu zinazosababisha mzozo kati ya wamiliki wa mashamba ya Kiplondo na KDF ikiweka bayana mikakati ya muda mrefu iliyowekwa kutatua utata huo.

Kwingineko Seneta wa Kaunti ya Turkana James Lomenen ameomba majibu kutoka kwa Kamati iyo hiyo ya Usalama wa Kitaifa, Ulinzi na Masuala ya Uhusiano wa Kigeni kuhusu uchache wa Maafisa wa Polisi wa Akiba wanaoshughulikia tatizo la ukosefu wa usalama kwenye Kaunti ya Turkana na viunga vyake.

Seneta Lomenen anaitaka Kamati hiyo kubaini idadi kamili ya Polisi wa Akiba waliotumwa kwenye Kaunti ya Turkana na mipaka inayojumuisha maeneo yanayopakana na nchi za Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan Kusini, Samburu, Baringo na Pokot Magharibi.

Seneta huyo wa chama cha Jubilee

anaitaka pia Kamati hiyo kutaja sababu zinazochangia ongezeko la biashara inayokuzwa na wizi wa mabavu wa mifugo na ujambazi kwenye barabara kuu mipakani katika Kaunti za Turkana, Pokot Magharibi, Samburu na Baringo sawia na mipaka ya kimataifa kama wa Uganda na Turkana, Ethiopia na Turkana na Sudan Kusini na Turkana.

Kamati hiyo itahitajika kuweka wazi mikakati ya kuwarejesha na kuwaajiri Maafisa wa Polisi wa Akiba kwenye maeneo yaliyoathiriwa ikibainisha idadi ya wanaoelengwa kuaajiriwa, utaratibu wa mafunzo na muda unaopaniwa kutumwa kwao.

Kadhalika Kiongozi huyo ameionba Kamati hiyo kubaini mbinu zilizopo za kuimarisha ushirikiano kati ya Polisi wa Akiba na vyombo vya usalama vya kawaida katika kuukabili ipasavyo ukosefu wa usalama kwenye eneo, ika-kariri msaada unaofikiriwa ukiwemo utoaji wa bima kwa Polisi wa Akiba kuhakikisha usalama wao uko imara na hivyo utendakazi mwema.

Eldoret Municipality to become Kenya's 5th City

Eldoret Municipality is poised to become Kenya's fifth City after the House approved the report of the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations on the application by Governor Jonathan Bii seeking that the Municipality should be conferred city status.

Section 5 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, outlines the criteria that ought to be met by a Municipality to qualify to be upgraded to City Status.

The municipality should have a population of at least 250,000 residents according to the final gazetted results of the last population census carried out by an institution authorised under any written law, preceding the application for grant of city status.

It should have an integrated urban area or city development plan, demonstrable capacity to generate sufficient revenue to sustain its operation, demonstrable good system and records of prudent management, capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver its services to its residents, institutionalised active participation by its residents in the manage-

ment of its affairs, infrastructural facilities, including but not limited to roads, street lighting, markets and fire stations, and an adequate capacity for disaster management, a capacity for functional and effective waste disposal.

The Committee, which is chaired by Senator Mohamed Abbas, did an in-depth analysis of the stakeholders' submissions and based on its deliberations and was satisfied with the inspection it carried out and recommended the conferment of city status to Eldoret municipality.

Senator Abbas told the House that Eldoret which is famously known as 'The City of Champions' had met the criteria set out in Section 5 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011.

The Senate was convinced that the town had exceeded the requirement of a population of at least 250,000 for an urban area to be classified as a city.

Furthermore, the county has the capacity to generate sufficient revenue to sustain its operations, as its revenue potential is Sh2.5 billion, with the highest actual collection of Sh0.99 billion in the

last financial year.

"Based on the above findings and observations, the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations recommends that the Eldoret Municipality be granted city status having met the requirements set out in Section 5 and the First Schedule of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011," reads part of the report.

During the debate on the report, the lawmakers said the conferment was long overdue adding that basing such decision to population matrix is the old school of thinking.

