



The SENATE

Weekly

Issue No. 0034

12 Counties to each receive above Sh10B in allocations

The Bill, sponsored by Ali Roba, the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance and Budget comes up for debate once the House resumes from recess on June 25.

Three counties will each receive in excess of Sh10 billion in equitable share in the next financial year after the Senate forced through an increased allocation to counties to above Sh400 billion.

The County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2024, which is currently before the House, shows that Meru, Wajir and Machakos counties will each cross the Sh10 billion mark in the next financial year, a significant development that shows devolution is working.

This means that at least 12 counties will receive amounts above Sh10 billion in the 2024/25 financial year.

The Bill, sponsored by the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance and Budget Ali Roba, comes up for debate once the House resumes from recess on June 25.

The Bill was introduced days after a Mediation Committee of the Senate and National Assembly settled on Sh400.1 billion as equitable share for the 2024/25 financial year following the dispute over Division of Revenue Bill, 2024.

Meru County has been allocated Sh10.7 billion for the 2024/25 financial year, up from Sh9.9 billion it received in this financial year. Wajir County will bag Sh10.6 billion up from Sh9.9 billion, while Machakos County will close the list of new entrants of devolved units receiving over Sh10 billion.

The county has been allocated Sh10.3 billion up from Sh9.5 billion after Senators pushed for increased equitable share from the National Assembly backed Sh391 billion to the Sh400.1 billion that was agreed on by a mediation committee.

Nairobi City County remains at the top after the Bill proposed an allocation of Sh21.7 billion from the current Sh20.1 billion.

Nine other counties are also on the list of the biggest earners in the allocation sharing plan.

They are Nakuru City County (Sh14.7 billion), Turkana County (Sh14.2 billion), Kakamega County (Sh13.9 billion), Kiambu County (13.2 billion) and Kilifi County (Sh13 billion).

Mandera County that has a proposed allocation of Sh12.5 billion, Bungoma (Sh12 billion) and Kitui County (Sh11.7 billion).

Tharaka Nithi (Sh4.7 billion) and Lamu (Sh3.5 billion) are the only counties that have a proposed allocation of below the Sh5 billion mark.

The allocation of Tharaka Nithi will grow by Sh400 million compared to that of the current financial year while that of Lamu will go up by Sh300 million.

Out of the total amount, Sh158.3 billion will be shared equally by all the 47 counties. The remaining amount of about Sh241.8 billion will be allocated among county governments based on the parameters set out in the third generation formula.

The formula includes indices on population, health, agriculture, urban, poverty, land, roads and basic share.

The Bill has also set ceilings on recurrent expenditure for both the executive and county assemblies.

The county executives of Kitui and Meru will hit the Sh1 billion mark following the proposed allocation of the highest recurrent ceiling giving each Sh1 billion for the expenditure.

During the current financial year, Kitui had a ceiling of Sh787.2 million while Meru had Sh802.5 million.

Similarly, eight county assemblies will hit the Sh1 billion mark after the proposed allocation ceiling on expenditure was approved by the Senate.



Senator Ali Roba, chair, Finance and Budget Committee.

Nairobi City County assembly has been allocated a recurrent ceiling of Sh1.7 billion, a drop from Sh1.9 billion cap for the ending financial year, 2023/24.

Other County Assemblies that have hit the Sh1 billion cap on recurrent ceiling are Kakamega County (Sh1.3 billion), Kiambu and Nakuru have each been allocated Sh1.2 billion while Kisii, Kitui and Meru have each been capped at Sh1.1 billion.

Machakos and Migori county assemblies have each been allocated a recurrent ceiling of Sh1 billion.

The Bill has in Article 5 tasked the Auditor General to prepare quarterly special audit reports on financial and non-financial performance of an entity to which a county government function has been transferred.

The National Treasury Cabinet Secretary will also be required to publish a monthly report on actual transfers of all allocations to county governments in line with Article 7 of the proposed law on allocation of revenue.

Hasten recovery of riparian land, Senators urge State



Senator Wahome Wamatinga



Senator Hamida Kibwana



Senator Ledama ole Kina



Senator Eddy Oketch

The lawmakers have urged the State to expedite the process of recovering riparian land while ensuring that people living downstream enjoy clean environment in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Senators regretted that successive Governments have been unable to make the bold but unpopular decision which has culminated in the distraction of riparian land.

The legislators made the comments when contributing to the debate on a Statement sought by Senator Hamida Kibwana on the recent eviction on the people living on the banks of Nairobi River.

“It is time, as Senators, we come up with laws that will ensure that riparian land across the country is protected and people are not allowed to build, construct, and obstruct waterways,” said Senator Wahome Wamatinga, while contributing to the debate on the Statement.

“We saw houses, lives, and property being washed down the rivers. It was

painful to see people die because we had not made a decision. The political class has made the popular decision to make sure that people continue living on riparian land despite knowing that this is unfortunate.”

The Senator challenged the lawmakers to develop a legislative and legal framework to protect waterways and riparian land.

“We need political goodwill to ensure that we implement the environmental conservation measures, some of which are painful to our people. Construction along riparian land destroys the ecosystem and endangers people’s lives, encouraging erosion and pollution.”

He said waters transferred from the counties of Nairobi, Machakos, Makueni, and Tana River to Kilifi Counties have affected people living in the counties downstream.

