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Senate rejects County Additional Allocations Bill

The lawmakers overwhelmingly reject amendments introduced by National Assembly because they reduce the amount of additional funds to counties by Sh15 billion. Instead of Sh62 billion, the National Assembly wants counties to get Sh47 billion.



Senator Ledama ole Kina: National Assembly is negating its representation role.



Senator Ali Roba, the Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee.

The County Governments Additional Allocations Bill, 2024, is headed to mediation after the Senate voted overwhelmingly to reject the amendments that were introduced by the National Assembly.

This would be the second move in the Senate, after the lawmakers early in the month thwarted attempts by the National Assembly to amend the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 to reduce county equitable share by Sh20 billion in the 2024/25 financial year.

A mediation exercise between the two Houses had in June settled on Sh400.1 billion to be allocated to counties. However, the National Treasury argues that the austerity measures announced by the State necessitated for the figure to be re-

vised downwards.

The National Treasury would then propose to cut down the equitable share to Sh380 billion, which the Senators rejected.

On Wednesday, the Senators were at it again. They concluded debate on the consideration of the proposals by the National Assembly and voted to reject the amendments, expressing outrage after amounts due to counties was reduced.

The County Governments Additional Allocations Bill, 2024, makes provisions for transferring conditional and unconditional allocations from the national government and development partners to county governments and transfers relating to statutory allocations to counties.

The Bill, as approved by the Sen-

ate, proposed total additional allocations (conditional and unconditional) of Sh61.9 billion for 2024/25 financial year to county governments.

The National Assembly considered the Bill and proposed several amendments which resulted into reduction of additional allocations to counties to Sh46.5 billion, which is Sh15 billion less.

The lawmakers expressed concern that the national Government, egged on by the National Assembly, is eager to deny county governments money to implement devolution.

“Somebody has to drill some sense into the minds of our colleagues in the National Assembly who are negating their role of representation. It does not

matter whether you represent citizens from the National Assembly or the County. Ultimately, the county governments are the ones that will develop this nation,” said Senator Ledama ole Kina during debate in the House.

The Senator spoke during the debate on the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget on the amendments introduced to the Bill by the National assembly.

In their proposals, the National Assembly has removed an entire allocation of Sh10.5 billion that is to be disbursed to counties as Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF).

The Levy is collected by the Kenya Roads Board (KRB) for the maintenance of the national trunk roads and county

roads.

The National Assembly also amended the Bill and reduced allocation to Community Health Promoters (CHPs), being one of the key projects initiated by the national Government.

CHPs had been allocated Sh3.2 billion in the initial Bill. CHP staff have already been recruited and have payroll numbers.

However, the National Assembly reduced the figure to Sh2.58 billion that will only cater for 86,133 CHP as opposed to 107,831 that are already working in the 47 county governments.

An allocation of Sh4.5 billion to County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIP) was reduced to Sh2 billion.

The Assembly also removed an allocation of Sh30.1 million meant for the transferred museum function.

The management of museums has already been transferred but funds are yet to follow the function.

The Senators are also concerned about the issues to do with mineral royalties, which are funds collected on behalf of county governments amounting to Sh1.1 billion. That money has also been removed, same as Court fines amounting to Sh7.4 million.

The House is also concerned about the removal of an allocation of Sh528 million for the construction of county headquarters in five counties.

The allocation per county is as follows: Isiolo (Sh115.4 million), Lamu (Sh264.7 million), Tana River (Sh95 million) and Tharaka Nithi (Sh47.9 million). Notably, Nyandarua County had no allocation since there was over-provision in its entitled allocation in FY 2023/24.

Senator Ali Roba, who chairs the Committee, assailed the National Assembly for the move arguing that there is no justification for taking away money collected on behalf of the county gov-

ernment by the courts.

Senator Roba said the removal of the allocation from RMLF is a contravention of Article 174 of the Constitution and failure to recognise one of the functions 'county roads' assigned to county governments under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.

Counties are required to rehabilitate and maintain such county roads and the cost should be met through RMLF.

Senator Oburu Oginga said the allocation to CHP was a God-sent opportunity and the Members of the National Assembly should appreciate the work that they do.

"For the first time, there is an official allocation in the budget to cater for their pay yet the Members of the National Assembly do not see its importance. When they want to reduce monies due to austerity measures, they should know where to do it. It should mainly affect the national Government budget and not the

county government budget," said Senator Oburu.

On RMLF, Senator Samson Cherarkey argued that Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) and Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) are unconstitutional and illegal road bodies and proposed they be scrapped.

"It can be either national roads or county roads," he said, adding that the Levy of Sh10 billion goes to counties so that counties can improve their roads.

Senator Sheikh Abbas said it was unfair for the National Assembly to reduce funds accrued from minerals and supported calls to have the allocation returned.

"Minerals are not found in the national office. They are found in the community lands. The land that is owned by the communities is where we find the minerals and most of the land is managed by the counties. Counties need to get even more money."

.... As Division of Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2024 heads for mediation, again.



Members of the Committee on Finance and Budget led by Senator Ali Roba (right), the chairman. Others in the picture are, from left, Senator Shakila Abdalla, Senator Eddy Oketch, Senator Boni Khalwale and Senator Tabitha Mutinda, the vice chairperson.

Twice this year, the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024, will be subjected to a mediation process between the two Houses of Parliament, after the National Assembly rejected all the amendments introduced by the Senate when it considered the Bill.

The National Assembly on October 16 considered Senate amendments to the Bill, thereby committing it to a Mediation Committee in accordance with the provisions of Article 112 of the Constitution.

Speaker Amason Kingi conveyed the National Assembly message rejected the amendments to the House on Thursday, seeking the appointment of nine Senators to a Mediation Committee to consider the Bill.

"In consultation with the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader, I will, at an appropriate time, appoint Senators to the Mediation Committee," he in-

formed the House.

However, Senators have refused to go along with the National Assembly and have vowed to dig in.

"I request that the Members who you will appoint to the Mediation Committee remain focused because we need money to go to our hospitals," said Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina in response to the Speaker's Communication.

"I plead with our colleagues here that this time round, we need to think about how we can ring-fence money to support our hospitals. In my county of Narok, we have a hospital, which was funded by the World Bank. It is not complete. We need to understand what our priorities are and healthcare should be one among them.

Among the amendments the Senate has rejected is the proposal to reduce the county equitable share by Sh20 billion.

The Division of Revenue Act assented to by President William Ruto had allo-

cated Sh400.1 billion to counties in this financial year.

However, the austerity measures announced by the President as a result of the rejection of the Finance Bill, 2024, has culminated with a conversation in the National Assembly and National Assembly to reduce the figure to Sh380 billion.

The National Treasury sponsored the Division of Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to amend the Division of Revenue Act, 2024 to revise the shareable revenue from Sh2.9 trillion to Sh2.6 trillion, out of which County equitable share will reduce to Sh380 billion from Sh400.1 billion if it is passed into law.

To justify the proposal, the National Assembly argues the reduction is necessary as a result of the downward revision of projected revenue occasioned by the rejection of the Finance Bill, 2024.

But the Senate amended the Bill, retaining county equitable share at Sh400.1 billion for the 2024/25 financial year.

The Senate also amended Clause 2 on the objects and purpose of the Bill. The purpose of the Bill is to provide for equitable sharing of the shortfall in revenue raised nationally, occasioned by downward revision of projected ordinary revenue, between the national and County Governments.

In their amendment of the Clause, the Senators have proposed that the object of the Bill is to provide for the downward revision of projected ordinary revenue.

The lawmakers also deleted Clause 3 of the Bill which proposes to amend Section 5 of the Act that provides that sharing of any revenue shortfall in the 2024/25 financial year should be shared equitably between the two levels of Government.

