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Finance Bill shocker: Counties to lose Sh20B

Citing the failure to enact the controversial Finance Bill, 2024, the President says the reduction is necessitated by the reorganisation and rationalisation of the Government's financial arrangements for 2024/2025 financial year.



A sitting of the Senate: President William Ruto has returned the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2024 for the reconsideration of the House.

County Governments will bear the harshest brunt of the public outrage that has characterised the controversial Finance Bill, 2024, after it emerged that, collectively, they could lose as much as Sh20 billion in their 2024/25 equitable share of revenue.

President William Ruto has refused to assent to the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2024 and instead returned it to the Senate for reconsideration.

In the Presidential Memorandum, which was communicated to the House on Thursday, the President wants the lawmakers to amend the Bill and reduce the share due to counties from Sh400.1 billion to Sh380 billion for this financial year.

The new figure is Sh5 billion lower than what the County Governments received in the last financial year, 2023/24, which was Sh385 billion.

The County Allocation of Revenue Bill, an annual law that provides for the equitable allocation of revenue raised nationally among the 47 counties, was

passed by the Senate on June 11, 2024 with concurrence of the National Assembly on June 25.

In the Bill passed by the House, the 47 County Governments were to share Sh400.117 billion for the 2024/25 in equitable share revenue as provided for in the Division of Revenue, 2024.

The Bill was presented for Presidential Assent on June 28, 2024 but the President refused to sign it into law citing the failure to enact the Finance Bill, 2024 which has necessitated the reorganisation and rationalisation of the Government's financial arrangements for 2024/2025 financial years.

The presentation of the Bill for Presidential Assent was preceded by the referral of the Finance Bill, 2024 on June 26, to the National Assembly for reconsideration, with a recommendation to delete all clauses of the Bill.

"This includes the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2024, to accommodate the anticipated revenue reduction that would have been collected had the Fi-

nance Bill, 2024 come into force," says the President in his memorandum, which has since been committed to the Committee on Finance and Budget.

The President has deleted the First Schedule of the Bill as approved by Parliament. The Schedule contains allocation due to each of the 47 county Government's equitable share of revenue raised nationally.

If the House agrees with the President, then the overall equitable share will be reduced by Sh20 billion, which is likely to affect the operations of County Governments in this financial year.

Nairobi County will lose up to Sh1.1 billion if the lawmakers concur with the President. Instead of the Sh20.9 billion that it was set to receive, Nairobi will now receive Sh19.8 billion.

Bungoma County was to receive Sh11.54 billion in the Bill as passed by the Senate and in the Presidential Memo it will receive 10.95 billion, a difference of Sh750 million, Turkana has lost out more than Sh700 million. It was set to

receive Sh13.63 billion it will now receive Sh12.95 billion.

Kiambu County will lose out more than Sh600 million. From the Sh12.71 billion, it will now receive Sh12.04 billion, Mandera County will receive Sh11.47 billion, Sh600 million less than what Senate had allocated, while Nakuru County has lost out on more than Sh750 million. It was to receive Sh14.13 billion and it will now get Sh13.39 billion.

Article 115 provides that the Houses of Parliament shall either, by a majority vote, amend the Bill in light of the President's reservations or, by a vote supported by two-thirds of Members of each House, pass the Bill a Second Time without amendment or with amendments that do not fully accommodate the President's reservations.

However, a major debate is likely to ensue during the debate on the presidential memo with some Senators questioning the rationale of the President's refusal to sign the Bill when he has already assented to the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024, which is already a law.

"What would necessitate the Allocation Bill to be returned if the Revenue Bill has been assented to?" asked Majority Whip Boni Khalwale, reiterating that the allocation Bill flows from Division of Revenue Bill. "How can the allocation Bill be invalidated? I say this because we are very conscious of the fact that our counties are constrained. The manner that we were able to give the counties Sh400 billion, many Senators believe it should remain there."

"We swore to uphold and defend the Constitution and, therefore, the rule of law.

Speaker Amason Kingi directed the Committee to table its report to the House on or before Thursday, July 18, 2024

Senate Mashinani 2024: Busia County it is!



The Senate leadership led by Speaker Amason Kingi after they were feted by the leadership of the Turkana County Assembly during the 2023 Senate Mashinani held in Turkana County. On the extreme right is Mr Chris Nakuleu, the Speaker of the Assembly, who presided over the ceremony.

Busia County will host the 2024 edition of Senate Mashinani after the House on Wednesday unanimously made the resolution in the motion sponsored by Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot.

County No. 40, Busia becomes the fourth County to host the event which is increasingly becoming popular on the Senate's legislative calendar.

The resolution means that the Senate will hold both its plenary and committee sittings in Busia County from September 23 to 27, 2024, making history as the first county from the Western region to host the event.

Other counties that have played host are Uasin Gishu (2018), Kitui (2019) and Turkana (2023).

"The people of Busia are waiting for us because there are things they want to ask the Senate such as the questions being raised about the quality of our work and the legislative agenda that we do," said the Majority Leader when he moved the motion.

"People are becoming more critical of our work. I even see senior lawyers struggling to understand the exact route that a Bill takes from introduction up to assent. Senate Mashinani provides such an opportunity where people meet, interact, learn and know legislative work."

The objective of Senate Mashinani is to promote the role and work of the House, enhance public awareness about the business of the Senate and Parliament in general, highlight existing and new opportunities for engagement in legislative process, develop and strengthen partnerships at the county level of Government and provide opportunity to Members and staff of the County Assemblies to learn and share best practices with Senators and Parliamentary Officers.

Senator Cheruiyot said he is looking forward to being in Busia County, meeting and interacting with the people. "I also get to learn about their views on devolution, its successes and failures in that particular county, and how we can entrench it into many other aspects."

Senator Eddy Oketch hailed the Senate Mashinani saying it will make the Institution visible to rural communities, promote diversity which is necessary in stitching the nation together.

"When you go to the ground and see the struggle and the human spirit away from the struggle, when you see them trying to implement something, it brings the point home for the policies and laws that we are passing in this House."

While welcoming the decision, Senator Godfrey Osotsi said there is need for the Senate to learn from the mistakes of the past Senate Mashinani and areas that need to improve.

"Busia is the best choice that the Senate Business Committee (SBC) came up with because it is a unique county. Apart from being on the border, Busia is a county of diversity," he said.

Busia has two exit points into Uganda; one within Busia town and Malaba. The County has a major challenge of trucks queuing for long distance as they wait for clearance in the two border points. At

times, the distance snakes as long as 20 kilometers. The congestion poses a risk to Busia town and Malaba town, the residents and truck drivers. The congestion has subjected the business people to delays which have affected businesses.

The delays have contributed to other problems, including crime, prostitution and such kinds of things. "One of the major problems we should be dealing with while in Busia is the issue of congestion of traffic trailers, which are carrying goods from Mombasa through Kenya to Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern DR Congo," said Senator Osotsi.

There is also the challenge posed by the perennial flooding in Budalangi which has caused massive displacements every other year, the problem of harassment of fishermen on Lake Victoria by Ugandan authorities and the failure of the sugar industry has hugely affected the County because. With the collapse of the sugar industry, and with the confusion in the sugar industry, Busia County's economy has been affected.

Speaker Kingi directs Committee to probe ex-KCC staff payments



Speaker Amason Kingi and Senator Karung'o Thang'wa at a past function.