In her request, Senator Kibwana wants the Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations to submit a Statement in the House explaining the actions being taken by the Government concerning evictions and

demolitions in Mathare and Mukuru kwa Reuben areas of Nairobi County.

“The recent floods in the country, especially in Nairobi and its environs have resulted in devastating consequences, including loss of lives and extensive property distraction,” Senator Kibwana said in her request.

While acknowledging the necessity of measurements to ensure public safety of the people, she expressed concern by the Government’s decision to evict people and demolish properties on riparian land along the Mathare and Ngong rivers, saying the exercise had been executed in an inhumane manner and in violation of rights of the affected individuals.

She wants the committee to clarify the basis and procedural framework under which the Government is conducting evictions and demolitions in Mathare and Mukuru kwa Reuben areas and whether due process and human rights were upheld throughout the evictions.

She wants information on the measures taken by relevant Government agencies to ensure that the affected individuals are provided with adequate

support and alternative housing and compensation for losses incurred during these evictions and demolitions.

Senator Ledama ole Kina supported the protection of the riparian land noting that when people are moved from the river banks or the land adjacent to the rivers, it cleans up the environment.

“I have been to many parts of the industrial area in Nairobi. You will find that places where there were no dumpsites are now dumpsites,” he told the House in his contribution, adding that it is about time that Senators fight for more money to go to counties to create more jobs so that we limit the number of people living as second-class citizens in urban areas.

Senator Eddy Oketch said the families affected by the floods are struggling and asked the Committee to devise a way of communicating proper intervention mechanism

Speaker Kingi invites Senators for Kepsa roundtable meet

Speaker Amason Kingi has asked Senators to participate in the 6th Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)- Senate Speaker's Roundtable (SRT) conference to be held in Mombasa County this week.

The annual event is a high-level platform for public-private sector dialogue between the business community and the Senate that facilitates a joint review of the country's policy and legislative environment.

Speaker Kingi told the House that the conference identifies crucial legislation for the private sector that needs to be reviewed or fast-tracked and addresses any gaps that require new legislative intervention based on the country's development priorities.

"Your involvement in the conference will be instrumental in driving positive change in our economic landscape, which will ultimately improve the quality of life for all Kenyans," said Speaker Kingi, when he made the invitation on the floor of the House.

The two-day conference will be held on June 12 and 13, 2024.

The theme of this year's conference will be: "Strengthening the role of the Senate in improving county business environment competitiveness for the creation of wealth, jobs and inclusive



Speaker Amason Kingi leads Senators to the inauguration of Seenoi Barr who was sworn in as the Mayor of Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Hon Barr (in red) is Senator Ledama ole Kina's sister. Also in the picture are Senator ole Kina (right), Senator Edwin Sifuna and Senator Margret Kamar.



Speaker Kingi and Londonderry Mayor Seenoi Barr after her swearing in.

prosperity in Kenya."

The business community and the lawmakers will seek to set the legislative interventions for 2024 between the private sector and the Senate that is aimed at boosting county economic competitiveness.

The conference will focus on improvement of the overall ease of doing business and competitiveness in the counties, promotion of the manufacturing sector as a key driver of economic transformation and job creation, addressing factors that inhibit agri-

business in counties, ensuring counties integrate environmental and social considerations and strengthening the Senate's vanguard role as shepherds for devolution and county competitiveness.

Speaker summons House for special sitting

Speaker Kingi has summoned a special sitting of the House to among other things discuss the County Government Additional Allocation Bill, 2024 and the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2024.

The County Government Additional Allocation Bill seeks to unlock Sh55.5 billion to the Counties in grants and loans from the national government and other development partners.

The County Allocation of Revenue Bill is the tool that divides national raised revenue among the 47 counties. In the next financial year, the counties will receive a total of Sh400.1 billion as provided for in the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024.

President William Ruto has assented to the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024

ensuring that counties will get an enhanced equitable share of Sh400.1 billion.

The new figure is a Sh14.6 billion rise in county allocation, representing a 23.48 per cent increase from the constitutional threshold of 15 per cent.

The increased funding is intended to enhance service delivery by ensuring that the counties are adequately facilitated to perform their functions as espoused in the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution.

In a notice in the Kenya Gazette, Speaker Kingi said he had recalled the House on the request of the Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot.

"I have appointed Tuesday, June 11 as the day for Special sitting of the Senate," said Speaker Kingi in the notice.

Other business to be transacted on the day are the Statutory Instruments (Amendments) Bill, 2023, which originated from the National Assembly, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the County Licensing (uniform Procedure) Bill, 2022.

The IEBC seeks to reform the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission including the roles and power of the chairman, qualifications of commissioners and the term limit of the chief executive officer.

If enacted, commissioners of the IEBC will be expected to have experience in accounting or information and communication technology as additional professional qualifications.

The House is on recess until June 25, 2024.



Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot requested Speaker Kingi to call for the special sitting of the House.

Counties to receive an additional Sh56 billion



Senator Ali Roba, the chair, Finance and Budget, during the meeting with the Council of Governors led by Governor Anne Waiguru over Division of Revenue Bill, 2024.

County governments will get an additional Sh55.5 billion once the Additional Allocation Bill, 2024 as conditional allocations from national governments share of revenue and from development partners for the financial year 2024/25.

The Bill went through the first reading before the House went on recess

The proposed allocation in the Bill is in addition to the Sh400.1 billion the devolved units received in the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024.

Once approved by the House, the additional funding will push the total allocation to the devolved units to at least Sh455.1 billion in the next financial year.