Further, the Clause caps the proportion of revenue shortfall to be borne by county governments at a maximum of 15 percent of the shortfall.

The Senate had initially proposed an allocation of Sh415 billion to counties which was reduced to Sh400.1 billion after the mediation, paving the way for Presidential assent to the Bill.

The Budget and Appropriations Committee of the National Assembly has argued that in settling for Sh400.1 billion, the Mediation Committee was guided by the anticipated higher revenue collection arising from the measures that were pronounced in the Finance Bill 2024.

The revenue-raising measures contained in the Finance Bill 2024 were projected to raise an estimated Sh346 billion in revenue.

Speaker Kingi caution on video evidence

Speaker Amason Kingi has admitted that social media has taken over the communication sector but observed that the Senate cannot afford to box itself in the traditional way of communication.

While the House has to adapt to the changing communication style, the Speaker called for caution, when handling video presented to the House as evidence.

"We have something called Artificial Intelligence (AI). You can be put in a place where you are giving a speech, and when you see that video, you will be shocked because maybe you were never in that particular place," the Speaker told the House.

The Speaker was reacting to a clarification sought by Majority Whip Boni Khalwale who wanted him to explain

whether it is possible for the House can change in the way it handles video evidence presented before it.

"When you watch proceedings in our courts, the legal philosophy that helps them to make decisions appears to have changed. Videos are now admissible. Courts are now embracing social media to the extent that service to attend court or receive legal notices is admissible on WhatsApp," explained Senator Khalwale.

He argued that the House has in the past admitted video evidence presented by county assemblies on various impeachment proceedings.

"Going forward, how do we want to treat videos and evidence based on social media so that we are in tandem with the legal practice in the jurisprudence in our

courts?" he asked.

The Senator had raised concern after the Speaker rejected video evidence submitted by Senator Peris in defence of the comments she made on the floor touching on State House Comptroller, Mr Kato ole Metito.

In the comments, Senator Tobiko called Mr Metito "a rogue public servant" who was captured saying that "this road will never be constructed as long as the current Member of Parliament for Kajiado South, hon. Parashina, is the MP."

When challenged to substantiate the claims, she tabled a document titled "Kato Anguruma" and a flash disk drive containing a recording, as evidence to substantiate her claims.

However, the Speaker rejected the

evidence because it did not meet the threshold for substantiation in line with the House rules and asked the Senator Tobiko to withdraw the claim and apologise.

She rejected the directive and was suspended from the House for one day.

Speaker said the difficulty he encountered in the Senator Tobiko matter, is that the particular video was in the Maa language.

"If it was translated, then at least I could have used my discretion to see whether it is admissible or not but it is in the Maa language. You know the language of Parliament. It is either English, Swahili, or Sign Language. To that extent, then, I had to rule it was inadmissible."



Qatar Ambassador Mohammed Mutair Al Anzi signs the visitors' book when he paid a courtesy call to the Office of the Senate Speaker Amason Kingi.



Speaker Amason Kingi receives a commemorative gift with Qatar Ambassador Mohammed Mutair Al Anzi during the visit.

Lawmaker's call for enforcement of universal design on road networks

Senator Crystal Asige wants the Committee on Roads, Transport and Housing to investigate measures taken by the national Government to facilitate the development and enforcement of universal design regulations across Kenya's road networks.

The universal design regulations are intended to provide essential safety for blind and visually impaired persons.

In a Statement to the House to celebrate the International White Cane Safety Day, celebrated annually on October 15, the lawmaker wants the Ministry of Roads and Transport and the Kenya Roads Board to explain the measures they have put in place to facilitate the development of the universal designs.

Article 54 of the Constitution on accessible environments for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), and Articles 3, 9 and 20 of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN-CRPD), stipulate the obligation on the inclusion of accessible spaces for white

cane users.

Sustainable Development Goal No.11 on accessible cities and human settlements, further buttress these principles.

"The International Whites Canes Safety Day is cognisant of the lack of proper regard by motorists and other road users for the role that the white cane represents and, in a bid, to support and better promote awareness of the needs and challenges faced by us, white cane users in Kenya, it is necessary for certain actions to be taken," said the Senator.

The White Cane, also known as a guide cane, is recognised as an important mobility tool for blind and visually impaired people. It is a symbol of safety, independence and respect for the inherent dignity of the blind and low vision community.

She argued that it has become imperative that the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), the National Construction Authority (NCA) and the Kenya Roads Board (KRB) fully adopt universal design standards and principles in our transport systems and across the built environments.

She also wants the committee to outline any steps taken by KRB and NCA to ensure the construction of tactile markers, consistency in working streetlights, sonic traffic lights, drop curbs across the country, safe crossing points on our roads, frequency in clear disabled parking slots and universally designed walkways that facilitate the safe use of white cane users countrywide.

The Committee should also state the strategies the Ministry has put in place to sensitise and train motorists to yield the right of way to every white cane user and to further develop adequate awareness programmes on the white cane as a form of non-motorised transport (NMT) within the national driving training curriculum, and to ensure all motorists and traffic authorities adhere to traffic rules to keep blind and visually impaired persons safe on the roads.



Senator Crystal Asige

ON THE FLOOR

Sugar Bill, 2022 now law

Sugar Bill, 2022, is now an Act of parliament after President William Ruto gave his assent on November 1, 2024.

This is after the Senate adopted the report of the Mediation Committee on the harmonised version of the Bill, paving the way for its enactment.

The law is expected to solve long-standing issues that have affected farmers in the subsector, manufacturers and the chain production from the grass-root.

It reinstates the provisions of the Sugar Act, 2001, that was repealed through the enactment of the Crops Act 2013 besides re-establishing the Kenya Sugar Board, to reinvigorate the sugar sector through reestablishment of the Sugar Development Levy, the Sugar Development Fund, the Kenya Sugar Research Institute.

Sugar Act that was previously replaced by the Crop Act in 2013 and has been the subject of extensive deliberation in both Houses of Parliament.

Some of the amendments proposed by the Senate were rejected by the National Assembly, triggering a mediation process.

The Mediation Committee has developed the harmonised Bill.

The Committee changed the terming of zones to eliminate zones and factor in catchment areas that will consider areas of electoral representation and areas that



Senator David Wakoli, the mover of the motion on the report on Sugar Bill, 2022.

will provide sugarcane management.

"This is where the specific catchment area has a number of factories where they will pump resources, do farming and ensure farmers within that area benefit from the factories around there. The catchment area is to represent the farmers when electing people to the Sugar Board."

Another factor that was of concern to the mediation team was to ensure that gender, youth and People with Disability (PwD) are represented in the Board.

The Mediation Committee allowed the Cabinet Secretary when appointing people to the Board to ensure that they meet the gender threshold, the disability and the youth.

To capture the aspirations of the di-

verse zones where people grow sugarcane, the representation and the leadership will be in rotation.

Moving debate on the report, Senator David Wafula said this will ensure that no specific area will dominate, balkanise and seclude others in the management and running of the Board.

"The mandate has been given to the Ministry to ensure regulations are in place and that the factor is enshrined in the law," he said.

Another concern was on how to utilise the taxation that farmers incur with members of the Mediation Committee agreeing that these funds be channelled to the Sugar Board.

On the choice of a professional on the Board, the committee agreed that the

Cabinet Secretary will get a professional in sugarcane development technology with not less than 10 years from a recognised institution in Kenya.

Another amendment that was agreed on by the Committee is one that prohibits a miller from purchasing the crop from a grower who is not registered in accordance with the provisions in the Bill.

A grower shall not sell or deliver sugar crop to a miller unless a grower is registered with and has enforced a valid supply agreement with a miller.

