

# The SENATE

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## Committee retains county cash at Sh400 billion

**Committee on Finance insists the allocation to counties should remain as is in the current law because the devolved units have limited avenues to raise adequate revenues while the national government has access to both domestic and international credit markets to supplement revenue shortfalls.**



*Members of the Committee on Finance and Budget led by Senator Tabitha Mutinda, the vice chairperson insist Counties must get Sh400 billion. Others in the picture are Senator Boni Khalwale and Senator Eddy Oketch.*

Senators have concluded debate on the Division of Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2024 with a call to the National Assembly to accept the eventuality of Sh400.1 billion as the allocation to counties in this financial year.

The lawmakers observed that there are many areas in Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) where rationalisation can be done so that the Sh20 billion subtraction to County equitable share can be abandoned.

“The public might not be knowing that Members of Parliament are given a whopping Sh80 million to attend to roads. If you multiply Sh80 million by 290 constituencies, it provides a colossal sum of money that would be room for a saving,” said Senator Boni Khalwale

at the end of the debate on the Bill on Thursday.

Senator Beatrice Ogola also opposed the reduction arguing that devolution has been supported massively because it’s the basis for services to be taken closer to the people.

“Our people do not care whether services are going to be given by counties or the national Government. All that the people of Kenya want are services that range from health, provision of water, access roads and all other services,” she told the House.

Voting on the Bill was deferred to this week.

The Bill seeks to amend the Division of Revenue Act, 2024 to revise the projected sharable revenue between the two

levels of Government.

It has proposed amendment to Section 5 of the Act to provide for the equitable sharing of revenue shortfall in the 2024/25 financial year. The Clause also provides for capping of the proportion of revenue shortfall to be borne by county governments which shall not be more than 15 per cent.

Clause 4 proposes for the deletion of the Schedule to the Act with a new one that proposes to reduce sharable revenue from Sh2.9 trillion to Sh2.6 trillion.

The National Government share is proposed to reduce from Sh2.5 trillion to Sh2.2 trillion and that of the county governments from Sh400.1 billion to Sh380 billion.

The schedule includes an allocation to

the equalisation fund of Sh7.9 billion.

The proposed reduction of Sh20.1 billion of the equitable share for county governments was driven by a significant drop in the projected national revenue for this financial year.

In its report on the Bill, which was tabled in the House last week, the Committee on Finance and Budget, says the proposal to reduce county equitable share by Sh20 billion is arbitrary and therefore the reduction lacks any justification.

It also observed that the county equitable share as a percentage of the ordinary revenue has been decreasing over the years, from 21.9 per cent in the 2014/15 financial year to 16.8 per cent in the 2023/24 financial year.

However, the Committee notes that





*Senator Ali Roba, the Chairperson of the Committee.*

ordinary revenues are expected to grow by 15 per cent, translating to Sh342.5 billion.

Allocating counties Sh380 billion, which is Sh5.4 billion less than what

they received in 2023/24 financial year, implies that the projected increase of Sh342.5 shall accrue to the national government only.

The Committee further took issue

with Clause 3 of the Bill which proposes to ensure that shortfall in revenue will be borne by the two levels of government.

The committee, which is chaired by Senator Ali Roba, argues that the proposal undermines the predictability of revenue sources for counties within respective fiscal year and contravenes Article 175 which provides that county governments shall have reliable sources of revenue to enable them to govern and deliver services effectively.

“The proposal also implies that the National Treasury could vary county equitable share without reference to Parliament,” the Committee observes in the report even as it called for the House to adopt the Bill but with amendments.

It has proposed to amend Clause 2

to provide that the object of the amendment Bill is to revise the total shareable revenue to match the projected ordinary revenue.

It also wants Clause 3 deleted so that any shortfall in revenue collection should be borne by the national Government.

+With the projected growth of revenue estimated to be Sh2.6 trillion, the Committee has proposed amendment that if adopted will see the national government receive Sh2.2 trillion, the County Governments retain Sh400.1 billion while the equalisation fund will be allocated Sh8 billion, out of which Sh7.8 billion is 0.5 per cent of the approved revenue and Sh147 million in arrears.

## House honours footballer Akida



*Speaker Amason Kingi during the meeting with Ms Esse Mbeyu Akida in his office.*

Senators have celebrated Ms Esse Mbeyu Akida describing her as a role model, a trailblazer who should be emulated by all for her achievements.

The lawmakers hailed Ms Akida and her generation of women footballers, noting that they had laid the solid foundation for the historic achievement of the Under-19 Harambee Starlets Team, which recently qualified for the World Cup competition for this category of women footballers to be held later next month in the Dominican Republic.

Ms Akida is a celebrated Kenyan footballer and is among a generation of Kenyans who have brought immense honour and pride to the Republic through her exceptional talent and exploits in sports.

She is fondly remembered for her display at the African Women's Cup of Nations (AWCON) where she scored the first goal for Harambee Starlets, earning a place in history books as the first Kenyan to do so.

“We must celebrate girls like Ms Akida who have pushed the sport to the levels that she has,” said Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot. The athlete had visited the Senate as the guest of Speaker Ama-

son Kingi, who went on to introduce her to the House.

“We celebrate her in her distinguished career. I hope that she can inspire many girls in Kilifi County and the coastal part of the country which is not traditionally known for producing many great footballers.”

Her exploits in the world football scene have been so exceptional such that it went on to open great opportunities for her in professional football ranks.

For the past three years, she has been plying her trade at Club Paok in Greece, taking part in one of Europe's top women's football leagues and rubbing shoulders with the world's best women footballers. She had previously played for Ramat Hasharon in Israel, Besiktas of Turkey and Club Paok from Greece.

In Kilifi, where she hails from, she has curved a niche for herself through exceptional philanthropic work and distinguished community service through the Esse Akida Foundation that she founded and runs using her personal resources which has played a pivotal role in giving hope to many girls, especially



*Speaker Kingi after he received a copy of Ms Akida's book, Chained.*

those from humble backgrounds.

She has also authored a book titled: “Chained”, where she documents her eventful journey in life in which she reflects on the challenges she went through and how she triumphed.

“Ms Akida's footballing talent was nurtured from a tender age while schooling in Kilifi County, notably through - Moving the Goalpost (MTG) initiative. This initiative has used sports to positively transform lives of young girls across our country,” said Speaker while introducing her to the House.

Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo said it was not easy for a young girl as Ms Akida to achieve what she already did. “In her determination to excel, she had to confront many challenges, but she conquered them and even wrote a book.”

Senator Allan Chesang said he has witnessed her hard work in sports all the way through. “I have seen her grow.



*Ms Esse Akida in the Senate Chamber as he was introduced by the Speaker.*

I have seen her efforts and training in Kenya. It is a very good example to this country that sport pays. This is an example and a living proof that sport pays. If the Government puts more efforts in sports, we will change many of our youths.”