The Bill allocates grants and loans from the national government and other development partners to the counties.

The allocations include conditional and unconditional funding meant to help close financial gaps in the county budgets.

Of the Sh55.5 billion the Bill is seeking to unlock, a total of Sh8.2 billion is conditional allocation to county governments from the national government.

All the 47 counties will also receive

Sh10.5 billion as conditional allocation from Road Maintenance Levy Fund while only 21 devolved units will draw Sh1.1 billion as unconditional allocation from court fines and mineral royalties.

Counties will also benefit from another Sh35.7 billion from loans and grants from development partners, being a conditional allocation.

The funds are from World Bank, Danish International Development Agency (Danida), German Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

The Bill says in Article 4(1) that the additional allocation shall constitute funds agreed upon by the National Assembly and the Senate during consideration of the Budget Policy Statement.

The Bill mandates the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary to publish monthly reports on actual transfers to counties by the 15th day of each calendar month.

The Sh8.2 billion grants from the national government includes Sh445 million spent on construction of county headquarters in five counties.

Another Sh4.5 billion will go towards

construction of county aggregation and industrial parks in 18 devolved units while Sh3.2 billion will be used as counterpart payment of stipends for community health promoters.

Another Sh30.2 million will go towards the newly devolved museum function in seven counties of Trans Nzoia, Wajir, Marsabit, Narok, Garissa, Isiolo and Kisumu.

Trans Nzoia County will draw the highest allocation from the Sh30.2 million kitty as it is earmarked to receive Sh17.3 million, followed by Kisumu (Sh6.4 million).

Nyandarua, Kakamega and Kilifi counties will be the major beneficiaries of the allocation from the national government as they will bank Sh410.6 million, Sh377.5 million and Sh366.10 million respectively.

All the 47 county governments will benefit from the Sh10.52 billion Roads Maintenance Levy Fund with highest beneficiary, Kitui County, getting Sh445.1 million.

Other major beneficiaries from the roads kitty are Makueni (Sh415.1 million), Machakos (Sh314.8 million), Nairobi (Sh351.3 million), Kajiado (Sh307.4

million) and Kiambu (Sh335.4 million).

The Sh487.5 million grant from Danida will be for provision and promotion of primary health care while the Sh10.6 billion from the World Bank will go towards Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project.

Other allocations are Sh1.9 billion from World Bank for emergency locust response, Sh1.2 billion from German Development Bank for Local Action Climate program and Sh3.2 billion from the World Bank for Climate Resilience Investment Grant.

The food systems resilience project in the counties will get Sh1.5 billion from World Bank while Sh5 billion from the same organisation will be spent on water and sanitation development programme.

An additional Sh1.8 billion from the World Bank will be used on the Kenya Devolution Support Programme, Sh1.6 billion on Kenya Urban Support Program and Sh379 million from Investment Fund will go towards Agricultural Development – Kenya Livestock Commercialisation Project.

Committee greenlights Fire and Rescue Bill

The Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations has given the greenlight to the Fire and Rescue Services Professionals Bill, 2023 but proposed a number of amendments.

In a report before the House, the Committee has proposed the appointment of a non-executive chairperson to head the Fire and Rescue Services Board which is established in the Bill.

Clause 5 of the Bill provides for a Chairperson of the Board to be appointed by the Cabinet Secretary.

However, the Committee has proposed amendment to the provision, so as to have a non-executive chairperson appointed by the President.

While the committee acknowledges there is no piece of national legislation that regulates fire and rescue services, it says the Bill is progressive as it seeks to provide a regulatory and institutional framework for fire and rescue services across the country.

The Committee is also proposing rep-



Senator William Cheptumo, chair, Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations

resentation of the Council of County Governors to the Board should be increased to three members.

“Firefighting service and disaster management is devolved to the county governments. Disaster management is a concurrent function of the national and

county governments. It is imperative that the county governments are well represented in the Board established under the Bill,” says Senator William Cheptumo, the Chair of the committee.

The Board contains representatives from relevant government ministries, professional associations, and the Council of County Governors.

Other proposed amendments include broadening the qualifications for the Registrar to encompass other relevant disciplines and requiring at least five years of leadership experience. Additionally, the Committee rejected the requirement for permanent residence to practice as a fire and rescue service professional, thus allowing foreign professionals to be included.

Clause 18 of the Bill provides that for a person to be registered as a fire and rescue services professional, he/she must hold a degree, diploma or certificate in a fire and rescue services course from a recognised institution in Kenya or equivalent qualifications from a rec-

ognised foreign Institution.

“The Committee observes that this provision is restrictive and therefore the scope of qualifications should be broadened to include other relevant disciplines,” says the Committee.

Clause 18 of the Bill provides that for a person to be registered as a fire and rescue services professional, he/she must be a Kenyan citizen or have a permanent residence in Kenya.

However, the Committee observed that the requirement unnecessarily restricts foreigners from practicing as fire and rescue services professionals and that there is need for a more inclusive approach.

The Committee received submissions on the Bill from various stakeholders, including the National Disaster Operations Centre in the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, the National Treasury and Economic Planning, the Council of Governors, and the County Assemblies Forum.

Committee wants details of suspended Vihiga health workers

A House Committee is demanding answers following a series of disciplinary actions against health workers by the County Government of Vihiga for taking part in the recently concluded nationwide doctors’ strike.

The Committee on Health has written to Governor Wilber Ottichilo demanding a detailed explanation over the actions by his administration against the health workers.