"A city should be based on the infrastructure. If a county government is able, the way Governor Peter Anyang' Nyong'o has done to Kisumu County in six short years, allow those people to have their city," said Senator Khalwale during debate.

"We should support Eldoret. It is ripe, it has got land, an international airport, first class hotels and more importantly, it has the opportunity for investment."

Senator Beatrice Ogola noted that

planning ensures that the municipality of the proposed city is orderly on the ground. "The essence of the Urban Areas and Cities Act is that the urban areas will be self-sustaining. They will be able to generate revenue and in return, sink back this revenue in giving the services to the residents of the city," said Senator Beatrice Ogola during the debate on October 5, 2023.

With the House adopting the report, Section 8 (6) of the Act mandates the Clerk of the Senate to forward the resolution to the President for conferment of city status on the municipality.

Section 7 provides that after the resolution of the Senate, the President may confer the status of a city on a municipality by grant of a charter.

President Uhuru Kenyatta granted Nakuru city status in 2022, making it the fourth city in the country after Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu.

Ensure Posta staff salary arrears are paid before Christmas Day, ICT Committee directs CS Owalo

The employees of the Postal Corporation of Kenya have a reason to smile after the Committee on Information, Communication and Technology directed the Cabinet Secretary for ICT and Digital Economy to pay their salary arrears before Christmas Day 2023.

Nandi Senator Samson Cherarkey had raised concerns on the financial status and operations of the Corporation through a request for a statement on the Floor of the House.

Posta employees have not been paid salaries stretching back to July 2023.

During CS Owalo informed Senators that the Corporation is experiencing financial constraints but agreed with the Committee's observations that the disbursement of salary arrears to the workers is long overdue.

"The corporation is considering re-vamping its operations to ensure that it stays afloat. I promise to direct the Posta management to pay its staff before Christmas once the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)



ICT CS Eliud Owalo joins Members of the ICT Committee for a media briefing after the meeting.

pays the debt it owes to the corporation.

The reason for delays in meeting the salary obligations was occasioned by low business volume due to a decline in postal mail business. IEBC owes Posta Sh1.1 billion.

The National Treasury has promised to release Sh550 million to IEBC to settle part of the debt.

"I have given directions to Posta that that money is sufficient to offset the five months' salary arrears. If Treasury releases these funds, Postal Corporation of Kenya will pay its staff by Christmas," added the ICT and Digital Economy CS.

The Committee advised the Corporation to take advantage of its extensive network coverage across the country to

provide other services apart from its traditional mail business model.

They directed the Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy to submit an update of the salary payment to the workers in the next one month to ensure they are paid their dues.

"Posta should change their business operations so that it can remain relevant in this tech-oriented world. For instance, it should partner with the Immigration Department to embark on delivery of passports or engage in clearing and forwarding business," said Senator Shakila Abdalla.

"I direct that the Ministry provide a full schedule of the Sh7.1 billion owed to the Corporation as debt in the next 14 days. You should also provide the strategies you have put in place for the staff offloading programme," Senator Cherarkey, who served as the sessional chair, directed the CS.

Stop teachers' remittances to Metropolitan Sacco, Trade Committee directs TSC



A section of Bungoma teachers who attended the meeting with the Trade Committee in Bungoma town.

The Committee of the House has directed the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to stop remittance of teachers' contributions to the Metropolitan National Sacco until the outstanding issues are resolved.

The Committee of Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism issued the order after meeting Teachers in Bungoma County who have raised issues in the manner the Sacco is managed.

The Committee was forced to travel to Bungoma after it deemed as unsatisfactorily a response presented by the Ministry

of Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Senator David Wakoli has requested for a Statement on the management structure of the Sacco. In the statement, the lawmaker wants all branches of the Sacco in the country to be listed; details of officials of the Sacco at national level; and when the Annual General Meeting of the Sacco was last held and the minutes of the meeting tabled in the House.

Senator Wakoli wants an audit of the conduct of business, including books of accounts, at the Sacco.



Senator David Wakoli addresses the teachers during the meeting. Others are Senators Omtatah and Thangwa

During the meeting, held at Mabanga ATC in Bungoma, it emerged there is a gap in the representation of the Sacco as most of its national officials come from one region.