The long-drawn fight over non-payment of terminal benefits and Maziwa SACCO dues to former employees of the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) Limited has found its way into the House with aggrieved former employees seeking the help of the Senators to end the stalemate that started in 1997.

Mr Benard G. Kamanda has filed a petition seeking the support of the Senate to ensure that the former KCC employees are paid the terminal benefits, the contributions to Maziwa SACCO

and the provident fund dues deducted by KCC, but not remitted to the Scheme, all totaling to Sh204.5 million plus interest accrued since 1997.

Details of the Petition were communicated to the House by Speaker Amason Kingi.

All employees of KCC were summarily terminated in November, 1997 after the collapse of the takeover.

Thereafter, their union filed a case in the Industrial Court which ruled that the employees were entitled to their terminal benefits. The management of the

then KCC Limited produced a schedule of payment due to every employee in terms of their terminal benefits, gratuity and unremitted Maziwa SACCO dues, totaling Sh204.5 million.

In 2013, another case was filed in the Employment and Labour Relations Court which ruled that the employees be paid their dues by the new KCC and the Government.

The new KCC appealed the decision condemning them to pay, and the Court of Appeal overturned the Labour Court's decision. However, in so doing,

the Court of Appeal agreed that while all arguments before the court were pure legalistic, it gave an opinion that it will be just for the Attorney-General to advise the Government to honour its word to pay the workers who had suffered for long

"A number of the employees have since died in misery and suffering without being paid their dues and those who are still alive continue to suffer," says Mr Kamanda in the petition.

The petitioners' have made several unsuccessful efforts to have the matter addressed by the relevant authorities, including the new KCC, the Attorney General and various Government agencies.

"The petitioners pray that the Senate investigates this matter with a view to ensure that the former KCC employees are paid the terminal benefits, the contributions to Maziwa SACCO and the provident fund dues deducted by KCC, but not remitted to the Scheme, all totaling to Sh204. 4 million plus interest accrued since 1997," said Speaker Kingi.

The Speaker committed the petition to the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare for consideration which must report back to the House with a report in 60 calendar days from the time of reading the prayer.

Address mental health among men, Senator Kibwana tells State

Senator Hamida Kibwana has appealed to the national government to take immediate and decisive action to address mental health issues touching on men.

Mental health is a fundamental aspect of overall well-being of human beings but the Senator regrets that it remains a highly stigmatised and often neglected issue among men.

"Men face unique challenges and are less likely to seek help due to societal expectations and stigma," said the Senator in a Statement to the House to commemorate Men's Mental Health Month which is observed in June.

Data from the World Health Organisation (WHO) shows Kenya has one of the highest rates of depression in Africa and mental health disorders are the leading cause of morbidity.

Recent statistics show that suicide is a leading cause of death among Kenyan men. The Kenya National Bureau of Standards (KNBS) statistics report that men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women.

Men are more likely to engage in substance abuse as a coping mechanism for unaddressed mental health issues. This not only exacerbates mental health prob-



Senator Hamida Kibwana.

lems, but also leads to higher rates of addiction and related health complications. Mental health disorders contribute to a significant economic burden due to lost productivity, healthcare costs and social welfare expenses. Men are often seen as primary breadwinners. They face immense pressure, further deteriorating their mental health.

"The cultural expectation for men to be stoic, strong and self-reliant prevents most of them from seeking help. This toxic masculinity not only isolates men, but also discourages open conversations about mental health. The stigma associated with mental illness further exacerbates the issue leading to under-re-

porting and under-treatment," Senator Kibwana noted.

She challenged the government to launch nationwide campaigns to raise awareness about men's mental health and encourage men to seek help in breaking the stigma associated with mental health issues.

Further, the government should promote mental health programmes in workplaces, encourage employers to provide support and resources for employees' mental well-being.

"This can include employee assistance programmes and mental health days, establishment of community-based support networks where men can discuss mental health issues openly and receive peer support."

The networks can be facilitated through local health centers, religious institutions and community organisations.

She also wants mental health education integrated into school curriculums to foster easy understanding and destigmatisation of mental health issues among young men.

"This can help create a more open and supportive environment for future generations. "Several initiatives have proven effective in supporting men's mental

health globally, and we can adopt these to our context."

She cited the examples of the Movember Foundation which focuses on men's mental health issues, including mental health. They run awareness campaigns and fund research to improve mental health towards men.

There is also the Heads Up Guys. This Canadian initiative provides online resources especially for men. It is an on-line resource for men offering practical advice.

Manage depression and other mental health issues, creating a Kenyan version of such a resource, Man therapy, an innovative approach which uses humor and relatable content to engage men in conversations about mental health.

It provides resources and encourages men to seek help in a non-threatening way.

"As we observe Men's Mental Health Month, let us commit to taking decisive action to improve mental health awareness and support for men in Kenya. By addressing this critical issue, we can ensure that all men have the opportunity to lead healthy and fulfilling lives."

Debate on the bipartisan motion on the Current State of the Nation continued last week with Senators hailing the Gen Zs for awakening the country to rediscover itself. They directed the National Police Service to cease abductions, unlawful arrests, extra judicial killings and exercise restraint in dealing with peaceful and unarmed demonstrators, an immediate release of all persons arrested for planning and participating in peaceful demonstrations relating to the enactment of the Finance Bill. The lawmakers further resolved that the National Assembly should expeditiously consider the presidential memorandum on Finance Bill and resubmit it to the President for assent. They also want all government ministries, departments and agencies, and constitutional commissions, including Parliament, to put in place austerity measures in undertaking their respective functions. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and other government multi sector agencies in the governance, justice, law and order sector were asked to upscale and make concerted efforts to fight corruption. The Government was asked to waive hospital bills for persons who have been injured and defray funeral expenses for those who lost their lives, during the demonstrations. The Judiciary to prioritise and expedite all court cases relating to the enactment of the Finance Bill and the resultant demonstrations.



Senator Kathuri Murungi

“Yale mambo yote ambayo vijana wa Generation Z wameongea, tumeyasikia kama viongozi. Nawaunga mkono kabisa kwa sababu pia mimi niko na kijana aliye katika Kidato cha Tatu. Amekuwa akinieleza mambo mengi kuhusu ufasidi na utumizi mbaya wa rasilimali za umma akiwa likizo. Nilikuwa naona kama anacheza lakini alipofika Kidato cha Tatu, alinieleza kuhusu wizi katika Serikali ama corruption. Nikaona ni kweli amefikiria. Huu ni wakati ambao tunapaswa kukaa chini kama wakenya na tuzungumze vile mambo itaenda. Kuna idara nyingi za serikali ambazo zimetuangusha sana, sana sana shirika la kupigana na ufasidi, EACC. Huwezi kuniambia kesi zote zilizoripotiwa kwa EACC, hakuna hata moja waliyopata ikiwa na wizi ama maofisaa waliofanya makosa. Kama hilo shirika haliwezi kushika hata mtu mmoja miaka hiyo yote wamekuwa, naona badala ya kutumia pesa nyingi katika idara hiyo, afadhali tuongeze bibilia nyingi katika nchi yetu ya Kenya. Idara ingine ninayotaka kumulika ni idara ya usalama. Wakenya wengi wameumia. Siongelei kuhusu zile riots, lakini wakulima wengi wa mifugo wameumia. Tunavyoongea hapa saa hii, kuna bunduki zinalia huko Igembe North kati ya wakaaji wa Samburu wakija kuchukua mifugo ya wameru. Ukijaribu kuongea na mtu yeyote, hakuna mtu anakusikiliza. Security team ya pale Meru hawana uwezo na wale wako Nairobi ni kama hawana uwezo pia.”