# Speaker Kingi plea to Africa Parliaments on climate commitments



*Speaker Amason Kingi in a group picture with officials of the Africa Network of Parliamentarians on Climate Change (ANPCC) in his office.*

Africa's parliamentarians are making a pitch for a more central responsibility in climate action, after many years of what they described as an undeserved peripheral role.

Climate Action in the continent required a more inclusive and multi-lateral approach for more gains and for Africa to successfully put forward its case at the global stage on matters Climate Change, they said.

This was revealed during a courtesy call on Speaker Amason Kingi by the newly-elected officials of the Africa Network of Parliamentarians on Climate Change (ANPCC).

And in what demonstrates their firm resolve to rally the continent's legislative fraternity behind this cause, the caucus leadership formally requested Speaker Kingi to accept to be the ANPCC patron and help promote its ideals among legislators and within parliamentary leadership in the continent.

The team briefed the Speaker on the outcome of a high-profile meeting of Parliamentarians in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire between September 1-3, 2024, which culminated in the Abidjan Declaration. A key pillar of the declaration was the call for a more enhanced role for

Parliamentarians in climate response initiatives being undertaken by countries in Africa.

The theme of the meeting in Abidjan was "Strengthening the role of parliaments in the implementation of international and national climate change commitments in Africa".

"We have a mission that must succeed. We cannot afford to fail. Parliamentarians should not abdicate their role and we request you to be our ambassador among parliamentarians in Africa," said Hon Guirieoulou during the courtesy call.

Speaker Kingi assured the team of his support and that of his fellow Speakers of Parliaments in Africa, noting that they all shared deep concerns over the ongoing manifestation of Climate Change in Africa.

"I have just returned from South Africa where we had meetings of the Pan African Parliament. I want to assure you that we spent a considerable amount of time debating Climate Change issues. Your agenda keenly resonates with our position as Speakers," added Speaker Kingi.

He reiterated that Parliamentarians, as the elected representatives of the people,



*Speaker Amason Kingi during the meeting with the newly-elected officials of the Africa Network of Parliamentarians on Climate Change (ANPCC) in his office.*

must take a leading role in addressing challenges of Climate Change and not leave everything to the Executive.

He urged the parliamentarians to take keen interest in the position taken by the continent's team of negotiators on climate action commitments, more so as the world gears up for the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024.

Officials of the Network are Hon Guirieoulou Kohou Emile (Cote d'Ivoire) was elected the chairperson; with Hon Mainzana Mapoko Nene (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Hon Joanah

Mamombe (Zimbabwe), as vice chairpersons.

Others are Hon Jacqueline Amongin (Uganda, Secretary General), Hon Clifford Andre (Seychelles), Deputy Secretary General, Hon Abdallah Barkat Ibrahim (Djibouti, Pan African Parliament).

Other members of the Bureau include Hon. Mayiik Deng (South Sudan), Senator Moses Kajwang Moses (Kenya), Hon Sello Hakane (Lesotho), Hon. NGOULA Antoine (Congo), Hon Issa Mardo Djibir (Chad), Hon Aissata Camara (Republic of Guinea) and Hon Adamu Saba (Nigeria).



# Account for cess revenue, Senators urge counties



Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot



Majority Whip Boni Khalwale

County Governments have been urged account for how the millions of shillings they received as revenue raised from cess were spent

While the House is determined to defend devolution by ensuring more money get to counties, the lawmakers regret that the County Governors have not helped their own cause in ensuring prudent use of resources.

“As Senate we are interested in pushing the cause of devolution, but I am disturbed given how county governments continue to treat farmers. They do not help the cause,” said Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot.

“I know of counties where farmers

have been levied cess on transportation and other things, but two or three financial years down the line, the money is accumulated in the accounts of county governments with no roads being done in the regions where they had collected the money.”

Unless counties are ready to give good account of the monies they collect from farmers, said Senator Cheruiyot, the House should not allow them to control revenue from cess.

Senator Cheruiyot’s concern arose from Senator Tom Ojienda who wants the House furnished with an explanation on the legal framework governing collection and utilisation of cess, especially

in Kisumu County.

Through a request for a Statement, the Senator wants the Committee on Finance and Budget to provide a year-by-year breakdown of the total amount of funds collected by the county from cess levied on sugarcane in the last years, from 2013/14 financial year to date.

Among other things, the Statement should indicate the specific amounts paid by each company.

Part of the amendments the National Assembly has rejected in the Sugar Bill, 2022 is a proposal by the Senate to have the road levies or part of the cess money that do roads in the sugarcane zones be done by county governments.

The National Assembly has proposed that that money should be handled by the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA). Senator Cheruiyot told the House that farmers in Kericho had instructed him the money should be given to KeRRA arguing that if the money is given to county governments, they will never see that money.

“Unless counties become prudent in how they use resources, it will be a long time before citizens trust them with levies as much as we are pushing for these

resources to go to county governments,” he told the House.

Between 2013 and 2017, the Senate put up a spirited fight to stop county governments from levying cess on farmers, particularly tea farmers.

The Finance and Budget Committee forced Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) to refund monies to the farmers through their county governments because it argued it was a form of double taxation as farmers of any crop, be it sugarcane, tea, cotton and coffee, pay their fair share of taxes.

Given the financial difficulties that the country is in, it was accepted that charging cess and levies may be a way to better strengthen and give advantage to farmers with regards to various things like repair of roads in the fields.

Majority Whip Boni Khalwale put the governors of Busia, Kakamega, Bungoma, Kisumu, Homa Bay and Migori counties on notice, claiming that they are abusing cess.

“The primary intention of cess was to fix roads so that cane will not rot in farms but they are not doing it,” he told the House.

## Senators want inspectors back in schools



Senator Mariam Omar



Senator Moses Kajwang



Senator Okiya Omtatah



Senator Samson Cherarkey



Senator Tom Ojienda

Senators have questioned the state of education in the country even as they called on the national Government to go back to funding and providing proper public education.

They also called on the State to strengthen the system of school inspectors who will enforce the law and regulations to ensure the safety of learners.

“We need the education sector to go back to a system where they had a robust department of school inspectors who could go around schools,” Senator Okiya Omtatah told the House.

The elephant in the room is that school inspectors have been sidelined. They have no budgets and are not operational. Even if we pass beautiful laws and regulations, there is nobody to enforce them.”

The lawmaker was contributing to

the debate on the request for a statement sought by Senator Tom Ojienda on the state of education sector in Kenya and the safety of learners in schools.

In his first request, Senator Ojienda wants the Committee on Education to explain factors that have contributed to the ever-recurring strikes by teachers and how the recent teachers’ strike witnessed in August and September 2024 has impacted learners and the school calendar and the steps taken by the Government to address grievances by teachers.

