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Focus shifts to Allocation of Revenue Bill

The Mediation Committee settles on Sh387 billion as county equitable share in 2024/25 financial year, paving way for the consideration of the President's memorandum on County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2024.



Senator Edwin Sifuna, who was part of the Senate team in the Mediation Committee, speaks during one of the meetings of the Committee.



Senator Ali Roba (right) and Hon Ndiri Nyoro shake hands to symbolise the Sh387 billion during the last meeting of the Mediation Committee. Others in the picture are Senator Eddy Oketch, Senator Edwin Sifuna and Senator Wahome Wamatinga (between Senator Roba and Hon Nyoro).

The process of considering the annual Division of Revenue Bill has become long drawn. Rarely has the law been enacted without a mediation process.

The latest situation, where the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024, has been amended even before it was implemented and subjected to mediation twice, demonstrates the challenges of resource sharing in any society.

From a high of Sh415 billion, the winding process of enacting the Bill has culminated with counties being allocated Sh387 billion in the 2024/25 financial year, just about Sh2 billion that counties received in the last financial year, 2023/24.

While the Sh387 billion is likely to impede county governments operations and effect service delivery, the situation would have been worse for devolution if the Senate never existed.

The Committee on Finance and Budget has argued that the proposed reduction of the equitable share for counties will adversely impact implement on the

implementation of various programmes.

In this financial year, counties are expected to incur additional non-discretionary expenditures as a result of new priority programmes initiated by the national Government whose total cost is Sh40 billion.

They include the Community Health Promoters (CHPs) Programme of whose challenges may affect the implementation of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIP) programme and the allocation to the construction of county headquarters in five counties.

The challenge that has faced the enactment bill in this financial year, has only helped strengthen the role of the Senate in the sharing of resources between the two levels of government.

Division of Revenue Bill is a critical tool that determines who gets what between the two levels of Government.

Most significantly, the allocation falls short of the intentions of the Senate, which has always pushed for increased funding for devolution.

The agreement now paves the way for the Senate to consider the Presidential Memorandum on the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2024. The Bill was passed last June and forwarded to the President for assent. But he refused to sign and returned it to the House with reservations.

The President has asked the House to revise the total allocation due to counties by Sh20 billion, to Sh380 billion. This followed the rejection of the Finance Bill, 2024, following a wave of anti-tax protests in the country.

The Revenue Allocation Bill is predicated on the Division of Revenue Act and with the new allocation, it means that the House will have to reconsider and make it reflect the reality of the Sh387 billion and not the Sh400.1 billion that was agreed between the two sides early in the year.

The withdrawal of the Finance Bill means that the estimated revenue to be raised nationally in this financial year has been reduced by Sh346 billion, from Sh2.9 trillion to Sh2.6 trillion.

“The unpredictability of the amounts due to counties within a fiscal year will adversely affect budget implementation in counties. In also contravenes Article 219 of the constitution which provides for that transfer of equitable share to counties should be undertaken without undue delay and without deduction,” says the Committee on consideration of the Bill.

During the Mediation process, the Senate rejected the proposal to have the County Governments carry the burden of carrying the shortfall.

County equitable share as a percentage of ordinary revenue has been decreasing over the years. From 21.9 per cent in the 2014/15 financial year to Sh16.8 in the 2023/24 financial year.

Available data indicates that ordinary revenue is expected to grow by 15 per cent, which is Sh342.5 billion, from Sh2.3 trillion in the 2023/24 financial year to Sh2.6 trillion in this financial year.

The National Assembly has strongly held to the belief that the Senate has

no role in the enactment of the Division of Revenue Bill, a position that if ever it was upheld portends existential threat for devolution.

Whereas the National Treasury had initially proposed Sh391 billion as allocation to counties in this financial year, the Senate went for Sh415 billion as the allocation to counties, which is in line with the position adopted by the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA).

The National Assembly rejected the

figure when the Bill went for concurrence, paving the way for the first mediation this year.

The outcome of the mediation was a deal of Sh400.1 billion.

"The sharing of the revenues, both vertically and horizontally, is at the core of the devolved government system that was created by the 2010 constitution," Speaker Emeritus Ekwee Ethuro observed in the ruling made in 2013.