Senator William Kisang'

“It has taken our sons and daughters for us to realise that there are issues. These issues have not just surfaced the other day. It is because of the unemployment and other injustices, especially corruption. We need to reflect, think critically and see how we can come out of this by ensuring we become sensitive to some issues. These children did not wake up and go to the streets. There must have been some things building, for maybe the last five, six or seven years. We failed to notice and act quickly as leaders. I know we have spoken as leaders and accepted that we have failed, but we need to move on and see how we can regain our country. One of the ways forward is to ask the National Police Service (NPS) to ensure those youths who are still in the police cells get released immediately. They should cease abductions because we know that there are bloggers who have been abducted and not taken to court.”



Senator John Methu

“I am happy we are speaking from our hearts. This will enable us to dissect and look at the issues raised by not only the Gen Zs, but also the people of Kenya. It did not have to end this way. It did not have to cost the lives of people, so that voices could be heard. Many people say that the tree of freedom is watered by blood. However, we do not have to take it literally that people have to die and go to hospitals so that some of the issues that they are raising are heard. I have heard many people, including some of my colleagues here, saying that, you know, when we were Gen Zs, this is what we used to do. However, it is fair to set records straight that Gen Z is a generation. It is the Gen Zs and the people of Kenya who have raised very pertinent issues that we must listen to.”



Senator Oketch Gicheru

“We have seen a swathe of young people who share a common problem of economic emptiness coming all the way to this Parliament, this sanctified House. We have seen also the destruction that has happened in this country. When this conflict started, people had taken personal stands because these issues are personal. They are personal because when young people talk about going without food, that is personal. People are losing lives for a simple reason as not getting an ambulance fueled. What is happening in my country today is so sad that it made me reflect my personal life and journey here. I wanted the President and Members of Parliament (MPs) to also reflect on their personal journey to where they are today because sometimes it is easy to forget. We might end up seeing this group called Generation Zs as just

young people who are protesting in the streets without having homes. However, they have homes and are facing burdens that we might it be far to be removed from.”



Senator Abbas Sheikh

“What happened made me to have a heavy heart. Those of us who live on the borderlines know what happens in our neighbourhoods. We have seen what happened in Somalia 35 years ago. Down the line, up to now, it has never settled. We have seen what is happening in Congo, Sudan and Ethiopia. The kind of things that are now happening in this country are worrying. It is right for the young men and women, the so-called Gen Zs, to do what they have done because for many years, Kenyans have been very resilient and patient. They have been people who understand and people who obey the law. But when things are done and people do not listen, the consequences are this kind of action. I want to tell the young men and women, as much as we appreciate what they have done, they have woken us up. Some of the leaders, who had lost their senses of feeling, are now back to their senses.”



Senator Shakila Abdalla

“Nchi yetu inashida tatu. Hizo shida tatu ndizo zinasababisha hii nchi kutotawalika au kuwa na misukosuko. Shida ya kwanza ni ukabila, ya pili ni ufasidi na ya tatu ni ukosefu wa usawa. Hawa Gen Z wamekuja kutuondolea haya mambo matatu, kutuonyesha kwamba ikiwa tutaendelea na haya mambo matatu, hapana mahali tutaenda. Wametuonyesha kwamba wao hawana ufasidi wala ukabila. Wanataka usawa. Ikiwa tutafuata hii filosofia ya hawa Gen Z, bila shaka tutaleta mabadiliko katika nchi yetu na itaweza kutawalika. Vijana hawa wamesoma, hawana balaa. Ni wale waliopata elimu ya bure, iloyokuwa ya maana na maradufu. Tunachoomba ni hao vijana wasichukuliwe nguvu na polisi ila washirikiane nao. Pia, waachwe wafanye mambo yao kwa sababu ni vijana walionyesha umahiri na kwamba wanayo nia nzuri ya kubadilisha hii nchi. Hawana nia mbaya, wala hawataki fujo. Sijasema kwamba tuchukue filosofia yao kwa uharibifu wala kwa fujo. Filosofia iwe ya kuondoa yale mambo matatu ambayo nimetaja. Hawa vijana wame-tokea sio kwa sababu ya Finance Bill ila kwa sababu tofauti tofauti ambazo zinawakwaza katika maeneo yao wanapoishi. Ni kwa sababu ya ongezeko ya school fees, wengi hawasomi, wamefukuzwa manyumbani wana randararanda. Mambo ya university, umeme, housing levy na ushuru umeongezeka mara dufu.”



Senator George Mbugua

“The events surrounding the debate, the passing and the withdrawal of the Finance Bill were unprecedented. We have never seen our young people coming out in the numbers they did. It marked a turning point in the governance of this country. The young people have made the leadership of this country to wake up and decide to change the course this country was taking. The Finance Bill was just a trigger of the many things that have not gone well in this country. They were also doing it for their parents, brothers, sisters and those people who do not have the energy they have. For many years, this country has had to deal with the problem of inequalities. The gap between the poor and the rich has been widening, to the extent that we have agreed that there are those people who are called Wananchi and “Wenyenchi.” What the young people are telling us is that these things must change. Articles 54 and 55 of the Constitution address the issues of young people and the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). In an attempt to actualise these Articles, Parliament enacted the Access to Government Procurement Act. We all know what has happened because we live in this country.”



Senator Dan Maanzo

“The young people went to demonstrate peacefully, but the moment there were peaceful demonstrations, the police thought that they should be dispersed. The Public Order Act and its regulations thereunder, which are 20 years old and the last ones which were done by former Attorney-General, Hon. Amos Wako and other consequent Ministers, were not followed. Even with those old regulations, the Public Order Act and the Penal Code, there has to be a proclamation made loud and clear in a speaker by the escorting police who has to be of the level of an Inspector-General, that the peaceful demonstrations have turned into riots and therefore people must disperse. After 15 minutes that proclamation order is supposed to be repeated and whoever does not disperse then, action can be taken against them. What I expected the police to do was to guard businesses and let the demonstrators do their thing. I believe no one would have died. Unfortunately, we have lost 41 people and quite a number of people are in hospitals. In Makuani we are burying four people. We have people who are still missing and their whereabouts are unknown.”



Senator Karen Nyamu

“As a mother, it hurts to my stomach to lose our children in that manner. As a Senate, we are here reflecting and debating on the actions due to the contributions of your children. I also thank the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. Nakhumicha for waiving the hospital bills of the young people who got injured and the President as well for committing to take up the funeral expenses and compensating the families. The silence of the Police IG is also concerning. We are yet to get a comment from him on the last two weeks’ happenings in the country where we witnessed unprecedented actions by our young people. The country is experiencing a youth bulge. Seventy-five percent of our population are people below the age of 35 years. That is not a bad thing because it means that we have a large workforce and if it is put into use, it can give us great dividends from the economy. When His Excellency, (Dr.) William Samoei Ruto took oath office as the President of Kenya, we have seen deliberate efforts that are aimed at utilizing that youth bulge. The Affordable Housing Project currently employs between 140,000 to 200,000 young people.”