This has denied members from Bungoma and the other regions an opportunity to participate in the Sacco decision making process.

The committee was told that all the AGM meetings are held in Kiambu county. This has made it near impossible for members from Bungoma to attend hence they do not own the AGM Res-

olutions.

The Sacco is also marred in irregularities as reported by the exasperated teachers who requested the Senate for help to get back their hard-earned monies.

"We want the TSC to stop the remittances until we meet all the relevant stakeholders to ensure that the grievances raised by teachers are resolved conclusively," said Senator Okiya Omtatah, who led the committee to Bungoma.

Other members in the team were senators Karungo Thangwa and Senator Wakoli.

Security Committee to push for more funding for Investigations Academy

The National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations wants adequate budgetary allocation and timely disbursement of the funds to promote efficiency at the National Criminal Investigations Academy (NCIA).

The Committee, which is chaired by Senator William Cheptumo, says adequate funding to the Academy will mitigate challenges the institution is going through and enhance professionalism in criminal investigations.

The committee the call after an extensive tour of the facility, which is located in South C, Nairobi County.

The Committee was taken round by Chief Inspector Mike Sangale who attached at the Academy.

"We are going to invite relevant Stakeholders to explore ways on how the Academy can receive proper funding to ensure efficiency and professionalism," said Senator Cheptumo after the tour of the facility.

The Academy is mandated to offer technical and professional training on criminal intelligence and investigations,



Members of the Committee on Security pose for a picture with the top leadership of the NCI Academy during the visit. The Committee was led by Senator William Cheptumo (chair), Senator Karen Nyamu (vice chair), Senator Seki Lenku ole Kanar (second right), Senator Joseph Githuku (third left) and Senator Tom Ojienda (fourth left).

monitor and evaluate training programmes, create a platform for experience sharing and conduct research on emerging crimes for capacity building.

During the tour, the management of the facility said Academy has Limited capacity due to constraint in funding the

Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) training.

In the current financial year, the directorate was allocated Sh31 million against training projection of Sh200 million per year.

"The enormous disparity has resulted

to huge backlog resulting to inadequate capacity building of officers hence affecting professionalism," said Sangale.

The Academy has the capacity of 160 students and there is need for construction of a bigger modern institution that will accommodate over 1000 students in order to deal with the huge backlog of untrained officers.

Established in 1957 to train National Police Service (NPS) personnel, NCIA has continued to be the premier college offering technical and professional training on Intelligence and investigations, to other government investigative agencies besides NPS.

In 2014, the Academy was identified as a Centre of Excellence in Criminal Intelligence and Investigations by Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) for regional and international training.

The NCIA is also registered with TVET in line with the National Training Policy and to collaborate with higher learning institutions for enhancement of training and research capacity.

Roads Committee withdraws Sh500,000 fine slapped on Governor Lenku



Senator Karung'o Thangwa, the chairman of the Roads, Transport and Housing Committee.



Governor Joseph Lenku when he appeared before the Committee on Thursday last week.

The Committee of Roads, Transportation and Housing has lifted the Sh500,000 fine it had imposed on Governor Joseph ole Lenku of Kajiado County.

The Governor had skipped the Committee's invitation to appear before it on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 to explain issues pertaining the issuance of title deeds by residents of Jamii Bora Housing in Kisaju, Kajiado County.

He skipped the meeting and the committee slapped him the fine which he was supposed to pay through his own

pockets.

When he appeared before the committee, the Governor revealed he had been taken ill and produced medical records to prove his claim. The fine was lifted by Senator Karungo Thangwa, who is the Committee chairman.

In his submission on the matter, Governor Lenku asked the Committee to compel Jamii Bora/Kisaju View/ Jamii Bora Trust Housing scheme to submit official documents of the land they are developing.

"Jamii Bora Housing developers un-

dertook the project without county government's approval, therefore the project is illegally constructed," said Governor Lenku.

The termed the proprietors of Jamii Bora Housing Scheme as fraudsters, saying they never submitted the mother title deeds for the land before they sold the houses to Kisaju estate home owners. He claimed that the Housing project developer has changed names to evade taxation and continue to dupe Kenyans, adding that they have also made it difficult for the county to transact or engage

in meaningful settlements.