Further a factory of the miller must be situated within the grower's sugarcane zone while the grower will be exempted from the requirement by the Board.



Senator calls for probe on missing security papers

Senator Kavindu Muthama wants the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources to investigate the actions being taken to recover the stolen security papers for title deeds from the Government Printer last September.

In a notice in the Kenya Gazette, dated September 27, the Government reported that over 360 title deeds were missing and it believed had been stolen.

The Ministry of Lands later clarified that the stolen documents were not actual title deeds but rather the printing papers required to create them.

But Senator Muthama wants the Committee to give the measures implemented to track and retrieve the documents and prevent their misuse for fraudulent purposes.

She wants the committee to submit before the House a progress report on the

investigation concerning the theft of the said documents, focusing on identifying the individuals and land cartels involved, along with the strategies implemented to strengthen security protocols at the Government Printer and other pertinent institutions to avert similar occurrences in future.

Senator Mohamed Chute wants the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare to explain the delay by Marsabit County Government in disbursing gratuity to ward officers who were contracted between 2017 and 2022.

In a request for statement, read on his behalf by Senator Betty Montet, he wants the Committee to provide details of all ward officers contracted by Marsabit County during the period, specifying their duration of service and the total gratuity owed to them by the Marsabit County government.



Senator Agnes Muthama

“The Committee should explain the reasons for the prolonged delay in the disbursement of gratuity to the officers and provide timelines for the settling of the outstanding gratuity claims,” she told the House, adding that the Committee

should explain the measures being taken by the county government and address those delays and ensure timely disbursement of gratuity in the future.

Ramp up anti dope vigilance, Senator’s plea to authorities

Senator Samson Cherarkey has urged the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK) to intensify vigilance and eradicate rogue agents and coaches who tarnish careers of most Kenyan athletes through doping them unknowingly.

The lawmaker said it is disheartening for a section of the media across the world to castigate and cast aspersions on Kenyan athletes by questioning their integrity and accusing them of doping without following the due process.

“I call upon the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Athletics Kenya and the National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOCK) to issue a strong rebuttal and defend the integrity of the athletes from such baseless media accusations,” said the Senator in a personal statement to the House last Wednesday afternoon.

The lawmaker fashioned his Statement to pay tribute to Ruth Chepngetich for her incredible performance which saw shatter the women’s Marathon World record and the overall superb performance of the Kenyan team at the Chicago Marathon on Sunday, October 13, 2024.

Chepngetich won the event in two hours, nine minutes and 56 seconds, taking nearly two minutes off the previous best and in the process shattering world record in the women’s marathon.

The performance followed in the

footsteps of the late Kevin Kiptum who last year set the men’s marathon world record last year in the same course.

She becomes the first Kenyan woman athlete to break the 2:10 barrier in a marathon running. She set the new women’s world marathon record at 2:09:56, a gap of almost two minutes over the previous record of 2:11:53, set by Ethiopia’s Tigst Assefa at the Berlin Marathon in 2003. This victory also marked Chepngetich’s third consecutive win at the Chicago Marathon in one of the premier marathons across the world.

In the men’s marathon, John Korir brought home further glory by winning with a personal best of 2:02:04; the second fastest ever recorded in Chicago. He was followed by Ethiopia’s Mohamed Esa who finished at 2:04:39 and Amos Kipruto, in the third position at 2:04:50.

Other Kenyans, Vincent Kipng’etich and Daniel Ebenyo also finished strongly.

The Senator took a dig at baseless allegations made by Mr Robert Johnson, a journalist from LetsRun.com, during the post-race press conference.

The journalist recklessly insinuated Chepngetich world record time of 2:09:56 is too good to be true and linked it to doping without adducing any piece of evidence to support the claim.

“Chepngetich’s consistent performance, winning the Chicago Marathon



Senator Samson Cherarkey

three times in a row is a statement of her dedication, resilience and passion for the sport. The harassment she received from the media, especially the western media and some individual outlets after breaking the world record should be condemned in the strongest terms possible,” said the Senator.

“Instead of being vilified, she should be celebrated for her hard-earned victory and consistency over the years.”

The Senator said there are established standards and procedures including multiple anti-doping tests conducted before and after major competitions.

Kamati ya Usalama mbioni kuwasaidia maafisa wa polisi waliojeruhiwa kazini



Mwenyekiti wa Tume ya Huduma ya Kitaifa ya Polisi Eliud Kinuthia kwenye kikao cha Kamati ya Usalama (kushoto) Seneta George Mbugua and Seneta Julius Murgor, George Mbugua.

Kamati ya Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Masuala ya Nchi za Kigeni iliandaa kikao na Tume ya Kitaifa ya Huduma ya Polisi na Idara ya Usalama na Huduma za Afya Kazini kuangazia malilio ya maafisa wa polisi waliojeruhiwa wakiwa kazini ambao mwezi uliopita waliwasilisha ombi kwenye Seneti wakitaka kusaidiwa ili walipwe malipo hitajika.

Kamati hiyo chini ya Uenyekiti wa Seneta William Cheptumo ilifanya mkao na taasisi hizo zikiongozwa na Mwenyekiti wa Tume, Eliud Kunuthia na Dr Musa Nyandusi miongoni mwa maafisa wengine. Maseneta walielezea

namna maafisa wa polisi waliojeruhiwa wamepitia hali ngumu kupata haki yao ya malipo wakizitaka taasisi hizo kuchangamka na kuwajibika kama katiba na sheria zinavyowahitaji.

Mwanzoni mwa mwezi Oktoba, baadhi ya maafisa wa polisi waliojeruhiwa kazini walifika mbele ya Kamati ya Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Mashauri ya nchi za Kigeni wakiitaka Seneti kushinikiza kutolewa kwa orodha ya maafisa wote wa polisi waliojeruhiwa tangu mwaka wa 2021, ikieleza jina la kila afisa, asili ya jeraha, muda wa jeraha na kiasi cha fidia iliyotolewa kando na kushinikiza Bima ya Afya kuwalipa fidia

maafisa walioathirika mara moja.

“Tangu mwaka 2021, maafisa wa polisi zaidi ya mia nne waliojeruhiwa hawajalipwa fidia ya kuumia baada ya kufanyiwa utathmini na kuagizwa kupelelelwa kwa mujibu wa utaratibu uliolewa, baadhi ya maafisa hao wamedhoofika kabisa kutokana na majeraha waliyoyapata wakiwa kazini, baadhi yao walipoteza mikono na miguu, jambo ambalo liliathiri vibaya maisha yao na ya familia zao na watu wanaowategemea,” walieleza maafisa hao walipofika mbele ya Kamati.

Maseneta kwenye kikao hicho cha awali walikubaliana kwa kauli moja

kuzialika taasisi hizo zinazoshughulikia maslahi ya maafisa wa polisi ili kuyaangazia masuala hayo kwa kina.

Kwenye kikao na taasisi hizo siku ya Alhamisi, Maseneta walielezea kutoridhishwa na majibu yaliyowasilishwa na wasimamizi wa taasisi hizo wakiwataka kufika mbele ya Kamati hiyo Alhamisi wiki hii kwa mara nyingine tena kutoa ufafanuzi na majibu muafaka.

Aidha Wanachama wa Kamati hiyo walikubaliana kuialika Mamlaka ya Afya ya Jamii na Mamlaka ya Udhambi wa Taasisi za utoaji wa Bima kwenye kikao cha Alhamisi kutoa ufafanuzi zaidi kufungamana na lalama za maafisa hao wa polisi.

Kulingana na utaratibu uliopita, baada ya afisa wa polisi kuripoti tukio la jeraha kwa kamanda wa kituo, utathmini unaostahili hufanywa na daktari binafsi na madaktari katika Idara ya Usalama na Huduma za Afya Kazini (DOSHS). Hata hivyo maafisa hao wa polisi awali waliwaambia Maseneta kuwa licha ya kufuatua hatua zote hitajika, bado hawajalipwa fidia yoyote.