In his second request, the lawmaker wants the Ministry to outline the policy of the Ministry of Education on the safety of pupils and students in schools and disclose measures to enhance the safety of those in boarding schools.

He also wants an explanation if there are emergency protocols for handling fire

outbreaks and other disasters in schools and steps to enact a harmonised disaster preparedness and emergency policy, including mandatory emergency drills in all schools.

Deputy Minority Whip Edwin Sifuna welcomed the requests for the statements on the two issues, saying that Kenyans are concerned about the safety of learners in schools and would want the matter resolved.

“These are very important Statements and the committee should endeavour to ensure that they come up with proper answers for us to deal with the issues, once and for all,” he said.

Senator Mariam Omar said the Ministry of Education should take charge and inspect each school, be it private or public and close down any that is found not conducive for learners.

Similar sentiments were expressed by

Senator Gloria Orwoba who urged the Ministry to put up a team to go assess all the schools and provide a checklist.

“I call upon the Ministry of Education led by Cabinet Secretary Julius Migosi to ensure that there is a checklist provided because we are lacking a checklist from the Ministry of Education to make sure that our dormitories, particularly, are safe. Safety is not only from fires, but also from intruders and all sorts of other risks,” she said.

Senator Moses Kajwang insisted that the Government must establish the facts on school unrest and assure the parents of safety in schools.

Senator Samson Cherarkey asked university students to propose views on the university funding model to the technical team established by the President.



# County staff to benefit from transfers in proposed law

Pensionable county public officers could be allowed to seek transfers to serve in other devolved units.

Currently, there is no law that allows the officers to seek inter county transfers once employed by one county.

But in a Bill before the House, Senator George Mbugua seeks to put together a legal framework that will facilitate the inter-county transfer of the officers, in the hope that it will help balance the distribution of technical skills and promote national unity.

The County Governments (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was read for the first time last week and committed to the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations which will facilitate public participation.

Senator Mbugua has proposed amendment to Section 86 of the County Governments Act to establish a County Public Service Boards Consultative Forum which will be mandated to develop a criteria and framework for determining County public service matters requiring inter-county consultation.

The Forum, which will draw representation from each of the 47 County Public Service Boards, will be a platform for mutual consultation, coordination and

collaboration among the 47 County Public Service Boards on all matters related to the public service, develop inter-county agreements for joint implementation of any activities related to efficient county public service delivery and mediate any disputes arising from the respective County Public Service Boards.

“The Bill seeks to allow for the seamless movement of these officers between county public services without compromising their accrued benefits, thus promoting efficiency, national integration, cohesion, and the effective delivery of public services across counties,” says Senator Mbugua

He argues that the Bill opens the avenue for counties to send and receive experienced officers based on specific needs.

“By allowing officers to transfer between counties, the Bill ensures that expertise and competencies can be evenly distributed, thus enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery across the nation.”

A county public officer desirous of transferring his or her services from one county to another will be required to submit an application in writing to their respective County Public Service Board,

through the authorised officer, for a transfer of service.

However, before submitting the application, the officer will be required to have served at a duty station for a continuous period of at least three years.

Within 21 days of receipt of the application, the Board will make recommendations subject to any relevant written law in force relating to retirement benefits.

In recommending the transfer of the officer, the Board shall take into account the application from the officer, efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery, the existing skills and competencies in the receiving county so as not to disadvantage public officers already serving in the county and promotion of representation of Kenya’s diverse communities, men and women, the members of ethnic groups and persons with disabilities.

Where a county public officer is transferred from one county public service to another, the public officer’s accrued benefits relating to the previous period in public service shall not be lost.

Accrued benefits cited relate to pension, retirement benefits and accrued



*Senator George Mbugua, the Sponsor of the Bill*

leave.

“The transfer shall not be arbitrarily and shall not be based on necessity and shall be carried out in a manner that does not disrupt operations of county public service board,” reads Clause 4 (9) of the Bill.

## Labour Migration Bill introduced in House

No Individual will be allowed to operate a private employment agency unless such individual is registered by the National Employment Authority (NEA).

This is contained in a Bill which is proposing to introduce tough conditions aimed at streamlining the industry in order to safeguard the rights and welfare of job seekers and migrant workers.

The Labour Migration Management Bill, 2024, which is sponsored by Senator Tabitha Mutinda, provides that it will be a criminal offence for an individual to operate private employment agency and will be liable to a fine not exceeding Sh10 million or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or to both.

The Bill, which was introduced in the House this week, seeks to consolidate the laws relating to labour migration and proposes to repeal sections of the Labour Institutions Act and the Employment Act.

It provides for the registration of private employment agencies and the cancellation of such registration; the execution of security bond by private employment agencies engaged in the employment of workers for foreign employment and the approval of job orders and the advertisement of jobs by private employment agencies and the development of a code of conduct for employ-

ment agencies.

The Bill obligates private employment agencies to submit every job order to NEA for approval before being advertised while job order for foreign employment will have to be attested by the relevant Kenya mission and thereafter submitted by the private employment agency to the Authority for approval.

Senator Mutinda says NEA shall not approve a job order unless the terms and conditions of employment are compatible with the minimum Kenyan statutory requirements.

Further a private employment agency shall not issue any advertisement calling for applications for employment unless the Authority has approved the advertisement which will be in the manner prescribed in regulations to be set by the Cabinet Secretary.

It will be an offence for any individual to fail to submit job orders to NEA for approval and will be liable, upon conviction to a fine not exceeding Sh500,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

Clause 28 provides that a person who desires to travel to another country for purposes of foreign employment will have to undertake pre-departure orientation and the Bill mandates the Cabinet Secretary in charge of matters related to Labour to prescribe the categories of em-



*Senator Tabitha Mutinda*

ployees who will undertake the orientation.

The National Industrial Training Authority will in conjunction with NEA and other labour industry players develop curricula on, among other, contract management, the culture and laws of the countries of destination, social media management, attitudes on customer service, languages of the countries of destination and assessment of migrant workers’ skills.

Individuals who intend to travel to

another country for purposes of foreign employment will be required to apply to NEA for registration.

The Bill establishes a Multi-Agency Committee on Vetting of Private Employment Agencies and the Migrant Workers Welfare Fund which will be managed in line with the provisions of Public Finance Management Act.

The vetting committee will be responsible for vetting and approval of applications for registration made by the agencies.



# CS Muturi says Huduma centres pushing equal access to essential services



Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi on the floor of the House.

The Ministry of Public Service and Human Capital Development has directed Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to adhere to service turnaround timelines so that the time taken by each citizen in accessing services at the Huduma centres is nearly equal.

The directive is part of the measures the Government has taken to ensure equal access to essential services in all Huduma centres and ensure critical services are conveniently within the reach of Kenyans.

Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi said the directive compels the MDAs to execute Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with Huduma Kenya.

The Huduma Kenya Universal Staff is a Huduma Kenya staff who is trained to offer services on behalf of ministries, counties, departments and agencies in more than one area.

“The directive emphasised the importance of adhering to service turnaround times,” said CS Muturi when he appeared before the House on Wednesday Question time to respond to concerns raised by me members.

Senator Mungatana wanted the Cabinet Secretary to explain why some ser-

vices that are offered at Huduma Centre Headquarters are not available at Hola Huduma Centre in Tana River County. The Senator wants the CS to indicate the criteria used to determine the service charter in each centre.

He also wanted to know the measures the Government taken to ensure equal access to essential services in all Huduma centres and whether there are plans to renovate Hola Huduma Centre in Tana River County, which is in a dilapidated state as well as upgrade its services?

To support customer access to digitalised online Government services, the President launched the e-Citizen platform that has made available over 17,000 Government services to the citizens.

This has supported the access to public services to the digitally disadvantaged, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), the elderly and any other Kenyan that requires support to access Government e-services.

“Huduma Kenya is complementing this agenda by providing in-person and assistance support to citizens who need help accessing these services through the 57 Huduma Kenya Cyber Cafes in all our Huduma centres,”

The recently launched Kenya Vision

2030 Medium Term Plan (MTP) IV envisages the setup of Huduma Digital Centres in the 290 constituencies and Mr Muturi said this is important for devolution, one of the core functions of the House.

Huduma Kenya has partnered with the Members of the National Assembly through a co-funding model where Members use their National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) for the construction of the centres.

Huduma Kenya Secretariat operationalises the centres by branding, providing Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) infrastructure, furniture, deploying services and management of the day-to-day operations of the Huduma centre.

In the 2024/25 financial year, Huduma Centre is planning to operationalise seven Huduma centres in Runyenjes, Molo, Malindi, Kaloleni, Ganze, Maua and Ikolomani constituencies.

Mr Muturi told the House that the Ministry has constantly requested the National Treasury for Sh2billion towards setting up of modern Huduma centres across the country. But the request has never been acceded to.

# Maritime tourism is the future, CS Miano tells the House



Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano answers Members' Questions on the floor of the House.

Tourism Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano says maritime tourism is a niche market that will help propel Kenya's economy to greater heights.

The Cabinet Secretary said maritime holds the future of Kenya, especially when the products the country has to offer are to be diversified.

The East Africa Ocean Festival, planned for Mombasa from the October 18 to 20 this year is one example the Cabinet Secretary cited.

“Our Ministry is embracing maritime tourism as one of the niche markets that will be attractive, not only for the country, but for the regions that are well-endowed with maritime facilities,” she told the House.

She was responding to a question from Members, specifically Senator Eddy Oketch, who had challenged the Ministry to rethink the maritime activities on the Kenyan coast and make it such as what is happening elsewhere

in the world.

“Is there a replica investment when you think about maritime tourism in areas such as Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar and stretching to places like Mombasa, Malindi, Lamu, all the way to Kisumu. Are there efforts by the Ministry to rethink about the activities,” asked Senator Oketch.

“Think about the Islands of Mingo connecting to Migori, the opportunity for scuba diving, nautical sports, sailing, cruising, yachting, boating, and even the islands of Takawiri, Mfangano, coming all the way to mainland Homa Bay. Is there a case and a plan by the Ministry to invest in that maritime tourism?”

The Cabinet Secretary told the House that maritime tourism is the way for the country to go, especially in diversifying its tourism products.

She said the country is currently marketing Mombasa and Lamu ports as

cruise tourism points. “Many cruises are docking and the Ministry has diversified water sports and other activities. We have scheduled meetings at the coast in the next couple of months, so that we can work with stakeholders to come up with specific activities and opportunities that are available for implementation,” she said.

Senator Veronica Maina had told the House that the maritime resources available in Kenya is a sea of opportunities for young people and for the many job seekers in the country nation.

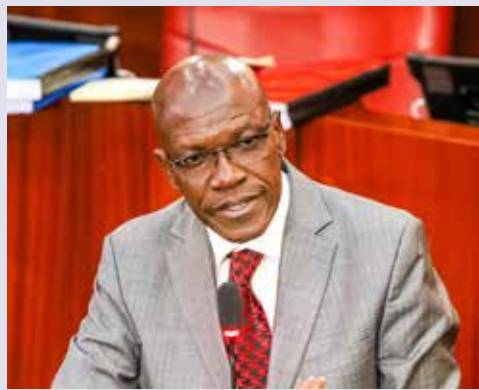
She wanted to know what the Ministry is doing to ensure that the country utilises this potential and attract tourists connected from South Africa, sailing to Kenya and other destinations in the world without having to take a flight, but being able to enjoy the resources that are in the sea, especially what we have under the waters, the sea world.



# Uzembe waripotiwa kwenye Hospitali ya Rufaa ya Kaunti ya Vihiga



Seneta Godfrey Osotsi



Seneta Boni Khalwale

**H**ospitali ya Rufaa ya Kaunti ya Vihiga imeshtumiwa kwa uzembe na kutojali katika utoaji wa huduma kwa wanaotafuta huduma za matibabu huku Bunge la Seneti likitakiwa kufanya uchunguzi kuhusu hali hiyo kwa lengo la kuikomesha mara moja.

Seneta Boni Khalwale tayari amewasili ombi Bungeni akiitaka Kamati ya Afya kutoa taarifa kuhusu uzembe na kutojali katika utoaji wa huduma kwenye hospitali hiyo.

Seneta huyo anaitaka Kamati hiyo kueleza taratibu za usalama wa kimatibabu zilizotekelezwa kabla, wakati na baada ya taratibu za upasuaji kando na kufafanua hali iliyosababisha makasi ya upasuaji kuachwa kwenye tumbo la Bi. Difina Likhuyachi Salago wakati wa upasuaji wa tumbo kwenye Hospitali ya Rufaa ya Kaunti Vihiga.

Aidha, Kamati hiyo inatarajiwa kuweka wazi majina kwenye kundi la

madaktari waliomfanyia upasuaji Bi. Salago na kufichua hatua zozote za kinidhamu ambazo zimechukuliwa dhidi yao kwa uzembe na kutojali katika utoaji wa huduma za afya mbali na kutoa taarifa kuhusu msaada wa kisaikolojia na kifedha unaotolewa kwa familia ya Bi. Salago kufuatia tukio hilo.

Kadhalika Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Jackson Mandago imepewa jukumu la kuweka wazi mikakati ambayo Hospitali ya Rufaa ya Kaunti ya Vihiga imeweka ili kuzuia kujirudia kwa visa kama hivyo vya kusikitisha.