Senator Allan Chesang

“I would also like to thank the tribeless and courageous youth, that is the Gen Z, who went to the streets to speak on behalf of other Kenyans. I would like to confirm that I am one of the few leaders who wrote on X Space asking the President to listen to the voices of the youth. I would like to thank His Excellency President William Ruto for actually conceding, allowing the Gen Z to exercise their democratic rights and listening to them. I can assure you that our neighbouring countries such as Uganda and Rwanda do not enjoy democratic rights that we have here. Therefore, I would like to appreciate His Excellency President William Ruto for listening to the grievances of the youth and not signing the Finance Bill and agreeing to have a dialogue because of the protests in the country. What I know is that the youth are going on the streets firstly due to lack of employment. Secondly, it is because most of their parents cannot take them to school. They could also be facing different challenges. Let us talk about the real issues such as corruption and unemployment facing our youth.”



Senator Joseph Githuku

“Vijana hawa ambao wamepoteza maisha yao walikuwa na umri mdogo sana. Walikuwa wanaelekea katika umri ambao wanaweza kutegemewa katika jamii. Lakini, kwa sasa, wamepoteza maisha yao. Kwa hivyo, ni jambo la huzuni sana sisi kama viongozi katika taifa hili la Kenya kuona kwamba hawa vijana wamepoteza maisha wakati wa uongozi wetu. Hawa vijana wa Gen Z walijitokeza katika kupigania mambo ambayo wanafaa wasikizwe. Kikatiba, hawa vijana wako na haki ya kupigania haki zao mahali ambapo wanaona hapaendi vizuri na hawajawakilishwa vizuri. Ni haki yao kikatiba kutoa sauti na kilio kikubwa ili Serikali iwasikize. Kwa hivyo, vijana hawa walikuwa na kilio cha haki. Walilia wakidai kwamba ukosefu wa kazi ume-kithiri katika nchi yetu. Wanaongea jambo la kweli kwa sababu tunapoon-gea, asilimia kubwa ya vijana katika Jamhuri ya Kenya hawana kazi. Kwa hivyo, wakati wanapotoa kilio, wanaposimama na kusema kwamba wanapigania haki zao za ukosefu wa kazi, wako na haki ya kusikizwa ili ijulikane ni nini wanachozungumzia. Sio kuwachapa na kuwafukuza kwa njia ambayo haistahili. Ni vizuri wasikizwa. Wanadai kwamba matibabu katika sehemu mbali mbali katika Jamhuri ya Kenya yamekuwa duni. Hicho ni kilio cha haki kwa sababu tumeona kwamba huduma zimedorora katika sekta ya matibabu kwa muda mrefu. Kwa hivyo, wanapolia na kusema kwamba matibabu hayako vile inavyostahili katika nchi yetu, wanaongea jambo la haki.”



Senator James Murango

“Jambo lililotupata kutoka kwa wale Gen Z waliojitokeza ni kwa sababu ya mambo ambayo yamekuwa yakiendelea. Nikiwa Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi na Uchumi Samawati, jambo tulilolianza kama Kamati bila kulazimishwa ni kuhakikisha ukweli unajulikana. Seneti ina utaratibu na anayejali kusoma anajua kuna utaribu fulani. Tulikuwa tume-waalika Waziri na washika dau wote waliohusika na haya mambo ya mbolea ili tumalize na tutele taarifa ya mwisho ya mambo yaliyotendeka. Niseme ya kwamba, tunapofanya uchunguzi, sio jambo linalochukua siku moja au mbili. Tumemaliza uchunguzi hata kabla taasisi ya usalama ya Upelelezi wa Jinai (DCI) kumaliza. Kwa hivyo, hata kama sisi hatujapelekwa mafunzo, sisi tumemaliza na tarehe 21 ndio itakuwa siku ya mwisho ambayo tume-waalika kwa mkutano wa lazima. Hii ni kwa sababu hawakuja siku ya leo. Waje au wasije, tutatoa taarifa. Kama Seneta wa Kirinyaga na Mwenyekiti wa Kamati hiyo, hakuna kitu tunachotarajia isipokuwa haki. Na ni vizuri tujue kwamba waliohusika katika hili janga hawafai kufichwa au kubem-belezwa. Ufisadi sio jambo la maombi. Kuna shetani wa maombi na shetani wa kiboko. Ufisadi wa mbolea ni shetani wa kiboko. Tutapambana naye kwa

kiboko. Pili, mambo yanayoshangaza ni kwamba katika nchi hii, tunafaa tuangalie yale mambo muhimu yaliyoangaziwa na Gen Z.”



Senator Joyce Korir

“The events of the recent past in this country have awoken and surprised us almost in equal measure. We have witnessed the Gen Z and the millennials taking to the streets because of their dissatisfaction with the Finance Bill, 2024/2025. As a mother, it breaks my heart to see our children lose their lives in the streets. A number of families who lost their loved ones took to the streets demonstrating, to express the pain they were undergoing. They had sent their kids to school and were struggling to make sure that they paid their fees. They had enrolled these students to various institutions across the country but in a single day, they found their loved ones lying helplessly on the roads. It goes without saying that this country ails from a deeper disease called corruption. Misappropriation of funds, both in the two levels of Government, has been the order of the day. We have seen leaders living in opulence and that has left unanswered questions in the minds of Kenyans. Public funds are misappropriated and there is poor use of Government resources against the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act. Every day, there are daily news reports of millions and billions of shillings being lost.”



Senator Seki ole Lenku

“I applaud the Gen Zs for their demonstrations and for even trying to alert us, as leaders and the Government, that this is not good. They came out strongly and appeared before the National Assembly Committee on Finance and Budget. They gave a lot of input to that Committee before they approved the Finance Bill. They spoke their minds. They said what is right and through their platform, this is something we applaud and say that we have seen them making history in our country and to us all. As leaders, this is something that has come to our attention that going forward, we need to be listening to every other person in this Republic. It is good that it is being brought to us, as leaders of this generation, that everyone needs to be listened to. I thank everyone, including those who demonstrated, spoke their minds and advised the National Assembly, the President and all us. We have learnt our lesson. The Finance Bill, 2024 has been a very motive issue. I applaud and thank the President for not assenting to this Bill. If it had been assented, I do not know where we could be as a country.”



Senator Tabitha Keroche

“I thank and congratulate the Gen Z for the courage to speak up. Their courage emanates from their sincere love of our nation. They have not just been peaceful, but they have operated within their constitutional rights. It is unfortunate that their peaceful demonstrations were hijacked by criminals. Thank you to the Gen Z for calling off the demonstrations after realising that they had been hijacked by criminals. I also thank the President for agreeing to engage or to talk to the Gen Z through the X space. I plead with our President to continue engaging with the Gen Z because our children mean well for our nation. Our county governments have failed us. We must rethink on devolution while wiping out all corruption both from the national and county governments, and all the other systems of Government. We must at all times uphold our national values and principles as opposed to what the Gen Z have accused us of vomiting on their shoes.”



Senator Wakili Sigei

“It is not enough to blame other leaders and say so-and-so has not done what they are supposed to do. Members of the National Assembly have failed and not done their job. Those who are in the Executive have failed, how about us, as the Senate? Those are the hard questions that I believe, at the end of all these debates, we should be able to reflect as leaders. When I oversight the county government that I represent, do I do it because I have failed to get a share of what goes out there or I am doing it because I want to make sure that service delivered to the people of Bomet is within the number of resources that have been allocated to that particular county? Do I do it because I am fighting a political score? Do I desire to also engage for purposes of political gain? It did not have to take the young Kenyans to demonstrate, to let us know that there is an issue with leadership. It is time we reflect and deal with issues of governance at all levels of leadership, whether it is at the Senate, the National Assembly or the county governments.”