Aidha walifichua masikitiko kwamba kwa sasa baadhi yao hawawezi kuzifikia faili zao huku wakitaja kuwepo na visa vya rushwa na mbaya zaidi baadhi ya maafisa kutakiwa kupimwa upya huku wengine wakitakiwa kulipa asilimia fulani ya fidia yao kabla ya kulipwa.

Seneta Chesang` amulika akaunti za benki katika Kaunti ya Trans Nzoia

Seneta Allan Chesang ameitaka Kamati ya Fedha na Bajeti kufanya uchunguzi na kuwasilisha taarifa kuhusu ufunguzi na uendeshaji wa akaunti za benki na mamlaka ya usimamizi wa serikali ya Kaunti ya Trans Nzoia.

Seneta Chesang kwenye ombi lake anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuwasilisha orodha ya akaunti zote za benki zinazoendeshwa na usimamizi wa serikali ya Kaunti hiyo, ikieleza madhumuni ya kila akaunti ya benki, salio husika la kufungua na kufunga kwa mwaka wa fedha wa 2023/2024.

Vile anataka kujua salio la ufunguzi kwa mwaka wa fedha wa 2024/2025 pamoja na salio kufikia Oktoba 1, 2024 mbali na kutoa ripoti ya iwapo utaratibu unaofaa ulifuatwa katika ufunguzi wa akaunti hizo na kutoa ushahidi kwamba uidhinishaji wote muhimu unaohitajika chini ya Sheria ya Usimamizi wa Fedha za Umma na sheria nyinginezo husika ulizingatiwa.

Seneta huyo vilevile anaitaka Kamati

ya Fedha kuweka wazi orodha ya miradi yote iliyofadhiliwa kutoka kwa akaunti hizo za benki, ikionesha hali ya kukamilika kwa kila mradi kando na kufichua maelezo ya mikopo yote ya benki ya muda mfupi iliyochukuliwa na uzimamizi wa serikali ya Kaunti ya Trans Nzoia katika mwaka wa fedha 2023/2024 na 2024/2025 ikitoa uhalali kwa kila benki na kutaja viwango vinavyotumika kila mwaka na kila mwezi na jumla ya gharama ya riba.

Kadhalika Kamati hiyo chini ya Uenyekiti wa Seneta Ali Roba imepewa kazi ya kuonesha ikiwa usimamizi wa serikali ya Kaunti hiyo uliomba na kupewa idhini na Bunge la Kaunti kuchukua mikopo ya muda mfupi ya benki na malipo ya ziada na ikiwa sivyo, iwasilishe sababu muafaka.

Kwingineko Seneta Mohamed Chute anaitaka Kamati ya Leba na Maslahi ya Jamii kuwasilisha taarifa kuhusu kucheleweshwa kwa utoaji wa takrima na serikali ya Kaunti ya Marsabit kwa maafisa wa wadi waliopewa kandarasi



kati ya mwaka 2017 na 2022.

Seneta Chute anaitaka Kamati hiyo kutoa maelezo ya maafisa wote wa wadi waliopewa kandarasi na Kaunti ya Marsabit katika kipindi cha mwaka 2017 hadi 2022, kubainisha muda wao wa kuhudumu na jumla ya malipo wanayodai kutoka kwa serikali ya Kaunti ya Marsabit kando na kueleza sababu za kucheleweshwa kwa shughuli

hiyo ya ulipaji wa takrima kwa maafisa hao ikiwasilisha pia ratiba za malipo ya malimbikizi.

Aidha Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Julius Murgor itahitajika kuweka wazi hatua zinazochukuliwa na serikali ya Kaunti kushughulikia ucheleweshaji huo ili kuhakikisha utoaji wa malipo hayo kwa wakati siku za halafu.

Make KQ competitive, Committee tells airline management



Kenya Airways Chief Executive Officer Allan Kilavuka when he appeared before the Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing



Senator Peris Tobiko

A Committee of the House has urged the management of Kenya Airways to improve its operations so that it can compete effectively with the world airlines.

Senator Peris Tobiko challenged the national carrier to execute cabin upgrades, phase out unprofitable aircraft and routes, optimise cost and rationalise its network.

The lawmaker made the calls when Kenya Airways Chief Executive Officer Allan Kilavuka appeared before the Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing, which is chaired by Senator

Karungo Thangwa.

The Committee had summoned the management of the airline to deliberate on the status of the revitalisation plan for the airline, dubbed Project Kifaru.

Mr Kilavuka expressed optimism on the future of the airline, saying the national carrier is soaring going by the fact that it made an operating profit of Sh10.5 billion in the year ending December, 2023.

He emphasised that KQ is the leading Africa's airline, connecting Africa to over 40 destinations worldwide and supports regional integration by linking

East Africa with the rest of the continent and the globe.

"Kenya Airways directly employs over 4,500 people and indirectly supports thousands more through its extensive supply chain," explained the CEO.

Senator Enock Wambua wondered why the airline is not competitive as compared to other airlines in the world.

The CEO told the Committee that after failure of project Mawingu, KQ adopted "Operation Pride" in a bid to reduce operating expenses and restructure the company for profitability.

Project Mawingu involved selling

and sub-leasing assets, retrenching employees, and appointing Michael Joseph as the board chair in 2016.

"Despite efforts to refocus the business model and grow revenue, the airline continued to face financial struggles," explained Mr Kilavuka.

Although losses decreased by the end of 2017, intensive competition from Middle Eastern carriers and macroeconomic challenges called for new strategies to revive KQ's fortunes.

In 2017, "project Safari" was introduced to address liquidity and operational inefficiencies through debt restructuring and capital reorganisation. The project involved converting debt into equity, securing government guarantees, and sub-leasing aircraft.

Senator Thangwa demanded to know why the airline continued to make losses doubling between 2017 and 2019.

Mr Kilavuka said Project Kifaru focused on survival, stabilisation, and growth.

"Starting in 2021, the initiative aimed to reduce fleet and operational costs, while restructuring the airline's routes and contracts."

Lobby wants Committee to develop law on Smart Power meters



Officials of the Africa Smart Meters Association make their submission during their meeting with the Committee on Energy. Senators Steven Lelegwe (left), Senator John Kinyua, Senator Enock Wambua and Senator Stewart Madzayo listen on.

Africa Smart Meters Association has implored the Committee on Energy to come up with legal framework that will enable local manufacturers get the expertise required to fully develop the industry.

The Association, through its chairman Charles Kaloki and Secretary General James Ngomeli, said that most of the so-called manufacturers in the industry are actually assemblers, with a low percentage of local content, which limits job generation.

"The local smart meter companies illustrate the current landscape of assem-

bly-focused operations rather than true manufacturing in the smart metering sector," said Mr Ngomeli when he appeared before the Committee, which is chaired by Senator Wahome Wamatinga.

"We are conducting a survey among our members to gather information about the partnerships they have established with foreign organisations. For example, our members have collaborated with Chinese firms, awaiting a more favourable business environment and greater certainty."

Smart meters incorporate telecom-

munication technologies like cellular radios, RF mesh, WiFi and PLC for reliable data transmission. They are built with rugged, weatherproof enclosures to withstand harsh outdoor conditions.

The committee heard that the power supply handles a wide voltage range (80V-300V), protecting internal circuitry and ensuring low-power operation with battery backup during outages. PCBs integrate surface mount devices (SMD) for metrology, control, and modular design, enabling seamless assembly of power, communication, and display components.