Kwingineko Seneta Godfrey Osotsi ameitaka Kamati ya Ugatuzi na Mahusiano ya Kiserikali kuwasilisha ripoti kuhusu utekelezaji wa mradi wa Ujumlishaji wa Kaunti na Hifadhi za Viwanda (CAIP) katika Kaunti kote nchini Kenya.

Alisema serikali ya Kitaifa kupitia Wizara ya Ukekezaji, Biashara na Viwanda kwa ushirikiano na Serikali

za Kaunti, washirika wa sekta binafsi, washirika wa maendeleo na Shirika la Umoja wa Mataifa la Maendeleo ya Viwanda (UNIDO) ilianzisha ushirikiano wa kubuni mradi wa Ujumlishaji wa Kaunti na Hifadhi za Viwanda (CAIP) katika kila Kaunti unaolenga kukuza mchango wa sekta ya viwanda katika Pato la Taifa kutoka asilimia 7 hadi 15 ifikapo mwaka 2027 na asilimia 20 kufikia mwaka 2030.

Seneta Osotsi anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuweka wazi hatua zilizopigwa kwa sasa katika ujenzi wa hifadhi za viwanda kwenye Kaunti zote, ikibainisha muda wa kukamilika na kuanza kufanya kazi kwa hifadhi hizo ikieleza kiasi cha fedha ambazo hadi sasa kimetolewa na Serikali ya Kitaifa kwa kila serikali ya Kaunti kwa ajili ya ujenzi wa sehemu hizo kikilinganishwa na jumla ya fedha zilizotengwa kwa kila Kaunti kando na kutoa maelezo ya chanzo kingine chote cha fedha kwa ajili ya mradi na kuwasilisha takwimu za kina kwa kila Kaunti za fedha zilizotumika kuutekeleza mradi huo kufikia sasa.

“Mradi huo utatekelezwa kwa awamu tatu zinazojumuisha Kaunti zote na unafadhiliwa kwa usawa na Serikali ya Kitaifa na Kaunti, kila moja ikichangia shilingi milioni 250. Pia imebainika kuwa Seneti iliidhinisha Sheria ya Ugavi wa Ziada kwa Serikali za Kaunti katika mwaka wa Kifedha wa 2023/2024 na 2024/2025, ikitenga pesa mahususi kwa

mradi huu,” alifafanua Seneta Osotsi.

Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Mohamed Abass inatakiwa kufafanua msingi wa ushirikiano kati ya Serikali ya Kitaifa na Kaunti katika utekelezaji wa mradi wa CAIP, ikijumuisha makubaliano yoyote kati ya ngazi hizo mbili za serikali kulingana na Kifungu cha 187 cha Katiba.

Mbali na hayo, Seneta huyo aliiomba Kamati hiyo kueleza iwapo Kaunti zote zimepata ekari sawa za ardhi kwa mradi huo ikikariri hatua ambazo serikali imeweka kuhakikisha kwamba ardhi hiyo inalindwa dhidi ya tishio lolote linazoweza kutokea la unyakuzi wa ardhi ya umma.

Kadhalika Seneta Osotsi anaitaka Kamati kuwasilisha stakabadhi muhimu za mradi kama vile upembuzi yakinifu, mipango ya ununuzi, gharama, hati za zabuni na hatua za serikali za kuhakikisha uwajibikaji wa hali ya juu na ukaguzi wa wakati wa rekodi za fedha za mradi unaofanywa na Afisi ya Mkaguzi Mkuu wa Hesabu za Serikali pamoja na changamoto zinazozuia utekelezaji ikizingatiwa kuwa hamna Kaunti ambayo imeutekeleza mradi huo.

Maseneta vilevile watapashwa kwa kina kuhusu hatua ambazo Serikali imeweka ili kuharakisha utekelezaji wa mradi huo katika Kaunti zote arubaini na saba chini Kenya.

## Seneta ataka majibu kuhusu hatima ya wafanyakazi vibarua kwenye Kaunti ya Bungoma

**S**erikali ya Kaunti ya Bungoma imeitakiwa kujibu maswali kuhusiana na hatima ya wafanyakazi vibarua wahaohudumu kwenye idara ya afya katika Kaunti hiyo.

Seneta Wafula Wakoli amewasilisha ombi akiitaka Kamati ya Leba na Maslahi ya Jamii kufanya uchunguzi na kuwasilisha taarifa kuhusu hatima ya wafanyakazi hao.

Kwenye ombi hilo, Seneta Wakoli anaitaka Kamati hiyo kueleza ikiwa kuna mipango yoyote ya kuhalalisha ujiri wa zaidi ya wafanyakazi 700 vibarua katika idara ya afya ya Serikali ya Kaunti ya Bungoma, ama kwa kuwaweka kwa masharti ya kandarasi au ya kudumu na ya malipo ya pensheni.

Anaitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Julius Murgor kufafanua iwapo tangazo lililotolewa Agosti 2024 kwa nafasi mbalimbali, wakiwemo maafisa wa kliniki, maafisa wa matiba-

bu na wafamasia ili kujazwa na Bodi ya Utumishi wa Umma ya Kaunti ya Bungoma, lilikuwa la ndani au nje ikitoa sababu kwa nini asili ya tangazo hilo haikubainishwa.

Aidha Seneta Wakoli anataka kuweka wazi kwa masharti ambayo wahudumu wa afya vibarua wanayatumia kwa sasa wanapotoa huduma kwa Kaunti.

Huku hayo yakijiri Seneta Wakoli anataka majibu kuhusu usimamizi wa Chama cha Ushirika cha Wakulima wa Maziwa cha Kitinda katika Kaunti ya Bungoma.

Kwenye ombi lake, Seneta Wakoli anaitaka Kamati ya Biashara, Viwanda na Utalii kueleza muundo wa utawala wa Chama cha Ushirika cha Wakulima wa Maziwa cha Kitinda, ikiweka wazi majina ya wajumbe wa kamati za usimamizi, idadi husika ya hisa wanazomiliki wanachama hao pamoja na muda ambao wamemiliki hisa hizo kando na kuwasili-

sha orodha ya wanachama wote wa Chama cha Ushirika, ikionesha idadi ya hisa alizonazo kila mwanachama na mara ya mwisho kulipwa gawio.

Kamati hiyo chini ya Uenyekiti wa Seneta Seki Lenku inatakiwa kuwasilisha kumbukumbu za mkutano mkuu maalum wa hivi majuzi au mkuu wa mwaka wa Chama cha Ushirika pamoja na taarifa za fedha katika kipindi cha miaka miwili iliyopita, ikibainisha mapato na matumizi husika mbali na kubainisha marekebisho yaliyofanywa na Kamati ya sasa ya usimamizi tangu kuchukua udhibiti, ikionesha hali ya uzalishaji wa maziwa na madeni wakati huu ikilinganishwa na wakati uliopita.