"The implementation of the Consti-

tution in this regard is not merely about outcomes, but also about processes. The outcomes speak to the amount of money to be allocated to the two levels of government while the processes speak to the procedure as set out in the Constitution."

The National Assembly has held the view that the Division of Revenue Bill is a matter solely for the National Assembly to determine.

Speaker Ethuro observed that the essence of the position advanced by the Na-

tional Assembly is that while the Senate can allocate monies between counties it has no say and no role whatsoever in the determination of the amount of money that will be available for such allocation.

"Stretched to its limits, this interpretation would mean that the Senate will merely wait for the National Assembly to determine in any particular year the amount due to counties, which amount could very well be set at nil."

House concludes debate on 'Harambee' Bill



Senator Gloria Orwoba and Senator Agnes Kavindu



Senator Veronica Maina and Senator Wakili Sigei



Senator Beatrice Ogola



Senator Samson Cherarkey

Senators have welcomed the spirit underpinning the Public Fundraising Appeals Bill, 2024, but expressed reservations with the letter of the proposed law, arguing that it risks banning public fund raisers as Kenyans have come to know it.

The legislators who contributed to the Bill defended the harambee spirit, saying many Kenyans in influential positions are beneficiaries of the system and observed that rather than making it hard to conduct fund raisings, the Bill should simplify it instead.

While the Senators support the proposal to regulate fund raisings, they are also unhappy with the regime provided for in the Bill, which proposes that a Cabinet Secretary and County Executive Committee to facilitate.

"A few of us have abused this noble activity that has helped this nation come up with very credible institutions," said Senator Beatrice Ogola while contributing to debate on the Bill.

"The harambee spirit belongs to our

forefathers. When we were growing up, there were even schools that were referred to as harambee schools. People came together, collected the little that each one of them had, put up schools that notable personalities went through, and today they are credible people wherever they are."

The Bill seeks to establish a regulatory mechanism at both national and county level to oversee the conduct of fundraising appeals, provide for licensing and regulation of fundraisers and the promotion of transparency and accountability in the conduct of fundraising appeals.

The Bill is also proposing to regulate the conduct of state and public officers in participation of public fundraising appeals and the administration of the legislation.

In enacted, the Bill will repeal the Public Collections Act whose institutional architecture does not align with the devolved structures and is not sufficiently robust to address corruption

tendencies associated with public fundraising appeals

The Bill gives the Cabinet Secretary to receive, vet, process, and approve fund raising permits.

The Bill restricts its application to private fundraising appeals except where such appeals fall within public appeals for public purposes. Its passage will promote the use of devolved structures as entities for promoting structured social development by ensuring that the conduct of public appeals is approved by assessing their links to the needs and priorities of the counties and their decentralised structures.

A person planning to collect money through a fund raiser will be required to apply and obtain a permit from the authorities, both at national and county government.

Such a person will be required to submit to the Cabinet Secretary or the respective county executive committee member an application for a permit at least 14 days before the date of the fundraising.

The application will include the full names and address of the person intending to collect the money, the purpose of the fundraising, the necessity of collecting the money, the date of the fund raiser, the names and contact details of the persons assisting in the collections and the amount intended to be raised.

Senator Wakili Sigei opposed the proposal saying it is not a necessary regulation and proposed that it should be decentralised to the lowest level in the administration of the national Government, which is the chief.

Senator Samson Cherarkey said introducing a Cabinet Secretary, audits and taxation on public fund raisers is unnecessary. "It is lethargy of the entire process, clogging it," he said, adding that the process of doing a harambee should be simple, "where you need a permit to do a harambee by giving a substantive reason".

"There are cases where harambees have been used to launder public money,

but we should not kill the spirit of harambee. Harambees enabled those of us who grew up in the village to go to school, build cattle dips and have good places of worship at the end of the day. Let us not lose that good intention.

"Cabinet Secretaries have better things to do than regulate harambees. I would have expected that we would give a law that we give even through a law that provides for clear guidelines."

Senators Gloria Orwoba supported the Bill because it forces leaders to stop encouraging the spirit of dependency. "When I talk about the spirit of dependency, it is not just leaders who go to harambees to give money for funerals, for health reasons and all other things," she noted.

She said that some of the structures in place should be pushed away and efficient ones embraced.