The association noted that the challenges they encounter are not about smart meters manufacturing standards approved with EPRA, the need for framework arrangement with big off takers like KPLC to ensure certainty and to drive investment.

The drive of Tendering is not sustainable to drive investment, research and the need for universities and research institutions like Kenya Power to drive research to ensure local components are used.

Isiolo Governor to pay Sh500,000 for Senate snub



Senator Mohamed Faki when he chaired the meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee that fined Isiolo Governor Abdi Guyo (centre) for failing to honour summons.

Isiolo Governor Abdi Guyo has been fined Sh500,000 for failing to honour summons of the Committee on Finance and Budget.

The Committee had on several occasions summoned the Governor to address questions concerning pending bills. Governor Guyo was initially invited to appear on August 8, 2024, but did not show up, leading to the fine.

Governor Guyo eventually appeared on Tuesday, October 22 but his explanation for previous nonappearance conflicted, adding to lawmakers' dissatisfaction.

tion.

The Governor attributed his absence to an investors' conference in Isiolo on the scheduled date. Yet, during the session, he cited protests by Gen Z youths in Nairobi as the reason he couldn't travel.

Senator Eddy Oketch expressed discontent with the Governor's shifting statements. "Initially, he mentioned an investors' conference. Now he says Gen Z protests hindered his travel. This is unacceptable," stated Senator Oketch as he highlighted the inconsistencies.

The Committee criticised Governor Guyo for what they viewed as disregard for the Senate and the people of Isiolo. Senator Mohamed Faki, who chaired the session, reminded the Governor of his obligations under the Leadership and Integrity Act, stressing the need for accountability and respect toward Senate directives.

Further, the Governor breached Senate Standing Orders by submitting his responses on the day of his appearance rather than a week prior, as it is required. This procedural lapse added to the frustra-

tations of the Committee members, who voted to escalate the Governor's submissions to the Senate plenary for a deeper review.

Senators Boni Khalwale, Richard Onyonkah and Isiolo's own Fatuma Dullo participated in the session.

Senator Dullo advocated for accountability in the County. Senator Faki said the Committee will set a new date for Governor Guyo to appear.

Withdraw Ward Fund Bill, Governors' call to Senate



Senator Boni Khalwale and Senator Eddy Oketch, members of the Committee on Finance of the Senate during stakeholder engagement on the County Wards (Equitable Development) Bill, 2024, with the Council of Governors, which was represented by Governor Fernandes Barasa.

The Council of Governors has called for the withdrawal of the County Wards (Equitable Development) Bill, 2024, terming it an impediment to the operations of the counties.

The Council voiced its reservations about the Bill during a meeting with the Committee on Finance and Budget.

Governor Fernandes Barasa, the chair of Council's subcommittee on Finance, argued that requiring Counties to allocate at least 60 per cent of development budgets uniformly across wards could hinder large-scale projects that serve broader county interests.

"The blanket allocation model doesn't account for counties' distinct needs or

the need for significant cross-county projects, which might require more flexible funding structures," he said, adding that it reflects both county autonomy and equitable development.

The Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) also submitted its views on the Bill and the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Chairperson Mary Chebukati emphasised the importance of clear operational guidance within the County Wards (Equitable Development) Bill. Such clarity would be essential for project identification committees in each ward, enabling effective resource utilisation.

Ms Chebukati further highlighted a

gap in the Bill's current draft, advocating for provisions to address inter-ward infrastructural projects.

"Including provisions for inter-ward projects will allow Counties to address broader infrastructural goals, enhancing cohesive development," she noted.

On the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, CRA supported adjustment submission timelines for County Finance Bills, reflecting similar recommendations it had presented in previous discussions with Parliament.

The adjustment, CRA believes, would foster a more streamlined budgetary process and provide Counties with ample time to finalize budget plan-

ning.

The County Assemblies Forum presented views and gave insights on how Counties could collaborate on implementation while balancing both local priorities and broader county-wide development goals.

Both Bills aim to refine Financial Management frameworks across Counties and distribute implementation of development across the wards.

Chaired by Senator Mohamed Faki, the meeting also saw contributions from Senator Boni Khalwale, Senator Eddy Oketch, and Senator Richard Onyonkah.

Devolution Committee supports State funding of CoG

The Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations has accepted a proposal to have the national government fund operations of the Council of Governors.

The Council, which is a fraternity of all the 47 Governors, has proposed an amendment to the Intergovernmental Relations (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to provide a comprehensive section on all matters finance, including sources of funding, annual estimates, accounts and audit.

The Council has proposed an amendment to Clause 20 to provide that funds of the Council should consist of monies allocated annually by Parliament, annual subscriptions by county governments, any grants, gifts, donations or other endowments lawfully given to the Council and such monies or assets as may accrue to the Council in the exercise of its powers, or the performance of its functions.

“The Council of Governors is an essential structure in the Intergovernmental space and require budgetary allocation in conducting their mandate,” says the Committee in its report on the Bill.

The Committee accepted submissions by CoG and proposed further amend-

ments to the Bill to include funds allocated by Parliament. The Committee also resolved that facilitating capacity building for CECs should be a responsibility of the respective Governor.

The Bill, in its current format, restricts funding to the Council to annual subscriptions by county governments and such monies as may be lawfully granted or donated to the Council.

The Bill, sponsored by Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, seeks to anchor the Council of Governors (CoG) and the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) into law, in the hope it will strengthen devolution and improve accountability within public entities in the counties.

The CoG will have a Secretariat to be headed by a chief executive. Some of the proposed roles for the Secretariat will include the implementation of decisions of the Council, the establishment and development of an efficient administration of the Secretariat and the organisation, control and management of staff.

Clause 13 establishes a County Assemblies Forum to consist of all the MCAs and the Speakers of the 47 county assemblies.

The forum will be managed by a Na-

tional Executive Board which will be composed of a chairperson, who shall be a Speaker of a County Assembly, vice chairperson and seven other members.

The Bill proposes that County assemblies will have at least 5 members on the Board and no County Assembly shall have more than two members.

The Board shall serve for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-election for one further term.

CAF will provide an avenue for consultation amongst county assemblies, sharing of information on the performance of the County Assemblies in the execution of their functions with the objective of learning and promotion of best practice and where necessary, initiate preventive or corrective action and facilitating disputes within County Assemblies.

The Bill further proposes that there shall be a Secretariat of the Forum which shall be headed by a chief executive officer.

The Bill also proposes to give the Council the power to determine bi-annually the amounts to be paid by county governments as subscriptions.

The proposal was supported by the

Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGTRC), which proposed that funds allocated by Parliament to the Council should be the foremost source of funding for the secretariat, for effective implementation of the Council's mandate.

The State Department for Devolution suggested that the proposed Section 20A be amended because funding of the Council is provided for in Section 37 of the Principal Act which addresses both the Government funds and grants or donations from development partners.

CAF proposed the Bill be amended to incorporate additional functions of the Forum which will include providing an avenue for representing County Assemblies in all engagements with Intergovernmental Forums.

Others are consideration of reports from other intergovernmental forums on matters affecting County Assemblies or relating to the performance of county assemblies and performing any other function as may be conferred on it by the Act or any other legislation or that it may consider necessary or appropriate.

Committee rejects Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2024

The Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights has recommended the rejection of the Constitution of Kenya (Amendments) Bill, 2024.

The Bill, seeks to amend the Constitution to, among others, extend the terms of office of the President, Members of Parliament, Governors and Members of the County Assembly from five to seven years.

The Committee, which is chaired by Senator Wakili Sigei, further recommends that the Procedure and Rules Committee reviews the procedure for consideration of a legislative proposal to amend the constitution should compel the sponsor to garner signatures of at least 15 other senators in support, unless it is sponsored by the Majority Party or the Minority Party.