The decision by the health committee comes days after aggrieved health workers took to the streets of Mbale town protesting what they termed as unprocedural disciplinary actions taken against their colleagues by Governor Ottichilo’s administration.

Some of the notable health workers affected are the County Director of Health, Dr Benjamin Induswe and Vihiga County Referral Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Victor Tsimbulu who were suspended for allegedly protecting their colleagues who took part in the nationwide strike.

The two were accused of “giving incorrect data of health workers who were taking part in the nationwide strike”.

Several health workers were affect-

ed by disciplinary orders, among them suspension, but the devolved unit now says they have been withdrawn and the affected reinstated.

The disciplinary actions included stoppage of salary, interdiction, suspension and dismissals but the County Public Service Board was not involved.

The decision by the Committee was reached after Senator Godfrey Osotsi sought the intervention of the House to address the crisis that has paralysed delivery of health services in the county.

In the letter to Governor Ottichilo, the Health Committee is requesting for details of the number of healthcare workers who have been subjected to disciplinary procedures from 2022.

The committee also wants the devolved unit to explain the legal basis for each disciplinary action and flag out any cases of unprocedural dismissal of the essential staff, ascertaining the number of staff that have been punished without the involvement of the County Public Service Board.

The Committee further wants details outlining any action taken by the Vihiga County Public Service Board to intervene and reverse cases of unprocedural disciplinary proceedings to ensure un-



interrupted service delivery.

When he sought a statement, Senator Osotsi said there is need to give an update on implementation of actionable points that were agreed between the committee and the county government on the health functioning in the region.

“The committee should cause necessary action to be taken to ensure that the County Public Service Board takes their

mandate and responsibilities seriously and where they fall short be held accountable,” said Senator Osotsi.

The Committee has asked Dr Ottichilo’s administration to avail 15 hard copies of the responses together with supporting documents.

Kero la ukosefu wa maji mjini Bomet



Seneta Wakili Sigei

Taasisi husika zimetakiwa kuingilia kati na kutatua tatizo la ukosefu wa maji kwenye Kaunti ya Bomet.

Seneta Wakili Sigei amewasilisha

ombi akiitaka Kamati ya Ardhi, Mazingira na Maliasili kufanya uchunguzi na kutoa ripoti kuhusu ukosefu wa maji uliodumu kwa muda mrefu mjini Bomet kwenye Kaunti ya Bomet.

Seneta Sigei alifichua kuwa wakazi na sehemu za biashara mjini Bomet zimesalia bila maji safi kwa miezi kadhaa jambo linalowashinikiza kutumia maji yasiotibiwa kutoka mto Nyongores hatua aliyosema inawaweka kwenye hatari kubwa ya kukumbwa na maradhi yanayotokana na matumizi ya maji chafu.

Alisema tayari ripoti za Mbaguzi Mkuu wa fedha za serikali zimeonesha kuwepo kwa changamoto nyingi katika utawala na usimamizi wa shughuli za kampuni ya maji ya Bomet (BOMWASCO).

Seneta huyo sasa anaitaka Kamati ya Ardhi, Mazingira na Maliasili kufafanua mazingira yaliyoababisha Kampuni ya Umeme nchini Kenya, Kenya Power, kusitisha usambazaji wa umeme kwenye kampuni ya BOMWASCO ikibaini mikakati yoyote iliyowekwa na

Serikali ya Kaunti ya Bomet kuepusha ukosefu wa maji katika muda mfupi na kuhakikisha uwepo wa maji ya kutege-mewa mjini Bomet.

Seneta huyo aidha anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuwasilisha ripoti kuhusu hatua ambazo serikali ya Kaunti imechukua kuilinda afya ya wakazi ambao kutokana na ukosefu wa muda mrefu wa maji wanakodolea macho hatari zinazotokana na uchafu.

Kamati hiyo inapaswa kuweka wazi hatua ambazo zimechukuliwa kuangazia changamoto za kifedha na uendeshaji ambazo zinailimaza kampuni ya maji ya BOMWASCO zikiwemo dosari za kifedha ambazo zinafichuliwa kutoka na matumizi ya fedha na halmashauri bila stakabadhi, matumizi ya fedha kwa ajili ya wafanyakazi ambayo hayawezi kuthibitishwa na malimbikizo ya mishahara ya wafanyakazi.

Aidha Kamati hiyo chini ya Uenyekiti wa Seneta John Methu itahitajika kutoa taarifa ikionesha miradi yote ya maji inayoendelea kwenye Kaunti ya Bomet ikifafanua kama kuna kucheleweshwa

na wakati unaobashiriwa miradi hiyo kukamilika.

Kwingineko Seneta Joe Nyutu amewasilisha ombi kwenye Seneti akitaka majibu kutoka kwa Kamati ya Ardhi, Mazingira na Maliasili kuhusu kuongezwa kwa kiwango cha ada ya maji kulikofanywa na Halmashauri ya Usimamizi wa Huduma za Maji nchini Kenya (WASREB) katika Kaunti ya Murang'a.

Seneta Nyutu anaitaka Kamati hiyo kufafanua kigezo kilichotumika na WASREB kuongeza malipo ya ada katika Kaunti ya Murang'a ikiweka wazi takwimu za ada kwenye Kaunti jirani na eneo pana la Mlima Kenya kukiwa na ufafanuzi wa tofauti zozote.