Seneta huyo aidha ameitaka Kamati kufafanua ni kwa nini Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa sasa aliteuliwa kwenye nafasi hiyo licha ya kufurushwa chamani mbeleni kwa tuhuma za ulaghai.



Seneta Wafula Wakoli

# Committees brief House on activities

The Standing Orders demand that the chairpersons of House Committee periodically make statement relating to activities of their committees at least after every three months. This week, the committee leaderships briefed the House on the business they have carried in the second quarter of the Third Session, covering the period between April to August 2024.

## Education Committee 17 sittings

The Committee on Education held 17 sittings, during which it considered 22 statements, two Petitions and conducted two inquiries.

The committee also undertook one county oversight and networking engagement in Machakos County to acquaint itself with the implementation status of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) policies.

During the period, the committee held a consultative meeting with the Cabinet Secretary of Education, the Council of Governors (CoG) and the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Commit-

tee (IGRTC), where it discussed on the plight of ECDE teachers, the implementation of the ECDE and TVET policies in counties, emerging issues in devolution, transfer of functions and intergovernmental relations.

The two petitions concerned the discrimination in the paying of hardship allowance to teachers in Taita-Taveta and Kilifi counties.

Whereas, the committee has endeavoured to finalise the consideration of three Petitions, it regrets the delays in concluding the Petitions, which has been occasioned by the unavailability of sufficient information and responses from the Executive, frequent requests for post-

ponement of meetings by the stakeholders and quorum hitches," said Senator Joe Nyutu, the chair.

The Senator observed that there is an increasing number of statements pending before the Committee and resolved to bundle statements relating to similar thematic areas and invite the concerned agencies for consideration.

As a result, the Committee has scheduled a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education and the Chief Executive Officer of the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), to deliberate on several pending statements related to their specific mandates.

The committee will continue en-

gaging and following up on the implementation status of the policies on the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), the infrastructural development and congestion of learning institutions, the Government's commitment towards employment of Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers, the university funding model and the preparedness in transition for learners from JSS to senior secondary school.

The committee is also scheduled to continue engaging the CoG to deliberate on the implementation of the scheme of service for ECDE teachers and the budgetary allocations and expenditure of counties in relation to the devolved functions under the education sector

## Energy Committee 28 sittings



Senator William Kisang delivered the Statement on behalf of the Committee on Energy.

The Committee on Energy held a total of 28 sittings between April and August during which it considered and concluded the consideration of one Bill and one inquiry.

The committee considered nine statements while six statements are pending and the Committee has scheduled to meet the Cabinet Secretary after his familiarisation tour of the Ministry.

Ministry of Energy has a new Cabinet Secretary, Mr Opiyo Wandayi, who was appointed recently during formation of the broad-based system of Government.

In its quarterly report on the activities of the Committee, Senator William Ki-

sang notified the House that the committee has finalised inquiry into the tragic Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) explosion that occurred in Mradi area of Nairobi County in February, 2024.

"Since July, the committee has not met outside the precincts of Parliament because of lack of resources," said Senator Kisang, citing the challenges that have confronted the activities of the Committee.

The Committee has made several recommendations including unlocking a memorandum put in by the National Assembly on issuance of new Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

Earlier in the year, the Committee had concluded an inquiry into the high cost of electricity in the country.

"We will be requesting the Senate to resolve to unlock that memorandum so that the Ministry of Energy and Kenya Power (KP) will go ahead and unlock the issue," he said.

He went on: "The idea is to ensure we do not run short of electricity in the near future because with the Affordable Housing Programme that is going on, we anticipate there will be many people who would want to join the grid in the next one or two years."

## Finance Committee had 44 sittings



Senator Tabitha Mutinda.

In the period between April and August, the Committee on Finance and Budget held 44 sittings, during which it processed 47 statements, six Bills and tabled seven reports.

It also held consultative meetings with the National Treasury and Economic Planning, Commission of Revenue Allocation (CRA), Society of Clerks at The Table (SOCATT), County Assembly Forum (CAF), Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), Budget Hub, Office of the Controller of Budget (CoB) and the Council of Governors (CoG).

Delivering the quarterly report of the Committee to the House, Senator

Tabitha Mutinda, the vice chair, further revealed that members had also conducted recruitment process for the nomination of a person on behalf of county governments to Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC).

The committee carried out pre-publication scrutiny and examined two legislative proposals on proposed Public Finance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and proposed amendments to the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act.

Currently, the Committee is scheduled to consider the Controller of Budget County Governments Budget Implementation Reports for 2023/24 financial year, the County Wards (Equitable De-

velopment) Bill, 2024, the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The committee is scheduled to consider the status of implementation of the House resolutions on county governments pending bills.

A meeting has been convened on October 3, 2024 with the National Treasury and Economic Planning and the CoB to apprise the House on the status.

"Matters pending bills cut across the 47 counties. We saw it wise to invite all Senators, where the CoB and the Ministry of the National Treasury and Economic Planning will attend so that they bring to light and give more information," said Senator Mutinda.



## Devolution Committee 32 sittings



Senator Abbas Sheikh

**T**he Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations held 32 sittings in the period between April and August in which it considered

matters pertaining to its mandate.

It considered two Bills which it is about to table the respective reports before the House. The Bills are The County Oversight and Accountability Bill, 2024 and The Intergovernmental Relations (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The Committee processed five statements sought by members. Out of the five statements, the committee considered and concluded two and three are pending.

In a statement to the House, Senator Abbas Sheikh stated that jointly with the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights (JLACHR), the Committee is considering the Petition on restraining county government from hiring law firms for legal representation in court cases.

“The two committees have jointly held meetings with various stakeholders and are looking forward to concluding the matter and table a report in this House,” Senator Abbas told the House

when he issued the Statement on the activities of the Committee for the last three months.

“To look into the performance of the counties on implementation of the budget, the committee held a consultative retreat with various stakeholders and deliberated on the issues arising from the county budget implementation review for the first half of 2023/24 by the Controller of Budget.”

The committee is currently conducting an inquiry into the matter of the county government operating several commercial banks accounts, which is contrary to the Public Finance Management (County Government Regulations 2015).

“In consideration of the matter, the committee has met with seven county governments and deliberated on the matter. The committee is planning to hold a joint retreat with the CoG, Office of the CoB and the Auditor-General to chart the course of addressing issues.”

The committee is also considering a legislative proposal on amending the County Governments Act, to provide definite roles for the Office of the Deputy Governor.

To foster a harmonious working relationship with the county government, the committee is mediating a long-standing dispute between the Governor of Siaya and his deputy to ensure the smooth running of the county affairs.