In recommending the rejection of the Bill, the Committee observed that members of the public who submitted both oral and written memoranda were overwhelmingly in opposition to the Bill.

“This was particularly on the provisions relating to the proposed extension of terms of the President, members of parliament, Governors and members of the County Assembly,” says the Committee in its report, which was tabled to the House last week.

At the close of the public participation

period, the Committee had received a total of 168, 801 submissions on the Bill.

Save for 11 stakeholders who submitted specific comments on the respective clauses of the Bill, the rest of the submissions, representing 99.99 per cent of the submissions expressed strong opposition to the Bill, either in its entirety or specifically the clauses relating to the extension of terms of the President, MPs, Governors and MCAs.

“At the public hearing held on Friday October 25, all the presenters expressed strong opposition to and urged the Committee to reject the Bill, save for one stakeholder who spoke in support of the Bill.”

While the committee acknowledged that some provisions in the Bill have merit, it took the bold decision in line with the Parliamentary practice to the effect that a Bill to amend the constitution, once published and introduced in the House, is never amended.

“Even if the Committee was to find merit in some of the amendments proposed in the Bill, they would befall the same fate as the condemned s in that they cannot be severed from the rest of the Bill.”

While the Committee advised that a fresh Bill would need to be introduced to cater for the meritorious provisions, it argued that it would be untenable for



Members of the Committee on Justice follow proceedings during the public engagement on the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2024, at KICC, Nairobi.

the Senate to proceed with the consideration and passage of the Bill.

The Committee now wants the Senate to introduce a sieving mechanism for vetting and approving Bills to amend the constitution before they are introduced in either House.

It argues this is to ensure that there is a reasonable level of support for the proposals both among members of the public as well as MPs who would be required to consider and vote on the Bill.

“Subjecting a Bill to such a sieving process would ensure that the public is not subjected to unnecessary anxiety over a proposal that may not have the necessary support or backing in the first place, besides avoiding the significant costs incurred by Parliament in facilitating public discussions and collecting views on the Bill.



Senator Samson Cherarkey speaks during the public engagement at KICC, where he defended the Bill..

CPAC directs Governor to explain Sh654 unaccounted for expenditure



Senator Moses Kajwang', the chair of County Public Accounts Committee, speaks during the meeting with Uasin Gishu County Executive led by Governor Jonathan Bii.



Senator Edwin Sifuna (left) and Senator John Methu during the meeting with Uasin Gishu County Government.

The County Public Accounts Committee has directed Uasin Gishu Governor Jonathan Bii to submit a schedule detailing how the County spent Sh654 million of the revenue it received in the 2022/23 financial year. The receipts of the revenue accounts indicate that the County received Sh9.3 billion during the financial year. However, the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) indicates that the county's transactions totaled Sh9.9 billion, translating to a disparity of Sh654 million. The Committee, which is chaired by Senator Moses Kajwang', issued the order after the Governor failed to explain the huge disparity between the two entries. In its responses to audit queries, the county government did not submit a

reconciliation statement to indicate how the money was spent. "You need to provide a schedule detailing how the Sh654 million was spent," Senator Kajwang directed when the Governor appeared before the Committee to respond to queries raised by the Auditor General for the 2022/23 financial year. "Failure to do so, we shall leave this committee with no option but to conclude that the funds have been stolen." The Governor defended himself from the anomaly telling the Committee that the query was a carry over from the period when he was not in office. The period he stated was from the 2019/20 financial year. He told the Committee that his administration has carried a reconciliation of all historical debts which will be captured in the report of

the financial statements for the 2024/25 financial year. However, Senator Edwin Sifuna and Senator Fatuma Dullo rejected the explanation from the County, reminding the Governor that governments exist in perpetuity. "You are the Governor and you can't tell us about you not being in office," said Senator Sifuna. The Governor was also hard pressed how his administration paid a law firm Sh6.2 million for representing the County in a mediation process whose total value was Sh40 million. The Committee was further appalled after it emerged that the matter had been conducted virtually, through an online platform that did not allow parties to meet. Under the Advocates Remuneration Order, an advocate is entitled to charge an instruction fee

which is based on the value of the subject matter, a fee for getting up and preparing for trial which is one quarter of the instruction fees, a fee for preparing court documents which is chargeable per page, a fee for perusing correspondence.

The Committee also hosted Governor Wavinya Ndeti (Machakos County) and Governor Paul Otuoma (Busia).

While the meeting with Governor Otuoma was adjourned after Senator Okiya Omtatah raised issues with the county's financial statement, Governor Ndeti was given 14 days to submit to the Office of the Auditor General details of the pending bills and the extent of the contingent liabilities of the county.

Capitation budget is lower than demand, CS Ogamba explains to House



Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba says capitation funds provided to the Ministry of Education have in the last five years fallen short of the approved rates, leading to underfunding of the schools.

The Cabinet Secretary said the Ministry has been forced to divide the available limited financial resources with the number of learners which have been increasing every year, resulting in capitation amounts that are lower than approved.

“There has been a consistent deficit from the amount approved against the requirements and against the increment in enrolment of the students that have been increasing, while the budget has

not been increasing in tandem with the students,” said CS Ogamba.

The Cabinet Secretary was speaking on the floor of the House when he appeared on Wednesday to respond to Members’ Questions.

In particular, he was responding to a Question raised by Senator Boni Khalwale who wanted to know the amount of money the Ministry set aside for learner capitation grants in the academic years 2023 and 2024.

The Senator, who is also the Majority Whip, further wanted the Cabinet Secretary to state the proportion that has been disbursed for each of the years and the measures the Government has put in place to ensure timely disbursement of the capitation.

The approved capitation rates provided by the Government for primary education is Sh1,420 per learner per year, Junior Secondary School (JSS) is Sh15,042 per learner per year and secondary schools is Sh22,244 per learner per year.

The disbursement is aligned to the financial year, with the academic years falling in between two financial years. For example, the academic year 2023 fell within the 2022/23 financial year 2023/2024.

The CS assured the House that the Ministry has taken steps to ensure that there is timely disbursement of capitation funds to schools adding that from the beginning of the 2023/24 financial year,

capitation is now disbursed on a timely basis on the ratio of 50:30:20. “That means, for Term One, we do 50 per cent; Term Two, 30 per cent and Term Three, 20 per cent. This is a change from the previous disbursements that were being done quarterly.”

He said the Ministry requests for funds which are released immediately after they are received.

“The Ministry requests for funds from the Exchequer at least three weeks before schools open. Once funds are received, they are disbursed to schools immediately. There might be some delays where some schools do not receive the money on a timely basis where the Exchequer has been delayed.”

In the 2022/23 financial year, budgeted allocation to Primary schools was Sh11.8 billion. Since the academic year falls in two academic financial years, the first academic year, the allocated amount was Sh8.3 billion. The actual amount disbursed for that academic year was Sh10.9 billion.

For that same year because it falls between two financial years, 2023/24 financial year, the budgeted allocation was Sh9.0 billion.

For the academic year, it was Sh8.1 billion. The amount disbursed was about Sh8.8 billion.

For the 2024/25 financial year, the budgeted allocation was Sh9.1 billion. For the academic year, the allocation was Sh1.6 billion and the amount dis-

bursed was about Sh1.5 billion.

While appreciating the Cabinet Secretary for the response but pointed out that the situation on the ground, where the rubber meets the road, is different.

“In Kakamega and many other counties, all the heads of schools are waiting for money, which is not forthcoming. They are unable to fund the activities in the school and children end up being at home because of the delays,” said Senator Khalwale.

Senator Catherine Mumma challenged the Ministry to do an impact assessment on the continued failure to meet the required budget for capitation.