Kiongozi huyo aidha anaitaka Kamati hiyo kulifahamisha Bunge la Seneti kupitia kwenye ripoti yake kuhusu mikakati ambayo imewekwa na WASREB kuhakikisha watumizi wa bidhaa hiyo hawabebeshwi mzigo mzito.

Hali ya kifedha ya Vyuo Vikuu vya umma nchini yazua kiwewe

Wizara ya Elimu imetakiwa kutoa maelezo kuhusu hali ya sasa ya kifedha na uteuzi wa wanafunzi wanaojiunga na Vyuo Vikuu vya umma kote nchini Kenya.

Seneta Samson Cherarkey amewasilisha ombi kwenye Bunge akitaka kauli kutoka kwa Kamati ya Elimu kuhusu uteuzi na hali ya kifedha katika Vyuo Vikuu vya umma.

Seneta Cherarkey anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuwasilisha utathmini wa hali ya sasa ya kifedha kwenye Vyuo Vikuu vya umma kukizingatiwa ugumu wa kifedha ambao umeshuhudiwa katika siku za hivi maajuzi ambao umesababisha wengi wa wafanyakazi wa Vyuo Vikuu vya umma kusalia bila mishahara kwa miezi kadhaa.

Kamati hiyo inapaswa kubaini idadi ya Vyuo Vikuu vya umma ambavyo vimetathminiwa ama vinakumbwa na ugumu wa kifedha ikifafanua mikakati ambayo Wizara ya Elimu imechukua kuhakikisha taasisi hizo zinasalia kuhudumu na wanafunzi hawaathiriwi pakubwa.

Seneta huyo anaitaka Kamati ya Elimu kutathmini ufanisi wa Hudu-

ma ya Uteuzi wa wanafunzi kujiunga kwenye Vyuo Vikuu na Vyuo vya Kadri nchini Kenya (KUCCPS) katika kutekeleza wajibu wa kuwateua wanafunzi kujiunga kwenye Vyuo hivyo kutokana na kuripotiwa kwa lalama nyingi zinazoibuliwa na wanafunzi na washikadau mbali mbali nchini Kenya.

Aidha Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Joe Nyutu imetakiwa kufafanua kigezo kinachotumiwa na Halmashauri ya Mikopo ya Elimu ya juu (HELB) kuwapa mikopo wanafunzi kwenye Vyuo Vikuu vya umma pekee huku wanafunzi walio kwenye Vyuo vya Binafsi na vya Kidini wakiacha kote nchini Kenya.

Kadhalika Kamati hiyo itahitajika kupata ufafanuzi kuhusu hatua ya KUCCPS kutowateua wanafunzi kujiunga katika taasisi zenye msingi wa kidini.

Huku hayo yakijiri Seneta Mohamed Faki amaitaka Kamati ya Elimu kufanya uchunguzi na kuwasilisha taarifa kwenye Bunge kuhusu malipo ya malimbikizo kwa walimu waliostaafu kutoka Tume ya Huduma kwa Walimu nchini Kenya (TSC).

Seneta Faki anaitaka Kamati hiyo



Seneta Samson Cherarkey

ichunguze sababu za walimu waliostaafu kutopokea pensheni pamoja na malimbikizo yao ya kustaafu kuanzia mwaka wa 2020 hadi sasa kando na kuiarifu Seneti ni lini walimu hao waliostaafu wataanza kupokea malipo yao.

Kadhalika Seneta huyo anaitaka Kamati kwenye ripoti yake kueleza sababu za Hazina ya Malipo ya Uzeeni (NSSF) kukosa kuwalipa walimu waliostaafu malipo yao ya kustaafu kwa wakati unaofaa.

Senator Kibwana challenges lawmakers to raise awareness about obstetric fistula and mental health



Senator Hamida Kibwana

Senator Hamida Kibwana has implored Senators and citizens to actively participate in initiatives that raise awareness about obstetric fistula and mental health.

“Let us reaffirm our commitment to uphold health as a universal human right and continue our efforts towards a more inclusive and compassionate society,” she said.

The lawmaker made the call when she issued a statement in the House to com-

memorate the International Day of the End Obstetric Fistula, observed on May 23 and the Mental Awareness Month.

The theme of the International Day of the End of Obstetric Fistula was: Breaking the Cycle Preventing Fistula World Wide while the theme for the Mental Health was: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right.

While distinct, the two observances, are deeply interconnected.

Obstetric Fistula, a severe childbirth injury, often results in profound psychological distress for affected women. The physical consequences of fistula such as incontinence and social ostracisation led to significant mental health challenges, including depression, anxiety and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD).

“The theme of Mental Health Awareness Month resonates deeply with the principles of equality, dignity and inclusivity. It highlights the fundamental need for accessible and equitable mental health care for all individuals regardless of their background or circumstances,” the Senator told the House.

On the other hand, the fight against obstetric fistula demands that a comprehensive maternal health care and psy-

chological support is provided to those affected.

“As leaders, it is incumbent upon us to acknowledge the dual challenges faced by women suffering from obstetric fistula both physical and mental. Despite progress in maternal health care, the stigma and discrimination surrounding fistula persists leading to social exclusion and barriers to seeking help.”

The challenges are mirrored in the broader context of mental health where misconceptions and prejudices continue to hinder individuals from accessing the care they need.

Addressing the issues, said the lawmaker, requires a multifaceted approach.

She called on the enhancement of access to skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric care and timely surgical interventions to prevent the occurrence of fistula.