Senator Agnes Kavindu opposed the Bill because this nation was built through harambee.

Senator Oburu Oginga supported the regulation of harambees arguing that public officers who are supposed to offer free service to the people use them to get money from the public.

"I support that harambee should be there, but there should not be licensing for them," he told the House.

Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, while moving the Bill, allayed Members' fears that the proposed law is a scheme to ban harambee.

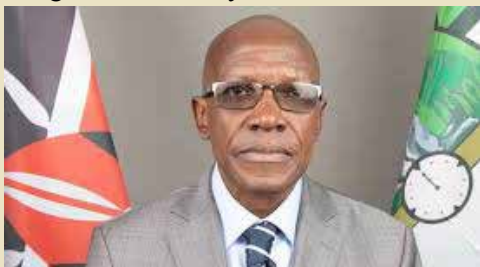
"I want to confirm this Bill is not an attempt to stop people from contributing in public fundraisers," he said, adding there will be an opportunity for non-state and public officers to continue fundraising.

"We may perhaps not agree. I have been told the committee will propose ways in which you regulate. Maybe the word "licensing" is a bit strong. Maybe notification will be important, so that you file a particular report on how this exercise is done and conducted."



Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot

“Many of the colleagues that have spoken this afternoon, they are entirely misinformed. There are two issues; first, there is misinformation generally, because this Bill does not ban harambees. It only stops you and I, public and state officers, from presiding over. Otherwise, harambees are permitted. I have listened to the comments of colleagues about this Bill which are very interesting. Some propose a total rejection. Others such as Senator Ledama ole Kina propose that they not just ban harambees, but also look into charitable organisations that run activities in the country to ensure that they do this in strict compliance with our laws. There are those who agree that we need to stop public and state officers from participating in fundraisers for the sole reason that it is one of the avenues through which we can demonetise our politics and reduce the influence of money in our politics. Like the good Bible says, the love of money is the root to evil. Many times, when money is not prudently used, it can be used for bad things in our society.”



Senator Boni Khalwale

“The intention of this Bill is not to abolish harambees. The intention is to sanitise, make it decent and make sure that we do not hide in harambees to practice corruption. This Bill has been very well-thought through. When you read through it, it is not casual. Harambee is good. However, if unregulated, people will use it to sanitise the money they steal from us. that money. I have had the choice and pleasure, for six years, to practice medicine, in the former Coast Province. I know what poverty has done, not just at the Coast, but in the entire country. They steal money meant to improve the productivity of the lands, so that they allow the people to come to them through harambees, begging for food. Through this law, we do not want that kind of money. This is indeed a difficult decision to make. Someone who will not take trouble to read this Bill will think we are against charitable

activity. No!



Senator Ledama ole Kina

“I have no beef with people coming together to help one individual improve their status of living. I believe that the pace we are now taking in regulating fundraisings is completely ill-advised. I do not support the proposals made in this Bill. We should be working hard to ensure that every citizen has access to free health care. We should be working hard to ensure that every young child born from the bundus of Narok or Turkana are able to get access to quality and free education as well as health care. Regulating this kind of fundraising is making sure that we are condemning this generation into poverty. I completely detest that approach. I have listened to the Majority Whip Khalwale talking about how he could not have finished school without harambee. That is very true to all of us. However, are we going to stagnate and stay there for the rest of our generation or are we going to do things differently? I invite my colleagues to discuss how we will make sure that the State takes responsibility for those who have not been given an opportunity to get where we are. When you require us to profile individuals carrying out fundraising activities, I then conclude that we are content with being poor and widening the gap between the rich and the poor.”



Senator Eddy Oketch

“This Bill seeks to curb or regulate fundraising. The Majority Leader has been greatly misunderstood. I listened to the Minority Whip describing the intent of this Bill as that of being able to overly deal with any kind of donations or charitable deeds, especially in terms of money. I do not think that is what the Majority Leader seeks to cure here because I do not think that the idea of this Bill is to attack, for instance, the charitable or nonprofit organisations that we have in the country. The Majority Leader is seeking to cure problems that we have seen of public leaders using the platforms of fundraising as a way of basically capturing the people and insincerely taking control of public

discourse. That is a fundamental problem. To that extent, the Majority Leader is right, because Chapter 6, Article 73 of the Constitution, which is what I think is the crust of the problem that the Majority Leader seeks to solve, talks about responsibility of leadership. The political leadership, to be specific, has been irresponsible on issues of fundraising. The amounts of money we see going to fundraising, cannot be explained by any means possible. This is the reality that the public is getting tired of that kind of behaviour.”