Climate Change action is implemented jointly by National and County Governments

Former Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuya has said there exists a very intricate link between the functions the two levels of government on matters of climate change and environment.

Ms Tuya, who served as CS in the Environment, Climate Change And Forestry docket before the President dissolved the Cabinet, noted that the role of the Senate is very crucial in the oversight and the implementation of climate action.

“Climate change remains a major threat to the nation’s economic, social and environmental well-being,” she said when she appeared in the House to respond to Members’ questions.

Senator Tom Ojienda wanted to know the climate change initiatives put in place both nationally and in each county, considering the diverse topography and unique environmental and climate change needs.

The Senator also wanted to know the expertise engaged, and the criteria applied, in developing the national climate change initiatives and tailoring them to the specific needs of each county.

The former Cabinet Secretary was



Ms Soipan Tuya, former Cabinet Secretary for Environment.

also required to explain the measures put in place to enhance the capacity of each county government to implement the climate change initiatives in their respective counties.

Ms Tuya revealed that the challenge remains how to overcome the current low levels of climate resilience and the adaptive capacity that continue to threaten the ability of local communities and key sectors of the economy to withstand the climate shocks the country finds itself in.

“The Ministry is the Government lead on all issues of climate change and has, through the Climate Change Act, estab-

lished the requisite governance structures to guide climate change action,” said Ms Tuya.

Kenya is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

“We have been very keen to adhere to this important multilateral process by tapping into the available opportunities for us to influence the global climate change discourse through active engagement.”

She informed Senators that Kenya is currently the chair of the African Group of Negotiators, which gives the country

an opportunity to shape the discussions on climate change in the continent.

“After the hosting of the Inaugural Africa Climate Summit last year in September, Kenya is currently the host of the Africa Climate Change Secretariat. This is intended to enhance our resource mobilization capacities linking the country with technologies across the globe and climate financing challenges that we face that require global networking,” said Ms Tuya.

She singled out the programme called the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLOCA), which is a USD295 million kitty that is focused on building climate change resilience at the local level.

The programme targets 45 counties with the exclusion of Nairobi and Mombasa with funding coming in from the World Bank, the governments of Denmark, Germany, Sweden and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Other programmes in the climate change sector is the Strengthening Forest Management for Improved Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Resilience in the South Rangelands of Kenya.

Over 400,000 Kenyans live in Gulf, PCS Mudavadi tells Senators

The Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has told the Senate that over 400,000 Kenyans are in the Gulf States in search of job opportunities.

Mr Mudavadi, who is also the CS for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, said the government data shows 310,266 Kenyans are in Saudi Arabia for greener pastures, another 66,025 are in Qatar while United Arab Emirates has 23,000 Kenyans on its employment.

Another 8,000 are in Bahrain, 5,392 in Oman, 3,515 are in Kuwait, 200 in Iran and 150 are working in Iraq.

“The total record we have as of today is 416,548. Kenyans in these territories exhibit high movement between various Gulf States,” said Mr Mudavadi when he appeared before the House on Wednesday.

The numbers constitute periodic statistics derived from Kenyan missions in these countries, further corroborated through official sources of the host governments.

“It should be noted that not all Kenyans register with our missions abroad despite being sensitised on the importance of such registrations. It is difficult to have very precise data.”



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi

He however noted that it is not easy to avail the identities of the 416,000 individuals in the Gulf.

The records show that the total number of Kenyans who have lost their lives in the Gulf region stands at 316.

Of the 316, 166 died in Saudi Arabia, 58 in Qatar, 51 in UAE, 25 in Iraq, 10 in Bahrain and six in Kuwait.

Upon death, the government – through the missions – establishes information about the deceased and next of kin, undertakes a robust counseling that offers psychological support to family members and establishes the migration status of the deceased.

The Ministry also follows up on the benefits and entitlements of the deceased

person from their place of work in accordance with the applicable laws of the host country.

The Mission facilitates obtaining a post-mortem report to establish the cause of death and provide necessary documentation to facilitate the repatriation of the body back home.

The Ministry facilitates administrative procedures, including police investigations, if any, and the settlement of hospital and medical bills as appropriate and also coordinates with the deceased’s family at the arrival port and date and facilitates receiving of the body.

“Where the deceased is not employed or out of immigration status, the ambas-

sy liaises with the Ministry to inform the family to enable them to make necessary arrangements, including sending a representative or family member to facilitate the repatriation of the body back home.”

The PCS noted that there are limited resources available in terms of government support and facilitation for actual payment of bills of the deceased as well as repatriation of mortal remains.

Senator Boni Khalwale expressed concern the PCS was not able to tell the country the identities of the Kenyans working outside the country and that 316 of them have died while out of the country.

The Senator asked the House to compel the PCS to table the list of all Kenyans working in the Gulf States so that the parents and relatives can be reassured that the Government is on top of things as far as their lives are concerned.

Mr Mudavadi promised to avail the information based on the records within the embassies “because we are talking of - to be precise - 416,058 individuals”.

“We can work on having this brought to this House. I appeal that as we give the identities, you will need to guide us on whether we will be breaching some aspects of the data identity issues by tabling all the 416,058.”

Maseneta waahidi kuikuza lugha ya Kiswahili



Seneta Mohamed Faki



Seneta Munyi Mundigi



Seneta Aaron Cheruiyot



Seneta Beth Syengo



Seneta Richard Onyonka

Maseneta wamehimizwa kuikuza mkono kwa dhati lugha ya Kiswahili kama sehemu muhimu ya kuikuza lugha hiyo nchini na ulimwengu kwa jumla.

Katika Hoja iliyowasilishwa na Seneta Mohamed Faki akirejelea maadhimisho ya siku ya Kiswahili Ulimwenguni iliyoandaliwa mnamo Julai 7, 2024, Maseneta waliraiwa kuunga mkono matumizi ya lugha ya Kiswahili kwenye hafla mbali mbali nchini ili kuikuza lugha hiyo.

“Inalazimu Bunge lifanye mikakati ya kukikuza Kiswahili kwa sababu ni lugha ya kiasia na ndiyo lugha pekee inayotunganisha kama Wakenya. Hatujafaulu kuitumia kikamilifu upana wa lugha ya Kiswahili. Seneti kama baba na mlinzi wa ugatuzi, tuna jukumu kubwa la kutekeleza kwani lugha ni muhimu katika vyombo vya mawasiliano na katika huduma zilizogatuliwa,” alikariri Seneta Faki.

Alisema lugha ya Kiswahili inaweka fursa nzuri ya kufanikisha ugatuzi kwa kuwa inawapa raia nafasi ya kufuatilia na kuyaelewa kwa kina na urahisi mambo yanayowahusu hususan mikakati ya maendeleo.

Alifichua ukuaji mkubwa wa lugha ya Kiswahili ambayo chimbuko lake ni

Afrika Mashariki akiyataja mataifa ya Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Jamhuri ya Demokrasia ya Congo, Sudan Kusini, Msumbiji, Malawi, Zambia, Comoros, Oman na Yemen katika Mashariki ya Kati kuwa miongoni mwa mataifa ambayo yanaitumia lugha hiyo kufikia sasa.