Lenku told the committee that Jamii Bora is managing 2000 units which now qualify the area to be managed by the County going by the threshold of the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011 (revised in 2019). He further argued that the township should be managed by the County for progressive review of development needs while recognizing an existence of private entities.

Interrogate quarterly implementation of County budgets, CoB advises Finance Committee



Members of the Committee on Finance and Budget in session.

County Governments generated Sh37.8 billion from their own source of revenue in the first quarter of 2023/24 financial year which was just about 66 per cent of the annual target of Sh57.3 billion, a committee of the Senate has been told.

Even though this was an improve-

ment compared to Sh35.9 billion generated at the same time in the previous year, the Office of the Controller of Budget observes that County governments should enhance revenue collection strategies.

The Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakango told the Committee on Fi-

nance and Budget that the underperformance of OSR collection implies that counties could not implement some planned activities due to budget deficits.

"Counties should align their OSR in line with the past trends," said the Controller of Budget when she appeared before the committee on Thursday, adding that counties must come up systems that will improve revenue collection and have in place controls to minimise leakages.

Ms Nyakango had appeared before the committee to appraise the committee on Budget implementation for County Governments for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.

During the meeting, Ms Nyakango explained to the committee the trend analysis on comparison between County governments' approved budgets and

actual expenditure for the last three Financial Years; and the challenges and possible remedies to improve budget preparation and execution by County governments.

She challenged the Committee to peruse and interrogate her reports on implementation of the budgets of County governments on a quarterly basis.

"This will enhance the tracking and monitoring of implementation of recommendations in the report hence fostering accountability and transparency in budget implementation at the County government level," she told the committee, which is chaired by Senator Ali Roba.

The CoB has established a Parliamentary Liaison Department to provide the committee with the technical support on areas touching on the CoB mandate.

CPISFC orders Governor Ntembeya to submit documents related to activities of Ward Bursary Fund



Senator Godfrey Osotsi, the chair of CPISFC, and Senator Eddy Oketch during the meeting with Governor George Ntembeya (right).

The County Public Investments and Special Funds Committee (CPISFC) has directed Governor George Ntembeya of Trans Nzoia County to submit all documents related to the activities of the Ward Bursary Committees of the 25 Wards in the County.

The Committee, which is chaired by

Senator Godfrey Osotsi, gave the order after it was told that the Committee had breached the law by conducting business even though its members had not been gazetted.

“I directed the Governor to submit all transactions carried out by the ungazetted ward committees to the Committee

and copy the same to the Office of the Auditor-General within 14 days from the date of the meeting,” ordered Senator Osotsi.

The Committee further directed the Office of the Auditor-General to review the documents and file a report to the committee on their legality within 30 days from the date of the meeting.

Governor Ntembeya had appeared before the committee to respond to the queries raised in the Auditor-General’s Reports for the fiscal years ending 30th June 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The agenda of the meeting centered around three key funds: the Trans Nzoia Elimu Bursary Fund, the Trans Nzoia County Youth and Women Development Fund, and the Trans Nzoia County Public Service Board.

In the report, the Office of the Auditor General called out the County saying that its officers encountered limited access to information during the audit

process.

The Committee instructed Governor Ntembeya to ensure complete access to necessary documents and information for the Auditor-General in line with the provisions of the Public Audit Act.

The committee members have since been gazetted but documentation confirming this was not immediately available for audit review and the Committee requested the Governor to submit the relevant Gazette Notices for verification within seven days.

The committee also discussed the ongoing dissolution of the Trans Nzoia County Youth and Women Development Fund where it emphasised the importance of adherence to legal procedures in the process.

Senator Osotsi directed the Governor to provide an update on the closure to both the Committee and the Office of the Auditor-General.

ON THE FLOOR

Senator Asige wants the state to explain discrepancies in 2023 KCPE results



Senator Crystal Asige

Senator Crystal Asige has raised concerns about the rampant discrepancies noted in the just released 2023 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) results where incorrect marks were awarded, wrong subjects graded and questionable results published.