Senator Crystal Asige

“We are a democracy that is not quite there yet because the majority of our population are still very needy in many ways. If this was Switzerland, Australia, the United States or Canada, perhaps, then we could think about realising this in the best way possible. However, we are not there yet, and I am not sure that we will be helping, and we might be hurting the situation if this Bill does not go through a lot of corrections and amendments to try and cure some of the issues that have been raised by many Senators. We do not want to promote the culture of dependency. I am not sure that that is a fair statement because of the kind of society we live in. We are dependent, that is just the fact and it is a reality. The majority of us are dependent, and we do not want this kind of Bill to speak to the public and say that we are punishing the majority, whilst trying to control the minority who may abuse harambees or fundraising appeals. How can we justify that to the masses who are the majority of Kenyans? We do not want to speak or legislate from a point of privilege. I am concerned that is what we might be risking if we continue without heavily amending or even rethinking this entire



Senator Sheikh Abbas

“The spirit of harambee has been the fundamental cornerstone for this country with regard to development. It is only after the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) and the other funds came in when the country’s economy improved that people want to change the spirit of

brotherhood. Harambees have created cohesion. Most of the poor people came up and most of the students today as well as many of our professionals went for scholarships outside the country through harambees. Fundraisers have created love among the communities. It is only through sharing with the poor that we love one another. We cannot throw away the brotherhood that harambees have created. Almost 70 percent of people are below the poverty line. They cannot even afford two meals in a day or pay school fees. The Government said there was free education. However, we are not seeing any free education. Even primary schools, children have been told to go and bring money. Mothers cannot even afford it. They sell chickens and all these things. If anybody wants to stop corruption by stopping harambees, I think that is very wrong. What I will say is that those who steal give more in harambees, so that this money come back to the public. If you say that there are no harambees, then those who stole, the corrupt will keep the money in the banks or even overseas.”



Senator William Kisang

“I hope the Majority Leader will rethink this Bill. We cannot do as a country without harambee. Most of our churches also were built through harambees. Some were done by missionaries who came to the country early, maybe 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. These missionaries got their resources because of harambees in their own country. They raised from charity organisations and from those who were philanthropic enough to contribute. Then the resources came to Kenya, came to Africa. Our churches and mosques were built as a result of harambee. Most people went to school because of harambee. I almost missed going to Form 1 because my parents did not have anything. Because of the community, they sat and said, this is a young man, a young boy who did very well. He was top of his school and then they decided to contribute. At that time our school fees were Sh1,540. It was not easy to get Sh1,500 in 1982. If it was not easy to get Sh1,500, how about now, when those joining Form 1, are expected to pay Sh60,000? What I am saying as a leader and as a legislator, we will not agree to legislate harambees in our country. If we do, many people will be locked out of schools.”

Counties are struggling on health delivery, President acknowledges



Speaker Amason Kingi receives President William Ruto at Parliament Buildings.

President William Ruto has acknowledged that counties are struggling to deliver on health. In his State of the Nation address to Parliament, President Ruto cited financial challenges as the main reason, even as declared the national government will not sit back and watch

as Kenyans suffer.

“Despite health being a devolved function, we acknowledge the immense financial burden that comes with it,” said President Ruto when he addressed the Parliament.

“Counties have struggled with shortages of medicine, equipment and staff, hindering service delivery and leaving countless Kenyans with sub-optimal access to healthcare.”

He went on: “It would have been easy for me to step back and leave this responsibility to counties alone, but that will be a disservice to Kenyans and a betrayal of our Constitution.”

Instead of engaging in debates about healthcare being devolved, the President said, he has chosen the harder but necessary path of addressing the challenge.

Health delivery is not just about fulfilling a constitutional mandate but ensuring that healthcare is not a privilege for the few who can afford and pipe dream for many who cannot.

He noted that for years the defunct National Hospital Insurance Fund

(NHIF) was saddled with debts and inefficiencies, and that healthcare was being severely and negatively impacted.