The Committee is also conducting a post-legislative scrutiny of the Urban Areas and Cities Act to assess the effectiveness of the law concerning the management of cities, urban areas,

The objective is to propose amendments to the framework of the management and governance of cities and urban areas.

The Committee also plans to conduct an inquiry into national Government Parastatals that are still performing devolved functions.

## Agriculture Committee held 19 sittings



Senator James Murango (right), Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture and Senator Wafula Wakoli.

**T**he Agricultural Produce Minimum Guarantee Returns Bill, 2024 tops the list of the business the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has considered in the last three months.

The Bill seeks to provide farmers with guaranteed minimum returns for their produce thus ensuring price stability in the agricultural sector.

Other Bills the Committee considered are the Mung Beans Bill and the Sugar Bill, 2022.

Senator James Murango, who chairs the Committee, told the House the committee held a total of 19 sittings between April and August 2024.

During this period, the Committee considered one legislative agenda, three Bills, six Statements, two Petitions and

conducted one inquiry.

The committee also considered the Nuts and Oil Crops Bill, 2023 and received submissions from the Council of Governors (CoG), Nature Kenya and the Law Society of Kenya.

“The Committee has established a practice of conducting public participation in counties. The committee believes in meeting the farmers in the counties,”

said Senator Murango when he issued the Statement.

The 17 statements addressed critical areas such as the use of harmful pesticides, delayed payment to dairy farmers, wheat seed shortages, crop insurance schemes, the postponement of election for the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) directors, the planned importation of sugar, vaccine production at the Kenya Veterinary Vaccine Production Institute (KEVEVAPI) and the distribution of subsidised fertiliser.

The committee reviewed two Petitions, one concerning the Ethics Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) draft investigation into the West Kano Irrigation Scheme and others regarding the catastrophic maize disease that has affected farmers in Bomet County for the past 12 years.

The Committee also participated in the workshop on the World Bank-funded projects in counties organised by the State Department of Agriculture in June 2024.

“These engagements are vital in ensuring that Senators remain informed and engaged in the development of policies affecting the agricultural sector and projects being implemented in counties.”



# Senator Kajwang calls for strong climate laws



Senator Moses Kajwang', Chairperson, Parliamentary Caucus on Climate Change.

Senator Moses Kajwang' has challenged Parliament to lead in the legislative process by enacting strong climate laws that establish clear frameworks for action, allocate appropriate budgets for climate initiatives and set accountability mechanisms for implementation.

The lawmaker told the House that Members of Parliament (MPs) have a responsibility to hold their governments accountable for meeting climate targets, tracking progress on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and en-

sureing that the necessary financial and technical resources are made available to support climate action.

"This requires us to be proactive in monitoring the policies and programmes put in place to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and ensure that they are effective and equitable and that they benefit the most vulnerable in our societies," said Senator Kajwang.

The Senator made the call when he made a personal statement on an issue of general topical concern regarding the pivotal role of Parliaments in imple-

menting both international and national climate change commitments in Africa.

"It is crucial to underscore the role of Parliaments in the global and national climate governance frameworks. As elected representatives of the people, (MPs are uniquely positioned to ensure that international climate commitments, such as those outlined in the Paris Agreement and Africa's nationally determined contributions, are translated into effective policies, actions and laws at the national level."

The National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire, in partnership with the African Group of Negotiators for Expert Support (AGNES) and the African Union Development Agency, hosted a high-level meeting of Parliamentarians in Abidjan between September 1 and 5, 2024.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 12th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa and the 10th special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. It brought together Parliamentarians from across the continent, all of whom are members of the committees, commissions and caucuses on the environment, climate change, agriculture and natural resources.

The theme of the meeting was "Strengthening the role of Parliaments in the implementation of national and international commitments on climate change in Africa", was planned to build the capacity of Parliamentarians to better understand their roles in addressing the

escalating climate crisis.

During the discussions in Abidjan, it became evident that many African countries still lack comprehensive climate legislation, noted Senator Kajwang. A significant focus was on capacity building for Parliaments to perform their roles effectively. MPs need to be equipped with the knowledge, tools and expertise necessary to understand the complexity of climate science and policy.

"This is why partnerships with institutions like the Africa Union Development Agency, NEPAD and AGNES are invaluable. They can provide the technical support needed to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians and technical staff to oversee climate action, track progress and ensure accountability," he said.

He pointed out that it is incumbent upon Parliamentarians to work collaboratively with executive branches and other stakeholders to develop and pass the necessary legal frameworks that align with our international commitments and ensure national climate resilience."

As part of the outcomes, a 12-member Bureau was elected to guide the work of the network of Parliamentarians. The meeting of the Bureau is currently ongoing in Nairobi to organize their affairs and develop a comprehensive roadmap for their work.

Senator Kajwang told the House that the meeting in Abidjan highlighted the need for parliamentary oversight as a cornerstone of effective climate governance.

## This Week in History

# Debate on Establishment of Children's Home Bill, 2019



Senator Agnes Zani

ON October 1, 2019, the House debated the Establishment of Children's Home Bill, 2019, whose aim was to provide a framework for the registration and licensing of children's homes so as to ensure the provision of care and protection to neglected children.

The law establishes in a detailed format how the children homes should be run. It even outlines process to be followed in setting up these homes. It talks of licensing the homes, educational standards, health standards, level of homes themselves and their environment.

The Bill was sponsored by Senator Agnes Zani, who told the

House that most important component of the law was to ensure that neglected children have a place to go to, and had to be facilitated at county level.

The County Executive Committee (CEC) Members are mandated to come up with specific procedures within their various ministries, to ensure that the children are well taken care of. It also allows for specific legislation to be done at the county level, so that the children can have a place to call home.

The Bill is premised on Article 53 of the Constitution on the rights of the child and answers to each of the rights; name, nationality, free education, nutrition, shelter, protection and parental care.

"The children should not be denied food and everything else they desire in life. Considering that Kenya is an unequal society, we, as legislators, need to come up with laws to take care of neglected children in our society. This Bill also tackles the national aspect because it is already contained, but stresses on the county aspect."



Senator Johnson Sakaja

"We have had serious issues in taking care of our children and children's homes have mushroomed everywhere. To a great extent, children's homes have become a business. Innocent children are being mistreated and mishandled. The so-called caregivers are putting the children in terrible situations and dirty environments. The children are rarely given food, and are subjected to substandard medical care. The photos of those children are taken and shared with donors and sponsors across the world, who support many of the children's homes."



Senator Moses Wetangula

"I am not advocating for children from poor families to be put together in one institution; that is not the way to integrate children. I would want to see children from disadvantaged families mixing with children from private academies, and others. This can be seen in the legacy left in Starehe Boys Centre by the late Dr Griffins, who routinely picked children from the poorest of the poor and put them in Starehe Boys Centre. He allowed the children of Annuares, Cheruiyots, Mbitos and Beth Mugas to go to the same school; and obligated them to pay fees that would cover three or five other children from poor families in an endowment process."