Senator Asige questioned the authenticity of the results released by the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) with a plea to the Committee on Education to provide a comprehensive report on all documented instances of erroneous grading of candidates in the results and clarify whether KNEC has addressed each of the instances.

“The Committee on Education should explain why there were discrepancies between the results received by candidates through the KNEC portal and the SMS service provider and state how the gaps that caused the discrepancies have been addressed,” Senator Asige said.

The legislator also wants the Com-

mittee to state the impact of the reported “misalignment” that caused some candidates to receive marks for subjects they did not sit for and outline any steps taken by the Ministry of Education, KNEC and other stakeholders to audit the 2023 KCPE results with a view to resolving reported and unreported discrepancies before the secondary school selection process commences.

She further requested the Members of the Committee to disclose the corresponding timelines that the Ministry of Education and KNEC has put in place to ensure candidates contest the 2023 KCPE results and outline any steps taken to assist vulnerable learners from marginalised communities who may lack access to information on the mechanism or the resources to contest the results.

Speaker Amason Kingi subsequently committed the request to the Committee on Education and report back to the House.

Senator Mutinda crowned 2023 Digital Literacy Champion

Senator Tabitha Mutinda has been honoured with the 2023 Digital Literacy Champion Award.

The International Computer Driving License Forum, ICDL, honoured the Senator during an event in Kigali, Rwanda.

Senator Mutinda is the official ICDL Ambassador.

She was awarded alongside Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and the National Assembly ICT Com-

mittee Chairperson, Mr John Kiarie.

ICDL Africa, which is based in Kigali is an institute that advocates for digital literacy for all, which has become a necessary skill in this age.

The 2023 ICDL Africa Forum brought together stakeholders, including government institutions, in the digital economy space to discuss challenges and opportunities in promoting digital literacy across different sectors in Africa.

Senator Mutinda, who herself took the ICDL course in her tertiary studies lauded the programme as a game changer in Kenya. She also praised the Government on the increase in number of e-government services which has reduced queues in Huduma Service Centres.

“I pride myself with my ICDL certificate because it gave me a new level of digital skills. I also thank President

William Ruto, for increasing government e-services from 320 to about 1500 e-services within an year,” said Mutinda after she received the award.

Together with Hon. Kiarie, Senator Mutinda launched a digital and innovation hub in Dagoretti Sub-County. She encouraged young people to use the digital hubs to enhance their skills because the government has reduced tax on the cost of content creation.



1. Senator Mutinda receives the award in Kigali.
2. Senator delivers her acceptance speech after she received the award.
3. She was honoured with a giant cake to celebrate the achievement. In this picture, the Senator is joined by others in cutting the cake.
4. Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie did not attend the event in Kigali and Senator Mutinda received the award on his behalf. In this picture, the Senator hands over the award to the MP during a brief ceremony in Parliament

Employee wellness starts and ends with you

There are cases where individuals work hard, in fact harder than most people to the point where their backs cannot withhold tears and blood.

In the end, their health suffer, taking away the joy and pleasure that comes with being healthy.

Wellness is an area of concern in modern day work places. Coming against the backdrop of Covid-19, it spans across the realms of mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing of employees.

The Senate has been magnanimous enough to procure facilities where staff burn calories and sweat out their brawns.

As part of its wellness initiative, the Senate has procured Nyayo National Stadium every Tuesday and Thursday for this purpose.

How many employers in Kenya have such a wellness package for its employees to enjoy? Your guess is as good as right but I am sure they are few and far between.

Physical exercises have a way of keeping you fit and healthy. Exercises also ensure your mind remains mercurial which supports agility at the work place.

Other than the sports ground, which is



Staff of the Senate cheer their teams during the Senate Sports Day in October.

at the disposal of employees, the Senate organises various sessions where employees are brought up to speed on matters wellness by top-flight professionals.

It has been said before that “you should remind them even if they know” a maxim that explains the reason behind wellness sessions.

Just like every other employer, the

Senate, understands the benefit of having a healthy pool of employees as it directly feeds into the performance pipeline.

At a time when non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes are ravaging people in their 30s, the Senate could not have been wrong to initiate the wellness sessions.