“For far too long, too many households have lived on the edge, just one illness away from financial catastrophe. Our healthcare system has historically neglected the poor and vulnerable, leaving them without any options, while private sector medical covers remained out of reach for the majority,” said President Ruto.

“This is precisely what we will correct through the provision of universal healthcare. This agenda is not just a promise. It is a bold commitment to deliver health through transformative financing reforms, making healthcare accessible and affordable, digitising healthcare services to enhance efficiency, eliminate fraud and stop corruption, and to empower a skilled and motivated health workforce.”

Senators query quality of the cement in market



Senator Okiya Omtatah

Senators have queried the quality of cement in the country.

Senator Samson Cherarkey sought for a statement in which he wants to be informed on the level of compliance of cement produced in Kenya with the set standards.

He in particular wants the Committee on Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism to outline the adherence levels of all cement manufacturers to the set standards.

He wants the Committee to report the compliance of cement produced in Ken-

ya Bureau of Standards (KeBS), KSEAS 18-1, and outline the adherence levels of all cement manufacturers.

He also wants the report on the findings of the recent market surveillance operation conducted by KeBS on the quality of cement in Kenya, with specific focus on how it has addressed the reasons behind the non-implementation of quality assurance recommendations.

The Senator also wants detailed action taken against unscrupulous cement manufacturers and smugglers who have

compromised cement quality, leading to the collapse of buildings and loss of lives.

The statement should clarify where the Weights and Measures Department and the Kenya Anti-Counterfeit Authority failed in their responsibilities in monitoring compliance and ensuring consumer protection under the Consumer Protection Authority, thereby contributing to the poor quality of concrete and cement used in construction and compromising the safety of buildings.

Senator Tabitha Mutinda, while supporting the Statement, noted that the quality of cement is a key issue since housing is one of the basic needs.

“If we have unscrupulous business people bringing in substandard cement into the country, then they jeopardise the standards that have been set by the National Construction Authority as far as the standard of housing is concerned,” she said.

She said the cost of cement is high. Cement is retailing at Sh850. “If the cost is high and we are being informed that the same cement is not up to the standard, then it worries as to the kind of structures that we are going to have.”

Senator Okiya Omtatah said the question of cement is important and should not be compromised because cement is shelter.

He noted that cement is everything in terms of building homes that are lasting and urbanisation, especially in Kenya, where the next frontier is urbanization as a way of combating poverty.

“We need good quality cement and at affordable prices. The Committee that will look into should dig in and ferret out whoever is behind cement that does not meet the standards that have been set by the Kenyan Bureau of Standards, which are regularly revised, so they are up to date,” he said.

He added: “Some contractors bring cement from their homeland. I have always wondered why the Chinese come with their own cement to do certain projects. Is it that the cement that is made in Kenya is substandard or are our standards not to international levels?” Senator Omtatah posed.

He wondered why there are no cracks on Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) that was done many years ago while some modern buildings already have cracks.

Maswali yaibuka kuhusu ubora wa saruji



Seneta Samson Cherarkey

Seneta Samson Cherarkey ametaka taarifa kutoka kwa Kamati ya Biashara, Viwanda na Utalii kuhusu ubora na viwango vya Saruji katika soko la Kenya.

Katika taarifa hiyo, Kamati inafaa kuripoti utiifu katika viwango ambavyo saruji inayozalishwa nchini Kenya kufungamana na Shirika la Ukadiriaji Ubona wa Bidhaa (KEBS) ikionesha viwango vya utiifu vya watengenezaji

wote wa saruji kwa viwango hivyo.

Seneta Cherarkey anaitaka Kamati hiyo kuwasilisha ripoti kuhusu matokeo ya operesheni ya hivi majuzi ya ufuatiliaji wa soko iliyofanywa na Shirika la Ukadiriaji Ubona wa Bidhaa nchini Kenya kuhusu ubora wa saruji nchini Kenya, ikishughulikia mahususi sababu za kutotekelezwa kwa mapendekezo ya uhakikisho wa ubora hasa kuhusu saruji katika kiwango cha 32.5 megapascal

(MPA) ambayo inachangia takriban asilimia 85 ya jumla ya uzalishaji wa saruji nchini.