“How many needy students have fallen off the secondary school as a result of this low capitation? How do you link the bursary funds that purportedly are given by governors and by Members of Parliament regarding the deficit that you have presented?”

On impact assessment, the CS said with inadequate funds, there is evidence that the quality and performance of some of the schools may fall below the required standards because it becomes very difficult for the headteachers to run the schools.

“As a Ministry, we have to grapple with the situation and see what can be done and where we can efficiently use the funds to ensure that we are able to uphold the standards of our education that is required.”

This Week in History

House compels national government to formulate water harvesting policies



Zipporah Kittony.

On October 30, 2013, the House debated the Motion which compelled the National Government to initiate and formulate water harvesting policies to guide water harvesting programmes in all the 47 counties to reduce over dependence on primary water sources.

The Motion was sponsored by Senator Zipporah Kittony who said a lot of rain water is wasted. “We have about a three months’ spell of dry season where you find that people keep on moving with their livestock from place to place in search of water,” he told the House, while moving the Motion.

“We get six or more months of rain in this country and the water is wasted or goes to do a lot of damage like displacing people in the western part of the country and also in the Tana Delta.”

She argued that the harvested water can be used in many ways, for example, in irrigation.

“I am saying this because there are places like where I come from, Trans Nzoia County, with good soils and sufficient rainfall, but there are some months which are very harsh. If the water is collected and preserved, continued farming will be realised and we will not run short of things.”



Senator Elizabeth Ongoro said.

“Our country is very unique. Perennially, we have two problems; that is, drought and flooding. This happens in the same country. We know that around a certain time, people living in certain regions, for instance, near the Kano plains of Nyanza, have to migrate to the uplands because it will be flooded. However, in a few short months, the same people experience drought. In one part of the country, you may be experiencing perennial drought while in another part, we have floods throughout. This begs for answers as to why, 50 years after Independence, we have not come up with a broad policy initiative that can compel the national Government, in collaboration with the county governments, to put in place initiatives of water harvesting.”



Senator Kithure Kindiki said.

“We have legislated on other things like forest cover where, for example, we aim at making our country achieve ten per cent forest cover. I do not see why we cannot legislate on certain targets in the water sector in terms of the amount of water which is available, especially if we have to ease the burden which is there on our rivers. There is now a lot of pressure on the international water courses. Right now, there is a huge debate and the Second of this Motion mentioned about it, for example, the fact that we contribute a lot of water to Lake Victoria which ends up flowing and assisting other countries downstream, on its way to the Mediterranean Sea.”



Senator Daniel Karaba said.

“As Kenyans, we should revisit the Nile Agreement which was signed in 1954 and see to what extent we are going to recognise it. Why should a river flowing from Lake Victoria be controlled in Egypt? Why should we do that when we are the ones contributing to the water levels in Lake Victoria by planting trees? We are also doing the water conservancy of the lake. We have big rivers flowing into Lake Victoria, for example, Nyando River, the River Yala and River Nzoia. If these rivers can be controlled when the rains come, I am sure we can use them to generate electricity, fish harvesting and irrigation. This is what we should be thinking about our country. We should not always just talk about other countries being ahead of us. We should come up with ideas on how to control these rivers. The moment we control these rivers we are going to contain and conserve water which can be used during the dry season.”

Concern over maternity services at Lucy Kibaki Hospital



Senator Tabitha Keroche



Senator Beatrice Ogola



Senator Sheikh Abbas



Senator Hamida Kibwana



Senator Jackson Mandago

Senators have expressed concern over the quality of healthcare offered at Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital in Nairobi County.

Specifically, they decried the stalled projects at the Hospital and challenged Governor Johnson Sakaja and the national Government to ensure the facility has a fully-fledged independent maternity wing.

The Hospital has a maternity wing that is being developed with 120 beds. The wing has a vision of two operating theatres, six delivery beds, 10 burn units, and a 60-bed maternity lounge for pre-term babies.

The cost for the construction of the wing is estimated at Sh344 million but it was allocated only Sh70 million in the last financial year.

The Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) had started the construction of the neonatal Intensive Care Unit (ICU), which is among the stalled projects at the facility.

“Giving birth to a Kenyan child is a sacred duty that must be fully supported and given due regard and the care that mothers should have,” said Senator Veronica Maina as she called for improvement of infrastructure at the Mama Lucy Hospital.

“I urge hospitals in all the 47 counties where women are being held because of hospital bills after giving birth, to release them forthwith and no woman should be held in a hospital because they cannot pay for their maternity bills.”

The lawmaker was making contribution to the Statement sought by Senator Hamida Kibwana on the state of facilities and services offered at the Hospital.

In her Statement, Senator Kibwana

described the state of health services at the facility as “deplorable”, citing the maternity wing which has an acute overcrowding with as many as five patients sharing a single bed.

“There are claims that patients are unable to fully access necessary facilities and are still being charged for services they could not utilise,” explained Senator Kibwana in her Statement.

“The situation raises serious concerns about the dignity, safety, and well-being of the patients relying on the hospital for essential maternity and general health care services.”

She argued that the situation at the facility highlights broader issues of inadequate healthcare infrastructure and staffing at the facility, which falls under the responsibility of the County Government of Nairobi.

Senator Kibwana wants the Committee on Health to submit a report to the House on the extent of overcrowding, the strain on facilities and provide a report on the noted constraints to service provision to Kenyans.

“The Committee should outline the measures being taken by the County Government of Nairobi to address the overcrowding, including immediate interventions and long-term plans to improve health care infrastructure and services at the hospital,” she said.

She further wants the Committee to clarify the steps being taken to ensure the patients are not unfairly charged for services that they are unable to access due to current constraint and recommend measures on how the national Government, through the Ministry of Health, can support the county government in improving service delivery at the Hospital.

Contributing to the debate on the

Statement, Senator Maina said it was unimaginable that hospital is overcrowded, that mothers who are giving birth have to share beds.

“A man may not understand what kind of an experience women have when they are delivering babies. If a budget was to be directed to any facility in this Republic, it must look at the maternity wings that are in this nation,” she explained.

Senator Aaron Cheruiyot urged the two levels of government to intervene urgently.

“The Committee on Health should treat this matter with the urgency that is needed. If up to four or five citizens of this Republic are sharing one hospital bed, then the intervention by the county government and the national Government is urgently needed to alleviate the suffering being faced by the citizens.”

Senator Beatrice Ogola said women go through distress as they deliver and urged the Committee to look at such cases in all the hospitals, not just Mama Lucy Hospital.

While admitting there are many challenges afflicting hospitals in the country, Senator Mohamed Chute argued that the problems were less when the national Government was running the hospitals. “When you go to a hospital, you are given a list of what you should have. It could include bedsheets, pillows, slippers, mugs, vaccines and many other things. I do not know where we are heading.”

Senator Tabitha Keroche assailed County Government of Nakuru, noting that services in hospitals have gone down since the current administration took power. This he said is due to the disruption of the medical personnel,

some who were fired and other medical doctors or medical workers in the Margaret Kenyatta and Mothers-Baby unit were employed.

“Their qualifications are in doubt and there is mismanagement of the funds collected daily. We will not allow counties led by lady governors to have the maternity hospitals deteriorate under our watch, when we know they understand what mothers go through to bring forth newborns.”

Senator Sheikh Abbas said the bulk of the health funds are allocated to the National government which has undermined health services in the counties.

He said counties are almost failing just because they are not receiving their monies in time to buy drugs and pay for the services of the doctors and other medics.

Senator Jackson Mandago, the chairperson of the Committee on Health, pleaded for time to visit and fact-find on the matter.

He said there are over 10,200 facilities in counties which require the attention of the Committee.

“I will be proposing that we convert all the 67 Senators for a period of time, to be Members of the Health Committee, so that we can disperse them to make field visits,” he said.