For those already affected, she proposed reconstructive surgery and comprehensive post-operative care as essential to restoring their physical health and dignity.

She wants mental health support provided as part of the maternal health care programme, psychological counselling,

supporting groups and community education will help women cope with the emotionally draining aftermath of fistula and reduce stigma.

“Raising awareness about both obstetric fistula and mental health within communities can foster a supportive environment. Education campaigns can challenge misconceptions, encourage empathy and promote the inclusion of the affected women,” she stated.

She wants the National and county governments and health organisations to prioritise maternal and mental health care in their health agendas.

“Policies that ensure access to comprehensive care services are vital. Advocacy efforts should aim to secure funding and support all these initiatives.”

She added: “Let us reaffirm our commitment to uphold health as a universal human right and continue our efforts towards a more inclusive and compassionate society. I urge everybody to use this opportunity to educate, advocate and promote comprehensive health care that addresses individuals’ physical and mental wellbeing. Together we can break the cycle of suffering and build a healthier equitable country.”

House seeks an update on sports facilities status

With the World Cup qualifier matches and African Cup of Nations competitions on the cards, a Senator is seeking information on the status of the country’s preparedness.

Senator George Mbugua has tasked the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare to update the House on the status of sporting facilities in the country and whether they can host international tournaments

Senator Mbugua wants the Committee to table a report on the status of completion of both new and old sports stadia that have undergone renovation in the country from 2019.

The Senator wants the Committee to outline the counties that have benefited from the Talanta Hela Programme.

“The committee should detail the amount spent per programme in addition to explaining the criteria used by the Sports, Arts, and Social Development Fund to allocate money to the var-



ious sports federations and independence adverts,” says Senator Mbugua.

He wants the Committee to state the social development programmes carried out by the Sports, Arts and Social Development Fund and the extent to which this fund has benefited persons with disabilities.

Senator William Kisang is concerned



with the recent disruption of the internet which slowed down connectivity in the country.

The Senator wants the Committee on Information, Communication and Technology to offer a statement on the internet disruption in Kenya.

The disruption was caused by submarine cable cuts and folds.

Senator Kisang’ wants the statement to elaborate on the extent of damages to the undersea cables.

The damages affected internet connectivity in Kenya and the broader East African region.

The Senator wants the committee to state the measures being taken to expedite the repair process and restore full internet access.

“The statement should disclose any measures taken by regulators and relevant authorities to address the potential national security implications arising from submarine cable cuts and folds disrupting internet connectivity in Kenya, explaining what other measures are being implemented to safeguard critical digital infrastructure against such security concerns,” he said.

Further, the statement should outline any measures explored or implemented to enhance the resilience of Kenya’s digital infrastructure against submarine cable cuts and falls and state the anticipated timelines for the implementation.

Senators pledge to increase allocations to counties in the next three years



Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi speaks during the official opening of the Liaison Committee retreat in Uasin Gishu.



Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi leads the House leadership in welcoming Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi to the Liaison Committee's retreat in Uasin Gishu County.

Senators have pledged to gradually increase the equitable shareable revenue due to counties to Sh500 billion by the end of the life of the 13th Parliament.

The Liaison Committee, which is chaired by Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi, expressed its desire to leave behind a legacy that will guarantee adequate funding for counties.

"Next year we will add more money because we want to see sectors like health and agriculture thrive. Our target is by the end of the current term we must be at Sh500 billion," said the Deputy Speaker.

Nevertheless, the committee advised Governors to exercise prudent management of the funds already allocated.

The Deputy Speaker said the Senate played a crucial role in ensuring that the counties received Sh400.1 billion up from Sh385 billion in the 2024/25 financial year, the highest amount of shareable revenue since the advent of devolution.

"We have increased the funds by Sh15 billion and we want to see service delivered to the people. To whom much

is given, much is expected."

The Deputy Speaker, who is also the Senator for Meru County, was speaking during a retreat of the Committee, which brings together all the chairpersons of House Committees. The retreat was held in Uasin Gishu County.

The aim of the retreat was to build synergies and explore interlinkages for effective and efficient operations of Committees.

The Mediation Committee of the Senate and National Assembly agreed on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 in which counties will now receive Sh400.1 billion of shareable revenue in 2024/25 financial year.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, who delivered the keynote address, urged the Senate to put in place mechanisms for receiving corruption reports from corruption prevention Committees which were established in the counties.

"A mechanism must be established so that corruption prevention reports from all counties reach the Senate for deliberation to see whether there is an

attempt to fight corruption in counties," he stated.

He said his office is open and committed to working closely with Parliament to achieve its legislative agenda.

The Prime Cabinet assured the Senators that his office will also monitor the government's responsiveness to parliamentary matters.

"This will cover the whole spectrum of questions, statements, resolutions and undertakings to parliament. In the spirit of the whole of government approach, parliament will be a critical player and partner in aiding the success of these aspects of the system," stated PCS Mudavadi.

Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot urged Committee chairs to diligently perform their duties for the benefit of Kenyans.

He specifically called on the Committee on Health to find ways of standardising health services and how doctors are treated in counties.

"The Committee on Health should lead us in discussing how to stabilise

the health situation in all the 47 counties," he said.

Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo also called upon Governors to effectively use the monies allocated to them and avoid wastage.

"Senators have played their role and fought for an increase of the shareable revenue and therefore Governors must use than money to develop their counties," he added.

The Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakang'o took Senators through a session on implementation and oversight of county governments budgets.

Other invited guests include Chairperson, County Assembly Forum (CAF) Hon Philemon Sabulei, Principal Secretary of State department for Devolution Teresia Mbaika and Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IG-RTC) Chairperson Kithinji Kiragu.

The Committee also paid a courtesy call to Uasin Gishu Governor Jonathan Chelilim and the County Assembly Liaison Committee.

House wants solution to Lake Nakuru pollution menace



Deputy Majority Leader Tabitha Karanja



Senator John Methu

The House wants authorities to get a permanent solution to the pollution menace that is threatening maritime life in the Kenyan lakes.

Experts have warned that fish from most of the lakes in Kenya have metals that are causing cancer and several other diseases.

But the State has been slow in enforcing the advice.

During debate in the House, the lawmakers challenged the county government and the people responsible for the aqua life to ensure that the problem is

addressed as a matter of urgency.

Research conducted by the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) established the presence of heavy arsenic metals such as lead, mercury, copper, zinc in fish and water samples collected from Lake Nakuru.

The metals were found to cause health hazards like brain cancer.

Senator Tabitha Keroche, who is also the Deputy Majority Leader, wants the Committee on Agriculture and Livestock to explain the actions taken by the national Government and county gov-

ernment to implement the recommendations made by KMFRI

She also wants the committee to explain measures and strategies the National Government and county government have taken to ensure that fish from Lake Nakuru, which is being sold in Nakuru Town, Naivasha, Nairobi, Kericho, Bomet and Kisumu, is fit for human consumption.

"The committee should explain the circumstances that led to the shooting of four youth from neighbouring areas of Mwariki and Barut who were seriously injured as they were found fishing in Lake Nakuru," she explained, adding that the shooting happened after a similar case where a fisherman who was found fishing was arrested and taken to the deep end of the lake, drowned and mercilessly left to die.

Senator John Methu blamed the two levels of Government for the threats to marine life that has put consumers of fish at risk.

"Is it for the young men or the people around this lake to know that arsenic metals are in fish or is it the work of the county and national Government? What are the county and National Govern-

ments doing about it?, he asked.

Senator Kathuri Murungi said Lake Nakuru has a major problem of heavy metals as a result of pollution from the factories within Nakuru town.

He challenged the state to explain what it is doing in response to recommendations of the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute.

"What is the Government doing to make sure the KMFRI recommendations are implemented?" he asked, adding that the County Government of Nakuru should also protect its people and be accountable.

He challenged the Kenya Wildlife Service, (KWS) to implement KMFRI recommendations arguing that Lake Nakuru is under them.

He urged Senator Keroche to direct the questions to either KWS, the Cabinet Secretary in charge of wildlife or even the Cabinet Secretary for Health.

"We must explore and see where we can fit this question," he said. "The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) should also be held accountable. If there are heavy metals in the lake, why are they allowing pollution to take place in Lake Nakuru?"

This Week in History



"It is my very sincere and deep felt belief that the discovery of oil in Kenya will be a major blessing for this country. The economies of the Middle East countries have become magnets of international investment and major capitals of international business. When I see them and look at the situation we are in Kenya, I see Kenya becoming a most vibrant economy where people will enjoy a very high quality of life because of the higher resources that we are continuing to discover in Turkana and Eleyo-Marakwet counties, among others. I believe it is a matter of time before we discover oil around Isiolo, Marsabit, Lamu and, indeed, within the 200 nautical miles and beyond in our maritime zones."

Senator Kiraitu Murungi during debate on the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Bill, 2015 on June 14 2015.



"This Bill creates many boards and I hope they will be devolved to counties. Sen. (Dr.) Zani prepared the natural resources Bill. We all agreed that there will be a percentage to benefit county residents, owners and the Government. I am bit worried here because most of the constitutional Bills create authorities and yet the President formed a taskforce to review them. I do not know whether we are contradicting ourselves on the same or not. In this Bill, we need an authority to deal with petroleum production in this country. I hope this House does justice to this Bill."

Senator Beatrice Elachi during debate on the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Bill, 2015 on June 14 2015.



"One of the challenges we will face with handling oil and its products is the impact on our environment. Representation on this area of the environment is very important. I notice that the director of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) will be one of the members but the introduction of a representative of the Council of Governors (CoG) is also significant. Therefore, we should get one additional member in this Committee from the CoG, more specifically to deal with environmental issues that will arise in the counties."

Senator (Prof.) Wilfred Lesan during debate on the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Bill, 2015 on June 14 2015.