Mataifa mengine ambayo Kiswahili kinafunzwa kwa sasa shuleni ni Afrika Kusini na baadhi ya vyuo vikuu nchini Japan na Uchina.

Seneta huyo alipongeza hatua iliyopigwa na Bunge la Seneti katika kupanua matumizi ya Kiswahili hadi kufikia hatua za kutafsiri Kanuni za Kudumu za Bunge kwenye lugha ya Kiswahili akipendekeza hatua zaidi zikiwemo kutafsiri Miswada ya sheria katika lugha ya Kiswahili ili Wakenya waweze kusoma sheria hizo na kuzielewa zinapojadiliwa Bungeni.

Naibu Spika na Seneta wa Kaunti ya Meru Kathuri Murungi akiunga mkono Hoja hiyo aliwarai Maseneta kukikumbatia Kiswahili kwenye shughuli zao kama njia moja ya kuikuza lugha hiyo.

Akiunga mkono Hoja hiyo, Kiongozi wa upande wa wengi Aaron Cheruiyot alisikitia hali ya Wakenya wengi haswa viongozi kuipendelea lugha ya Kiingereza kwenye shughuli zao licha ya Katiba

kuzitambua Kiswahili na Kiingereza kuwa lugha za taifa.

Aliwapa changamoto viongozi na Wakenya kijumla kujizatiti na kutumia lugha ya Kiswahili kwenye shughuli zao ili kuikuza lugha hiyo kwa kina.

“Kama Wabunge, lazima tujizatiti ili kuhakikisha kwamba tunapowasilisha Miswada hapa, ikiwa itawaathiri watu wengi kwa njia moja au nyingine, tunafaa kuhakikisha kuwa Miswada hiyo imechapishwa kwa lugha ya Kiingereza na Kiswahili. Endapo tungefanya hivyo, pengine wananchi wengi wangeelewa mambo yaliyokuwa yanazungumziwa kwenye Mswada wa hivi maajuzi wa fedha uliozua utata,” alisema Seneta Cheruiyot.

Seneta Richard Onyonka alimpongeza Seneta Faki kwa Hoja hiyo akitoa wito wa juhudi kufanywa hima ili kuangazia matatizo ambayo yanaikumba lugha hiyo kwa sasa akifichua kuwa tayari matokeo ya wanafunzi kwenye mtihamu wa lugha ya Kiswahili yameanza kudorora pakubwa nchini Kenya.

“Kwa nini lugha ya Kiswahili haijapewa umuhimu kule shuleni ili wanafunzi wetu wasiione kuwa lugha ya ulaghai, ukora na ya wale ambao hawajawezi, wajue umuhimu wa lugha hii kwa sababu lugha hii ni historia yetu, desturi

yetu, ni nyimbo zetu na ni lugha ambayo tukiikuza na tuifanye iwe lugha ambayo sisi sote tumeikubali, italeta uwiano kwa inchi yetu na itatuwezesha kufanya kazi vizuri pamoja na viongozi wetu,” alisikitika Seneta Onyonka.

Akiunga mkono Hoja hiyo, Seneta John Kinyua alitaja ukoloni mambo leo kuwa kizingiti kikubwa katika ukuaji wa lugha ya Kiswahili akiwataka Wakenya kujiepusha na kasumba hiyo.

Seneta Munyi Mundigi aliwaambia Maseneta wenzake namna matumizi ya lugha ya Kiswahili yamemsaidia kuwafanulia kikamilifu wenyeji wa Kaunti yake masuala yanayowahusu.

Alitoa wito kwa Maseneta wengine kuiga mfano wake na kukumbatia matumizi ya lugha hiyo hususan wanapoangazia mambo yanayowahusu Wakenya.

Maseneta John Githuku, William Kisang', Okong'o Omogeni, Tabitha Mutinda na Beth Syengo walichangia na kuiunga mkono Hoja hiyo huku wakipendekeza hatua zaidi kufanywa ili kuikuza lugha ya Kiswahili.

Aidha Maseneta waliochangia kwenye Hoja hiyo walipendendekeza kwa kauli moja marekebisha kufanywa kwenye Kanuni za kudumu za Bunge la Seneti ili kutenga siku moja ya vikao vya Bunge kuendeshwa katika lugha ya Kiswahili.

Seneta Asige ataka ufafanuzi kuhusu mkopo wa bilioni 156 kwa Kenya

Seneta Crystal Asige amewasilisha ombi Bungeni akitaka Kauli kuhusu mkopo wa shilingi bilioni 156 uliotolewa kwa Kenya na Benki ya Dunia.

Seneta Asige anaitaka Kamati ya Fedha na Bajeti kufanya utathimini na kubaini hali ya kutolewa kwa mkopo huo ulioambatanishwa na sharti la kuwakumbatia wakimbizi laki nne.

Kwenye ombi hilo, Seneta Asige anaitaka Kamati hiyo kubaini iwapo shilingi bilioni 156 zilizotolewa na Benki ya Dunia kwa Kenya ni mkopo au ruzuku ikifafanua sababu ya sharti la kuwakumbatia wakimbizi laki nne lililoambatanishwa ili kuidhinisha utoaji wa pesa hizo.

Aidha Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Ali Roba itahitajika kwenye

uchunguzi wake kubaini asili ya wakimbizi laki nne ikifafanua uhusiano wowote uliopo kati ya shilingi bilioni 156 zinazotolewa kwa taifa la Kenya na kukumbatiwa kwa wakimbizi hao.

Kadhalika Seneta huyo anataka Seneti kufahamishwa sababu za wakimbizi hao kuwa nchini Kenya na vigezo vilivyotumika kufanikisha kuwepo kwao nchini Kenya.

Kwengineko Seneta wa Kaunti ya Mombasa Mohammed Faki ametaka uchunguzi wa kina kufanywa kuhusu matatizo ya ardhi kwenye Kaunti ya Mombasa na Kaunti zingine za ukanda wa Pwani.

Seneta Faki anasema tatizo la ardhi limekuwa suala tata kwenye Kaunti ya Mombasa na eneo pana la Pwani na hivyo pana haja ya kulishughulikia kwa

kina.

“Kuna matatizo ya kihistoria ya ardhi na unyakuzi wa ardhi ambao umewanyima wamiliki halali wa ardhi haki zao. Haya yamesababisha wakazi wengi kujumuishwa kwenye kundi la maskwota pasi matumaini ya kumiliki ardhi licha ya kuishi pale,” alifafanua Seneta Faki.

Aliongeza, “wenyeji wengi wameachwa taabani mikononi mwa mawakala wanaovamia ardhi ya wakazi na kuiuza kwa Wakenya wasio na shauku kabla ya kugundua baadaye kuwa ardhi waliouziwa haina hatimiliki.”

Alisema hatua hiyo imehujumu pakubwa haki kwa makazi ikizingatiwa kuwa nyumba ambazo zimejengwa kwenye ardhi hiyo hazina hatimiliki.

Kupitia ombi hilo, Seneta Faki anaitaka Kamati ya Ardhi, Mazingira na

Maliasili kueleza juhudi ambazo zinachukuliwa na serikali kutatua utata wa usimamizi na umiliki wa ardhi kwenye Kaunti za Pwani ikithibitisha iwapo serikali imeridhia ununuzi wa ardhi kuwapa makao maskwota wanaoishi eneo la Pwani au kuwafadhili kupata mikono nafuu itakayowawezesha kununua ardhi ambamo wamejenga nyumba.