Senator Cleophas Malala

"Our children are part of our society that has been neglected for a very long time. As a leadership, it is very important for us to look into the welfare of our children. The gist of this Bill is that we need to have a legal basis to establish children's homes in our counties. We have had so many children's homes coming up and they are anchored either in churches or in a foreigner's establishment. It is now important for us, as the Senate, to come up with a legal framework of establishing these children's homes."



# Senator Haji plea on counties for sustainable healthcare



Senator Abdul Haji speaks to one of the organisers of the Annual Pediatric Surgical Camp.



The Senator with some of the doctors who conducted surgeries.

Senator Abdul Haji has urged the county government of Garissa to initiate sponsorship programmes for local doctors from Garissa as one way of enhancing sustainable healthcare.

The Senator said the programmes should focus in the field of pediatric care.

This will include providing opportunities for specialised training to empower the local practitioners to deliver advanced pediatric surgical care, ensuring

that the children of Garissa receive the medical attention they desperately need and deserve.

The Senator made the comments during this year's Annual Pediatric Surgical Camp in Garissa County which brought together a dedicated team of pediatric surgeons, anesthetists, nursing staff and medical student's all united in their mission to deliver life-saving surgeries to the children of the county.

"The overwhelming burden of surgical diseases highlights a critical issue," he said, citing the ratio of specialists to the population in need of essential services which remains disproportionate.

"With fewer than 50 pediatric surgeons specialising in children's care across the entire county, the demand for specialised medical attention far exceeds the available resources, a situation that is deeply concerning."

He commended the Kenya Association of Pediatric Surgeons (KAPS) for their innovative approach in addressing the challenge.

"Organising surgical camps in various counties has created a model that effectively bridges the gap in pediatric surgical care, allowing specialist teams to deliver vital services over a set period."

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

# Senate shines in Justice Cup tourney

Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye led the Senate sports team in participating in events organised by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK).

Dubbed the Justice Cup, the events officially launched by the Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen.

The sport brought together professionals from the legal fraternity led by the LSK President Faith Adhiambo and other participants who highlighted the importance of fitness and sportsmanship.

Mr Nyegenye underlined the importance of regular physical activity for overall health and well-being.

"We encourage that every so often, we get out for our health, wellness and to keep fit," he said, drawing parallels between sports and the working environments.

He emphasised that both require resilience, teamwork and the ability to handle both outcomes.

"Sports events have a lot of similarities with the profession in which we work. It is a test of resilience, teamwork and learning to accept both victories and defeats as we strive forward," he added.

Mr Nyegenya reaffirmed the commitment of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) to ensuring the well-being of staff and members through such



LSK President Faith Adhiambo kicks the ball to officially launch the Justice Cup.



Sports CS Kipchumba Murkomen and Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye in a group photo with Senate staff during the LSK Nairobi branch justice cup tournament.

initiatives.

CS Murkomen touched on the growing challenge of mental health in Kenya, particularly affecting the middle class.

"One of the biggest challenges we face in Kenya is mental health and it really affects the middle class and those struggling to break the ceiling," CS Murkomen observed.

Ms Adhiambo echoed the need for reforms, emphasising that sports law is an

area that requires further development and challenged CS Murkomen to spearhead efforts for more capacity building initiatives in the sports field.

"Sports is an area of law that needs further development. We need more capacity building around it and I urge you to take charge of that," Ms Adhiambo told the Cabinet Secretary.

She called for more support to enable Kenyan athletes to shine internationally

through dealing with issues such as corruption that has forced athletes to leave Kenya in search of better opportunities abroad.

The Senate team participated in football, athletics, basketball, table tennis, scrabble and swimming. It won medals in basketball (bronze), athletics (1 gold, silver and bronze), table tennis (bronze), scrabble (silver) and swimming (2 gold and 1 silver).





1. Senate staff pose for a group picture with Speaker Amason Kingi as he celebrated his birthday on Wednesday.
2. A Section of Senate staff look on as Speaker Kingi cuts the cake to celebrate his birthday in his office.
3. Speaker Amason Kingi cuts the cake to celebrate his birthday assisted by Senator Munyi Mundigi (left), Senator Allan Chesang (second left), Senator Tabitha Keroche and Senator Hamida Kibwana. Senator Joyce Korir and Senator Raphael Chimera look on.
4. Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Gladys Shollei shares the cake with Speaker Amason Kingi to celebrate his birthday. Senator Boni Khalwale, Senator Tabitha Keroche (partly hidden) and Senator John Methu look on.





1. Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi is received by Deputy Clerk Mohamed Ali (left) after he arrived in Parliament Buildings to respond to questions from Senators last week.
2. Public Service CS Justin Muturi in a group photo with, from left, Senator Tabitha Mutinda, Senator Dan Maanzo, Senator Hamida Kibwana and Senator Munyi Mundigi after Question Time on Wednesday last week.
3. Senators listen keenly to Public Service CS Justin Muturi. From left, Senator Abbas Sheikh, Senator James Lomenen, Senator Munyi Mundigi, Senator Samson Cherarkey, and Senator James Murango.
4. Tourism Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano and her team from the Ministry follow the proceedings on the floor of the Senate as a Member poses a supplementary question during Questions Time last week.
5. CS Rebecca Miano arrives in Parliament Buildings to respond to Questions raised by Senators during last week's Questions Time.





6. Senator William Cheptumo speaks to Tourism CS Rebecca Miano in Parliament last week.
7. Senator Okiya Omtatah with a delegation of Busia County residents at the Senate last week.
8. Visiting Members of Africa Network of Parliamentarians on Climate Change follow proceedings at the Senate Chamber.
9. A visiting delegation of Members of County Assembly of Makueni Committee on Public Accounts and Investments in the Speaker's gallery of the Senate Chamber.





10. Pupils and teachers from Mirema Junior School pose for a photo at Parliaments Buildings after their educational tour of the Senate.
11. Clerk Nyegenye plays a singles table tennis match during the Law Society of Kenya's sports day at Parklands Sports Club.
12. Members of the Senate sports team follow Clerk Nyegenye's speech during the Law Society of Kenya's sports day at Parklands Sports Club.
13. Clerk Jeremiah Nyengenyne, Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen and Senate Legal Services Director Okello pose for a photo with the Senate Football Team during the LSK's sports day.
14. Clerk Nyegenye and Sports CS Murkomen join Law Society of Kenya sports day's MC for an Isukuti dance.
15. Mr Charles Oyotsi of the Senate team dribbles past Law Society of Kenya Thika Branch basketball players during the Law Society of Kenya's sports day at Parklands Sports Club.





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