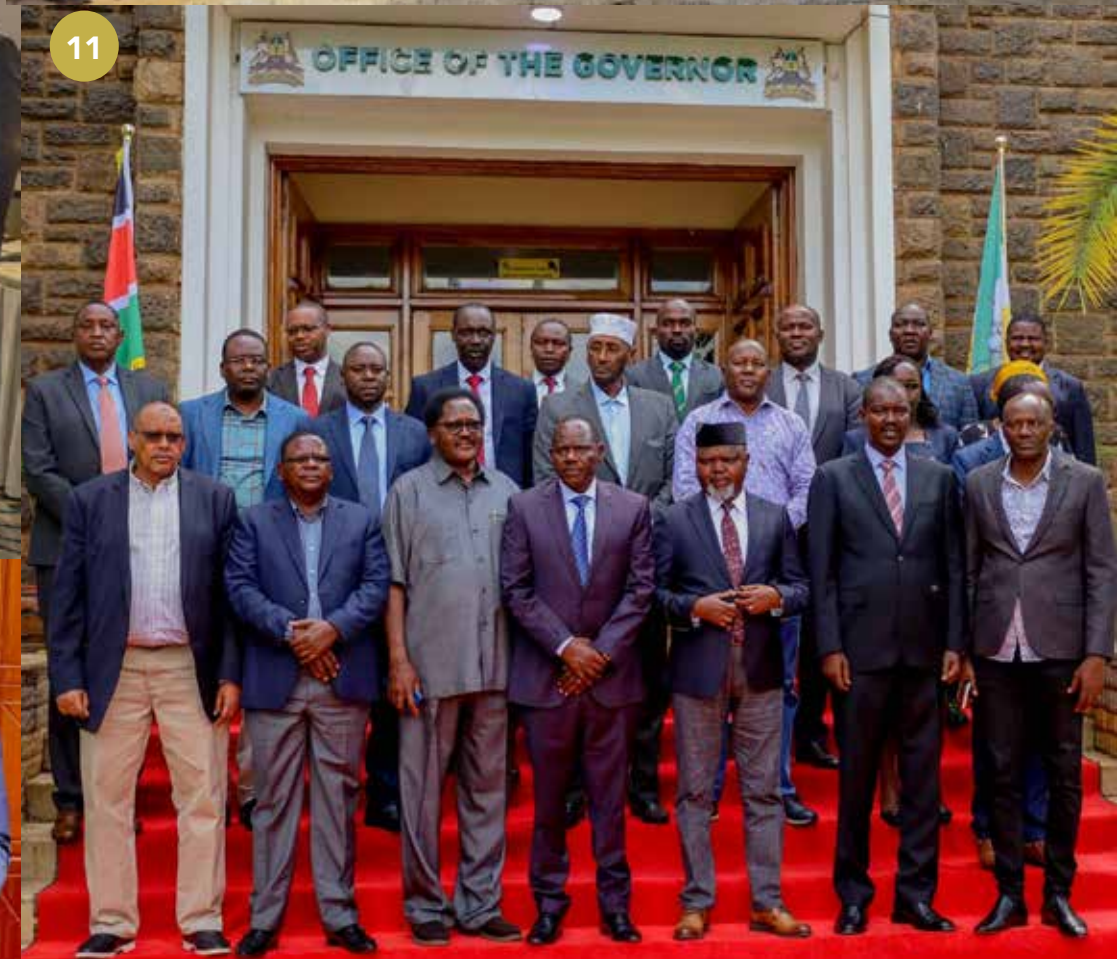


"When Tullow Oil started exploring oil in Turkana, there were various issues which came about and they required to be addressed within the legal framework. One of them was the local communities being involved in the whole process of oil exploration. There were many expectations from the local communities and they wanted to know what was in store for them. Pastoralists occupy most of the land where oil has been discovered. For many years, we have continued to have conflict in those areas because of limited resources such as land for pasture and water. However, we need to ask these communities to let us explore oil for their own benefit and the country as whole. Therefore, it is very important for us to have guidelines and a law in place on how these communities will benefit from the resources that sit in their counties. It is also important to know what their share is."

Senator Naisula Lesuuda during debate on the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Bill, 2015 on June 14 2015.



1. Former Vice President Moody Awori talks to Parliamentary Officers during the memorial service in remembrance of the late Maria Elizabeth Adjibodou who died last year. Mrs Adjibodou, who was a Clerk Assistant, was Hon Awori's daughter.
2. Senate staff from the Directorate of Legislative and Procedural Services speak to Mr Adjibodou, the widower of the late Maria Elizabeth, who died last year.
3. Senator Samson Cherarkey speaks to students and teachers from Huruma Girls' School who were on a tour of Parliament Buildings.
4. Students and teachers of Moi Girls, Isinya, Kajiado County, with Kajiado West MP George Sunkuiya after their tour of Parliament Buildings.
5. Students and Teachers from Happyland Girls' Senior School, Kajiado, follow proceedings in the Senate Chamber during their familiarisation tour of Parliament.
6. Clerk Assistants in the Directorates of Legislative and Procedural Services and the Directorate of Committee Services hold their first Welfare AGM at the Senate Chamber
7. Mr Stephen Ruge, the Director of Legislative and Procedural Services and Mr Njenga Njuguna, the Director of Committee Services, follow proceedings when officers from the two directorates held their first Welfare AGM in the Senate Chamber.



8. Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi and members of Liaison Committee in a group photo with Members of Uasin Gishu County Assembly.
9. Senate Liaison Committee led by Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi with the Liaison Committee of the Uasin Gishu County Assembly.
10. The chairpersons of the House Committees pose for a group photo with the Auditor General Nancy Gathungu during the retreat organized by the Liaison Committee in Uasin Gishu County.
11. Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi led the chairpersons of House Committees for the courtesy call to Uasin Gishu Governor Jonathan Chelilim in his office.
12. Senator Jackson Mandago delivers his inaugural address to the Uasin Gishu County Assembly.
13. Senator Moses Kajwang' who chairs the County Public Accounts Committee, moderates a panel discussion during the Liaison Committee retreat in Uasin Gishu County. The panel consists of Senator Abbas Mohamed (left) Governor Anne Waiguru, Devolution Principal Secretary Tereska Mbaika and Elgeyo Marakwet Speaker Philemon Sabulei.



A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

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