The Senate has also invested in ergonomic seats that offer comfort while working hence mitigating the risks of back pain and other orthopaedic conditions which may be borne out of sitting for long hours.

Wellness initiative in the Senate is also extended to employees who are abled differently. This is evidently seen through the ramps that have been constructed for use by those who are physically challenged as part of disability mainstreaming in line with international best practices.

The medical team in the Directorate of Human Capital and Administration has been of immense support to employees insofar as medical insurance, follow up with hospitals is concerned.

This has been a critical enabler towards accessing quality healthcare.

The Senate has done a lot as an employer and you, the employee, too, has a role to play.

Wellness begins with you and ends with you. Let us all be proactive and speak wellness to our minds, hearts and body at all times whether up or and down.

By Mike Mwamuye

This Week in History



“Counties should observe their legal obligations. This is a legal matter and I do not know the reason as to why the traders of Kitui County have not gone to court. There is time value for money. This money attracts interest and penalties from the banks where they borrowed the money.” –

Senator (Dr.) Boniface Kabaka making his contribution during the debate on the Petition for non payment of pending bills by the County Government of Kitui on **December 6, 2018**.



“Pending bills is a matter that is affecting the whole country and this Senate needs to take it seriously. The last time we revisited the issue of pending bills, the total amount of the whole country’s pending bills was over Sh900 billion. I, therefore, think that this is serious and the House of the Senate needs to do something about it. In Isiolo County, after elections, the pending bills amounted to over Sh200 million. The last time the Governor of Isiolo County appeared before the Committee on County Public Accounts and Investment, he said that the pending bills were Sh97 million and that figure has changed over the months. It looks like we do not have correct figures in terms of pending bills in the counties.” –

Senator Fatuma Dullo making her contribution during the debate on the Petition for non payment of pending bills by the County Government of Kitui on **December 6, 2018**



“As my fellow Senators have said, this is a countrywide problem. It is happening in all counties. As they have emphasised, it is not good to make people work, do projects, complete them then not pay them. People should be paid for their services. It behoves the Senate to get serious on this matter and make sure that counties pay their bills on time.”

Senator (Prof.) Malachy Ekal making his contribution during the debate on the Petition for non payment of pending bills by the County Government of Kitui on **December 6, 2018**



“When we passed the 2010 Constitution, it was very clear that services and running of governments was being taken closer to the people. However, from what we are seeing, it is the contrary and the opposite. Many young people have lost the little money that they had for business. Even the 30 per cent of all the contracts at the county level, which should have been given to the women and youth, has really not brought any assistance to our people.”

Senator Rose Nyamunga making her contribution during the debate on the Petition for non payment of pending bills by the County Government of Kitui on **December 6, 2018**



1. Speaker Kingi arrives at Kericho Green Stadium where he was the chief guest in the Aaron Cheruiyot football tournament. The tournament is sponsored by Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot.
2. The Speaker addresses the participants in the tournament and thousands of sports fans who attended the final day of the tournament. He is flanked by Ainamoi MP Benjamin Langat (left) and Senator Cheruiyot (second left).
3. Senator Cheruiyot welcomes the Speaker at Kericho Green Stadium.
4. Speaker Kingi kicks the ball to launch the finals of Senator Cheruiyot football tournament at the Kericho Green Stadium on Saturday, December 2, 2023.
5. Members of the Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation pose for a picture with their counterpart Committee from Migori County Assembly who were in the Senate for a benchmarking tour.
6. A delegation from the Institute of Economic Affairs Kenya comprising members of staff and students pose for a picture in Parliament Buildings. The delegation was in the Senate for a day's visit for a benchmarking tour.
7. Ms Lucy Radoli, a Legal Counsel attached to the Senate, speaks to the delegation from the Institute of Economic Affairs during their one day tour of Parliament.
8. Professor Nyokabi Kamau, the Executive Director of the Centre of Parliamentary Studies (CPST) and Mr Anthony Njoroge, Director Litigation and Compliance in the Senate and Mr George Libendi, Deputy Director, when they appeared before the Committee on Delegated Legislation to discuss the CPST Regulations, 2023.



A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

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