“Fafanua kwa kina hatua zilizochukuliwa dhidi ya wazalishaji na walanguzi wa saruji wasio waaminifu ambao wameathiri ubora wa saruji na kusababisha kuporomoka kwa majengo na kupoteza maisha ya watu ikiwa ni pamoja na maelezo ya hatua zozote za utekelezaji licha ya kuwa na takwimu za wazi za ukiukaji wa ubora ambapo majengo yamekuwa yakiporomoka katika miji mbalimbali na vituo kote nchini,” aliuliza Seneta Cherarkey.

Kadhali Seneta huyo anaitaka Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Seki Lenku kufafanua ni wapi Idara ya Vipimo na Mamlaka ya Kupambana na Bidhaa Gushi ya Kenya ilifeli kwenye majukumu yao katika kufuatilia utiifu na kuhakikisha ulinzi wa watumiaji chini ya Mamlaka ya Ulinzi wa Wateja na hivyo kuchangia viwango duni vya mawe na saruji inayotumiwa katika ujenzi na kuhatarisha usalama wa majengo.

Ombi la Kauli la Seneta Cherarkey liliungwa mkono na Maseneta wenzake waliotaka hatua muafaka zichukuliwe ili kuhakikisha udumishaji wa ubora.

“Kwenye soko, gharama ya saruji ni ghali sana. Sasa hivi saruji inauzwa kwa shilingi za Kenya 850. Gharama imepanda sana. Ikiwa gharama ni ya juu na bado tunafahamishwa kuwa saruji yenyewe haifikii viwango hitajika, basi

inatutia wasiwasi kama nchi kuhusu aina ya miundo mbinu ambayo tutakuwa nayo siku za halafu,” Seneta Tabitha Mutinda alichangia.

Akichangia kwenye ombi hilo la taarifa, Seneta Okoiti Omtatah alisema ubora wa saruji ni muhimu na haufai kuhujumiwa kwa sababu saruji ni makazi.

“Ni kila kitu tulicho nacho katika suala la ujenzi wa nyumba ambazo ni za kudumu na ukuaji wa miji haswa nchini Kenya, ambapo dhamira kuu sasa ni ukuaji wa miji kama njia ya kupambana na umaskini. Tunahitaji saruji bora kwa bei nafuu. Natumai Kamati itakayolichunguza suala hili itamfichua yeyote aliye nyuma ya saruji ambayo haifikii viwango vilivyowekwa na Shirika la Ukadiriaji Ubona wa Bidhaa,” alieleza Seneta Omtatah.

“Tumeshuhudia majengo yakiporomoka katika nchi hii. Ni lazima tuhakikishe kwamba tuna nyenzo zinazofaa. Katika nchi hii, wakati ujenzi unaendelea, baadhi ya wakandarasi huagiza saruji kutoka kwa nchi zao. Siku zote nimekuwa najiuliza kwanini Wachina wanakuja na saruji kutoka kwao kujenga miradi fulani hapa nchini. Je, ni kwamba saruji inayotengenezwa nchini Kenya ni duni au viwango vyetu havifikii viwango vya kimataifa?” aliuliza Seneta huyo wa chama cha NRA.

Seneta Sigei ataka majibu kuhusu kifo cha mtoto Diana



Seneta Wakili Sigei

Masuala ya utepetevu, usimamizi mbaya na ufasidi kwenye Hospitali ya Rufaa ya Longisa katika Kaunti ya Bomet na mfumo mzima wa afya kwenye Kaunti ya Bomet yamesababisha mwelekeo tofauti baada ya Seneta Wakili Hillary Sigei kuwasilisha ombi la Kauli akitaka majibu ya kina kuhusiana na lalama hizo.

Seneta Sigei aliifichua jinsi kiwango

cha uzembe na usimamizi mbaya kilisababisha kifo cha kutisha cha mtoto Diana Chepngeno mwenye umri wa miaka mitatu katika Hospitali ya Rufaa ya Kaunti mnamo Jumapili, Novemba 10, 2024. Marehemu ni mwenyeji wa Kijiji cha Koitabai katika Kaunti ya Bomet na alikuwa amejeruhiwa vibaya kutokana na kuumwa na nyuki.