Vilevile Seneta Faki anaitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta John Methu kukariri hatua ambazo zimechukuliwa au zinachukuliwa na serikali ya kitaifa na serikali za Kaunti kusambaza huduma muhimu kama maji, matibabu, masoko na kadhalika kwenye maeneo ambayo maskwota wanaishi ili kuwawezesha kuishi maisha sawia na binadamu wengine.

Bill to alter County Assembly composition introduced



Senator Crystal Asige, the sponsor of the Bill

The composition of the 47 County Assemblies is set to be altered significantly if a Bill before the House is enacted into law.

The County Governments Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which is sponsored by Senator Chrystal Asige, is proposing to amend various election laws so that at least 5 percent of Members of County Assembly (MCAs) should be composed of Persons with Disability (PWD).

Through the Bill, the Senator is seeking to put to effect Article 54(2) of the Constitution which obligates the State to put in place modalities to ensure the progressive implementation of the principle that at least five percent of the members of the public in elective and appointive bodies are PwDs.

The Bill, which was introduced in the House last week, is an omnibus vehicle that seeks to amend several pieces of legislations touching on the elections of Members to the County Assembly.

“The Bill will also ensure the available slots for marginalised groups are equitably shared amongst the youth, PwDs and other marginalised groups,” says Senator Asige in the memorandum of the objects.

Section 7(1)(a) of the County Governments Act allocates six seats for marginalised groups while Sections 36(1)(f) and 36(8) of the Elections Act provide for four seats.

The electoral commission has in the past been implementing Sections 36(1)(f) and 36(8) of the Elections Act since the promulgation of the 2010 constitution.

tion.

“The provisions only give a figure for the nomination slots and does not allocate the available seats amongst the various special interest groups. As a result, in the recently concluded general elections over twenty counties lack representation of persons with disabilities. There are others which do not have either representation of the youth or other marginalised groups,” explains Senator Asige.

The Senator has proposed amendment to Section 36 of the Election Act which provides details on the allocation on the party lists submitted to the electoral commission by a Political party.

In particular, the lawmaker has singled out Section 36 (1) (f) which brings into effect Article 177 (c) of the Constitution on the number of members of marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities and the youth on the party list for County assembly.

Section 36 (1) (f) of the Election Act provides that such a party list should contain candidates, two of who are persons with disability, two nominees representing the youths and two persons representing a marginalised group.

In her proposal, Senator Asige is seeking to amend this provision so that PwDs to be nominated should reflect a per centage of the number of wards in each county.

She is also seeking to amend Section 36 (3) of the Election Act which mandates a political party to prioritise PwDs, the youth and any other candidate repre-

senting a marginalised group in the allocation of special interest lists

In her amendment, she is proposing that the party list should instead take into account the various disabilities including physical, hearing and visual impairments.

She is also proposing that Section 36 (8) in which the Commission is supposed to pick nominated members from the list of special seat members in the order given by the party be amended.

Instead, she wants the Commission to draw from the list, such number of special seat members in the order given by the party, necessary to ensure that at least five percent of the members of a county assembly are persons with disability.

Section 7 (1) of the County Governments Act provides that in addition to the elected members, a county assembly shall comprise of six nominated members as contemplated in Article 177(c) of the Constitution and the Speaker, who is an ex officio member.

Senator Asige is proposing to amend this provision so that MCAs representing PwDs, youths and marginalised groups as contemplated under Article 177 (1) (c), should include two nominated members, being one man and one woman, representing the youth; two nominated members, being one man and one woman, representing marginalised groups and the 5 per cent of the total number of MCAs in a county Assembly nominated to represent persons with disability.

COMMITTEE ROUND UP

CoG opposes proposal to ban use of external law firms by counties



A joint sitting of the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations with Council of Governors.

The Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs, and Human Rights jointly with the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations jointly held a sitting to deliberate on a petition that seeks to prevent County Governments from procuring the ser-

vices of external law firms for legal in court cases.

The Petition, which is sponsored by Mr Laban Omusundi, is seeking the support of the Senate to develop a legal framework to restrict counties from procuring the services of external law firms

in their legal matters, suggesting that the funds could be better utilised to enhance services for the public.

The Council of Governors, through Wajir Governor Ahmed Abdulahi opposed the petition saying the necessity and benefits of hiring external law firms for the effective functioning of County Governments.

He said the Office of the County Attorneys Act, enacted in July 2020, established a standardised approach to managing legal affairs within County Governments.

The Governor explained that County Attorneys play a crucial role in court representation and legal advisory. “The complexity and diversity of legal matters affecting counties often require specialised expertise beyond the general capabilities of County Attorneys,” he said, adding that engaging external lawyers

provides counties with access to specialised knowledge and skills essential for addressing specific legal challenges effectively.

He noted that other state institutions, such as the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), also engage external legal experts to benefit from specialised insights, ensuring robust legal frameworks to support their mandates.

“The practice demonstrates a commitment to leveraging specialised expertise for public administration,” he explained, pointing out that engagement of external lawyers by counties would be conducted professionally and within the law.

Roads construction stagnated by Sh165 billion pending bills – former CS Murkomen

Construction of roads across the country has been stagnated owing to pending bills amounting to Sh165 billion amid budgetary constraints, former Cabinet Secretary for Roads Kipchumba Murkomen told lawmakers during Question Time last week.

The amount concerns construction of roads that have been pending for up to 10 years, among them Tharaka Nithi-Chiakariga and Marimanti Road whose construction was launched in 2014.

Mr Murkomen said the pending bills require a one-off payment but the Ministry was allocated an approved budget of about Sh53 billion to undertake road works.

Of the Sh53 billion, about Sh34 billion was disbursed and used to pay the contractors in the 2022/23 financial year.

“We distributed the amount across the roads and some of the contractors were able to go on site. In the 2023/24 financial year, the budget provision was initially at Sh73 billion. Then supplementary budgets came in, cutting the amount up to Sh51 billion,” he said.

“By the end of June 30, 2024, the Ministry had only received Sh25 billion, half of the disbursements of the budget allocation. What that means for the two



Mr Kipchumba Murkomen, former Cabinet Secretary Roads

years that I have been in office, in terms of budget allocation and disbursement, the actual money that came to the Ministry to chase the road portfolio of Sh150 billion was about Sh50 billion.”

He told the House the contractor incurred another pending bill when the Sh50 billion was paid. That moved it again to Sh165 billion.

Mr Murkomen was responding to a question raised by Senator Oburu Oginga.

ga.

Senator Oginga wanted the Ministry to explain the delay in the completion of the Wang Arot-Kamito Road construction project in Siaya County. The Construction works were launched in 2016 with Dr Oburu asking the CS to provide a timeline for completion of the project after the initial completion 2021 was not met.

The lawmaker further also sought to

know the reasons for the delay in the resumption of construction of Awelo-Liunda Road in the county and asked the Cabinet Secretary to provide a timeline for the resumption and completion of the works.

But Mr Murkomen noted that completion of the roads would be done once funding is provided.

“We have gone to a new financial year with a budget of another Sh50 billion to chase another Sh165 billion. We are not sure there will be a disbursement that is commensurate with the resources we want by the end of this financial year,” said Mr Murkomen.