He said from the Committee’s field visits, there has been tremendous improvement in a number of facilities it has visited, including Longisa County Referral Hospital in Bomet, Kisii Level 5 Hospital in Kisi County and Mombasa Level 5 Hospital and in Kwale County.”



1. Teachers and students of Ruby Kraft Adventist School, Homabay County, during their tour of Parliament Buildings.
2. Students and teachers of Kalyongwet Secondary School, Kericho County at the Senate during their academic tour.
3. Students from University of Kabianga follow proceedings during
4. Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot speaks to students from Kabianga University who had toured Parliament Buildings.



5. Deputy Minority Leader Enock Wambua reacts as Senators wished him a happy birthday.
6. Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot (right), Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo and Senator Veronica Maina join Senator Enock Wambua in cutting the cake to celebrate his birthday.

7. Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot shares with the Deputy Minority Leader Enock Wambua the cake in celebration of his birthday.
8. Senator Enock Wambua shares the cake with Senator Munyi Mundigi
9. Senator Betty Montett attended the party.
10. Senator Peris Tobiko prepares to eat Senator Enock Wambua's birthday cake.



11. Senator Samson Cherarkey tastes the cake.
12. Senator James Lomenen
13. Female Senators toast to celebrate Senator Catherine Mumma (third right) birthday at a cake cutting party held at the Senate.
14. Speaker Amason Kingi celebrates with Senator Catherine Mumma during her birthday party.



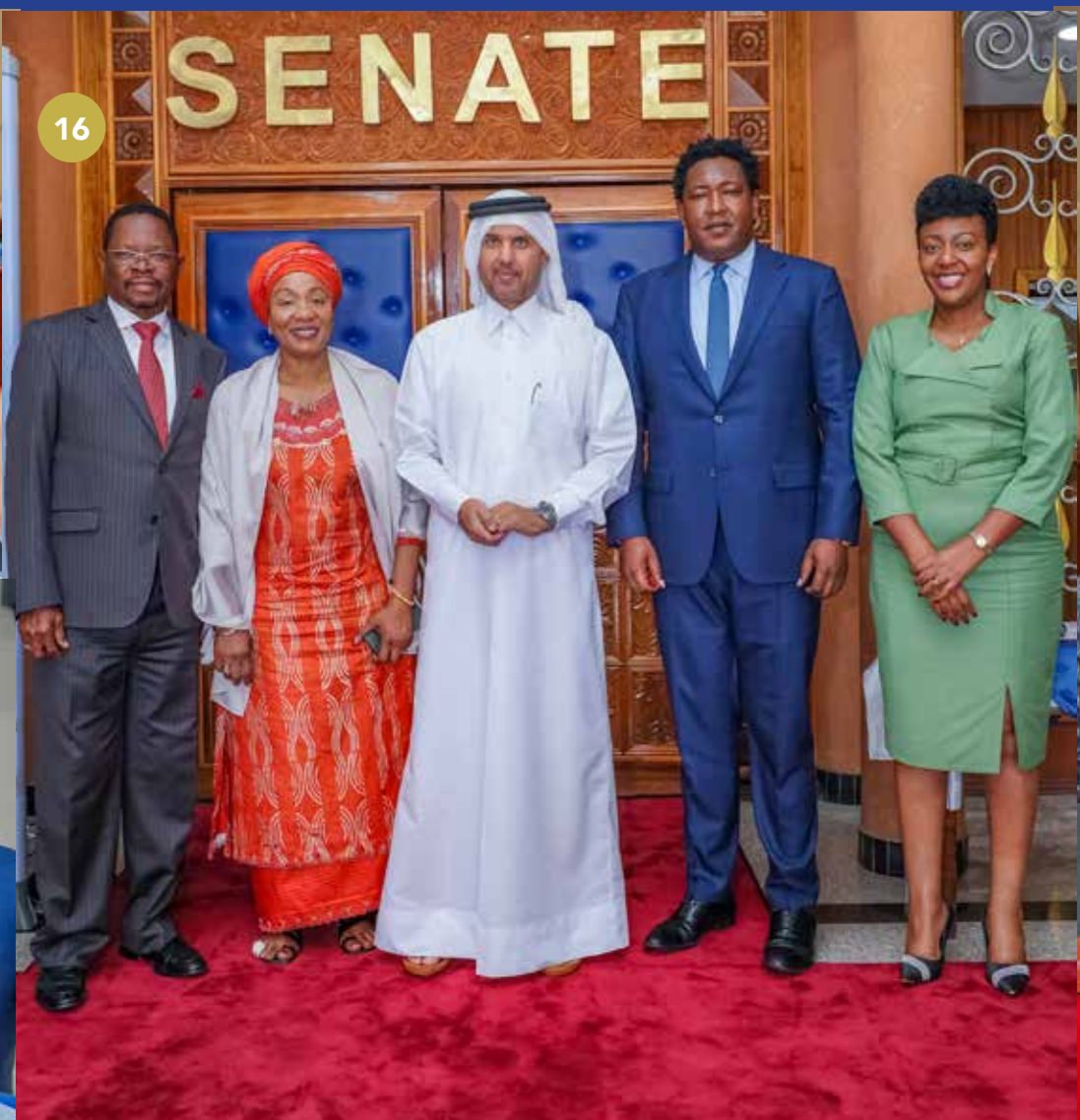
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15. From Left, Senator Beatrice Ogola, Senator Raphael Chimera, Senator Miriam Omar, Senator Betty Montett, Senator Mohammed Faki and Tabitha Mutinda during their meeting the Qatar Ambassador to Kenya, His Excellency Mohammed Mutair Al Anzi at the Senate.

16. Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo and Senator Hamida Kibwana with His Excellency Mohammed Mutair Al Anzi, the Qatar Ambassador in Kenya.

17. Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo and Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina with the His Excellency Mohammed Mutair Al Anzi, the Qatar Ambassador to Kenya. Behind them is Senator Hamida Kibwana.

18. Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot bids farewell to His Excellency Mohammed Mutair Al Anzi, the Qatar Ambassador in Kenya, after his visit to Parliament Buildings.

19. Minority Whip Stewart Madzayo (right), Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina and Senator Hamida Kibwana escort His Excellency Mohammed Mutair Al Anzi, the Qatar Ambassador in Kenya after his tour of Parliament Buildings.

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20. Members of the Senate Board of Management, led by Deputy Clerk Mohamed Ali, during their meeting with the team from Africa Development Policy Initiative which was led by Dr Obiageli Ezekwesili, the President of Human Capital Africa and Senior Economic Adviser.
21. The group photo of Members of the Senate Board of Management and the team from Africa Development Policy Initiative at the Senate.
22. Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi (fourth left) pose for a photo with students from Starehe Boys' Centre and Kianda School who are on a two-week voluntary service at the Senate.



23. Speaker Amason Kingi (third left) and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula lead Parliamentary leadership in walking to KICC where the swearing in of Deputy President Kithure Kindiki was conducted.

24. Speaker Kingi and Speaker Wetangula share a joke as they waited for the official start of the swearing in Ceremony of Deputy President, Prof Kithure Kindiki.

25. Speaker Amason Kingi congratulates Prof Kithure Kindiki after he was sworn in as the Deputy President at KICC.

26. Speaker Kingi shakes hand with US Ambassador Meg Whitman before Prof Kithure Kindiki swearing in as Deputy President.

27. Senator Betty Montet at Prof Kithure Kindiki swearing in ceremony.

28. Senator Miraj Abdulrahman (in blue jacket) at KICC during the swearing in of Prof Kithure Kindiki as deputy President.

29. Senator Esther Okenyuri and Senator Munyi Mundigi (right) at KICC at the deputy President swearing in ceremony.



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