The issue of the staff welfare and retrenchment at Kenya Airways also came up with Senator Tom Ojienda seeking to know the extent of the Government’s involvement in the operational matters of the national carrier.

Mr Murkomen said the Government holds a significant stake in KQ, approximately 48.9 per cent of the shares.

“The Government is represented on the Board of KQ through the National Treasury and the Ministry of Roads and Transport. However, operational matters, including those related to protection and welfare of staff, are primarily the responsibility of the KQ itself.”

This Week in History



“The creation of an office of the Ombudsman in all the counties is a good idea. These offices will address issues of maladministration in the public sector. Many things go wrong in the counties. There are instances where there are delays in getting basic identifications, for example, national identification cards (IDs) and birth certificates. These are services that should be handled at the county level so that they are not delayed. There are also times when justice is delayed in the counties.”

Senator Gertrude Musuruve contributing to the Commission on Administrative Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on July 17, 2019



“The right to administrative action is a right that is enshrined in Article 47 on Fair Administrative Action Act. The Constitution is clear on how we are supposed to ensure that Kenyans get the services that they deserve but that has not been the case. The Commission on Administrative Justice is a split in Article 59 of the Constitution with regard to the Kenya National Human Rights and Equality Commission which in the wisdom of implementation, was divided into three; the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) and the National Gender and Equality Commission. There have been serious issues of maladministration in CAJ with regard to public service delivery. This country has not demonstrated that public service administration can become part and parcel of our governance and elements of self-determination through due process. That is because we are still dealing with issues of how public officials react to requests by the public. In fact, the members of the public have been forced to pay for services that are supposed to be free.”

Senator Isaac Mwaura contributing to the Commission on Administrative Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on July 17, 2019.



“By creating county offices, we will be raising awareness. This is because I realised that it was I, the lawyer, and another person who is learned, who knows that there exists an Ombudsman in this country or other institutions. If we could concentrate on implementing the objectives of this Bill, to ensure we have the office of the Ombudsman in the 47 counties, people will be aware that there is also this alternative mode of dispute resolution. This devolution would help in raising awareness in as far as the mandate of the Ombudsman is concerned.”

Senator Judith Pareno contributing to the Commission on Administrative Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on July 17, 2019.

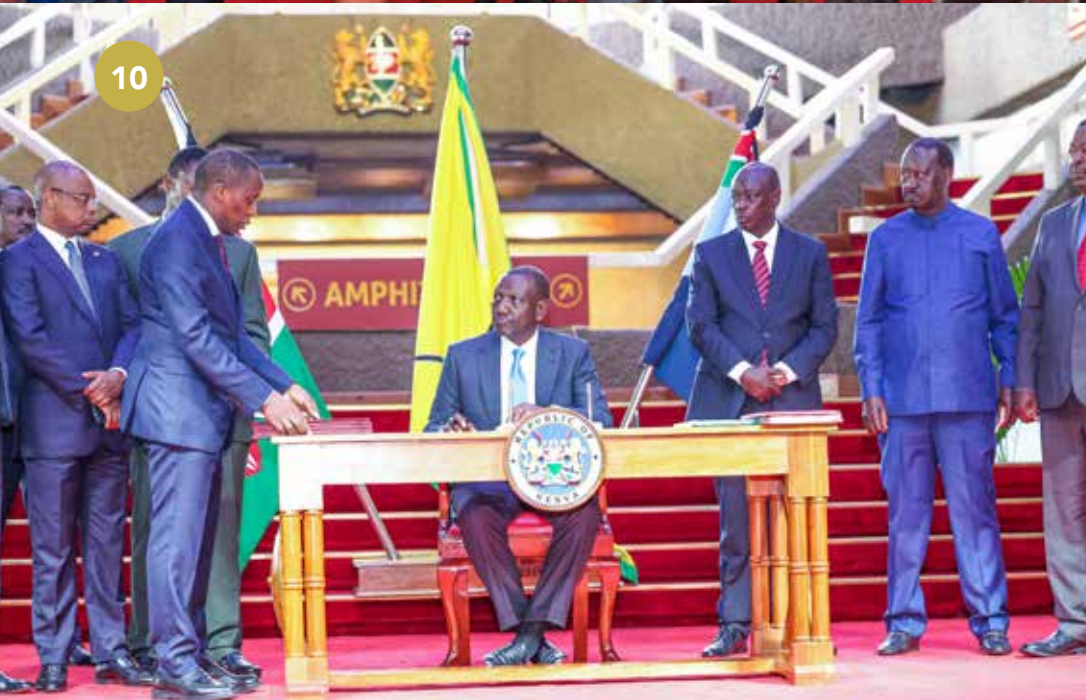


“The history of an Ombudsman comes from medieval times. Ombudsmen were referred to as secret royal inspectors. These people were sent by the King to oversee the performance of government officials. They were supposed to carry out their services incognito; nobody would recognise what they were doing. For example, they would go to a public hospital or institutions, dressed like normal citizens to assess how members of the public were being served. If the services were found to be wanting, the Ombudsmen or secret royal inspectors would report to the King. They would say that they visited this and that Government institution and found that people were complaining about the way services were being offered to them.”

Senator Aaron Cheruiyot contributing to the Commission on Administrative Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on July 17, 2019.



1. Senator Okong'o Omogeni, who is also PSC Commissioner, inspects damages caused by demonstrators who breached security of Parliament Buildings during the protests on the controversial Finance Bill, 2024 on June, 2024.
2. Senator Joyce Korir, the Vice chair of the Parliamentary Service Commission, at the section of Parliament Buildings that was torched by demonstrators during the protests.
3. Speaker Moses Wetangula of National Assembly, who is also the chairman of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), leads members of the Commission in an inspection tour of the damage caused by the protestors.
4. Senate Majority Whip Aaron Cheruiyot and his Bunge FC co-captain Hon Otiende Amolo when they handed Speaker Wetangula the trophy the team won during a football tournament in Arusha.
5. Speaker Amason Kingi and Senate leadership walk back to Parliament Buildings after witnessing the signing into law of the IEBC (Amendment) Bill, 2024 at KICC. He is flanked by Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo (second left), Majority Whip Boni Khalwale and Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot.
6. Hansard Officers from the County Assemblies of West Pokot and Kisumu pose for a picture outside Senate Chambers. The officers are undertaking a training course on information technology in the production of Parliamentary Hansard.
7. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Senator Godfrey Osotsi at Parliament Buildings after the former answered Members' Questions on the floor of the House.



8. Senator Munyi Mundigi, Senator Tabitha Mutinda and Senator Godfrey Osotsi see off Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi after last week's Question Time.
9. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Senator Mohamed Faki.
10. Speaker Amason Kingi (left) and other national leaders witness the signing into law of the IEBC (Amendment) Bill, 2024 by President William Ruto at KICC.
11. Speaker Kingi (Senate) and Speaker Moses Wetangula display IEBC (Amendment) Bill, 2024 after it was signed into law by President William Ruto.
12. Senator James Lomenen, Senator Tabitha Mutinda and Senator Tom Ojienda share a word with the former CS Kipchumba Murkomen after Question Time last week.
13. Senator Mwenda Gataya (left), Senator John Methu and Senator John Kinyua with former CS Kipchumba Murkomen at Parliament Buildings.



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