Inadaiwa kuwa wahudumu wa

hospitali hiyo waliitisha shilingi elfu tano kutoka kwa familia, ada isiyo halali iliyofichwa kama sharti la kupata huduma muhimu za hospitali kabla ya kutoa huduma ya haraka ya matibabu ambayo ilihitajika. Kulingana na Seneta Sigei, hilo si tukio la pekee na ni onesho la wazi la uozo wa ufasidi ambao umeukumba mfumo wa utoaji huduma za Kaunti.

“Ikumbukwe kwamba hivi majuzi mbele ya Kamati ya Seneti ya Uwekezaji wa Umma na Fedha Maalum, Gavana wa Kaunti ya Bomet alijivunia uwezo wa Hospitali ya Longisa akisisitiza kwamba inafanya kazi ipasavyo kama kituo cha Kiwango cha 5. Matamshi ya Gavana ya kujiamini yanatofautiana vikali na hali halisia mbaya ya wagonjwa na yanazua maswali kuhusu hali halisi ya huduma za afya katika hospitali hiyo na Kaunti kwa jumla,” alifafanua Seneta Sigei.

Seneta Sigei kwenye ombi lake anaitaka Kamati ya Afya kueleza mazingira yaliyosababisha kifo cha mtoto Diana Chepngeno katika Hospitali ya Rufaa ya Kaunti ya Longisa kando na kuweka wazi hatua

za kinidhamu zilizochukuliwa na Baraza la Madaktari na Wahudumu wa Afya, KMPDC dhidi ya wale waliopatikana na hatia kwa uzembe na utovu wa nidhamu uliosababisha kifo cha kusikitisha cha mtoto Chepngeno ikiorodhesha hatua zilizochukuliwa ili kuhakikisha kuwa matukio kama hayo hayashuhudiwi tena katika siku zijazo.

Aidha Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Jackson Mandago itatathmini utoshelevu na ufanisi wa Itifaki za Kaunti ya Bomet Kuitika wakati wa Majanga ikionesha upatikanaji na gharama ya huduma za magari ya kuwasafirisha wagonjwa wakati wa dharura za kiafya.

Kadhali Seneta huyo aliiomba Kamati kueleza hatua zilizochukuliwa kukabiliana na changamoto za kimumo zilizobainishwa ndani ya mfumo wa huduma za afya wa Kaunti ya Bomet mbali na kutathmini mafunzo, utayari na taaluma ya wahudumu wa afya hususan wakati wa dharura za matibabu huku ikitathmini matumizi ya rasilimali zilizotengwa kwa sekta ya afya katika Kaunti ya Bomet.

All regions to be connected to national grid, CS Wandayi assures House

Energy Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi has said no part of the country will be left out in the electricity transmission master plan.

He told the Committee on Energy the transmission master plan, Kenya intends to build 90 power transmission lines to complete the national grid network.

He revealed that Turkana County will be connected to the national grid by April 2026 at a cost of Sh900 million.

“The government intends to build 90 power transmission lines in the next two years,” he said, when he appeared before the Committee.

The Committee had, among other things, invited the CS to discuss the issue of exclusion from the National Grid of regions that are historically marginalised. Counties such as Wajir, Marsabit, Mandera, and Turkana which comprise nearly 80 per cent of Kenya’s land mass but remain unconnected to the national grid.

The meeting also discussed the details on current and planned electricity connectivity initiatives, measures and strategies being undertaken to ensure equitable energy access through the integration of historically marginalised counties, specifically Wajir, Marsabit, Mandera, and Turkana into the national grid.

Senator Danson Mungatana asked the Cabinet Secretary why in the all outlined KETRACO transmission projects projected to cost Sh95 billion,



Senator Oburu Oginga, Senator Boni Khalwale and Senator Wahome Wamatinga during the meeting between the Energy Committee and CS Opiyo Wandayi.



Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi and Ministry of Energy Officials when they appeared before the Committee last week.



Members of the Committee on Energy follow proceedings during the meeting with the Ministry of Energy officials, led by Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi. From right, Senator William Kisang, Senator Ledama ole Kina, Senator Danson Mungatana, Senator Edwin Sifuna and Senator Boni Khalwale.

none is undertaken in the coastal counties.

He also wondered why KETRACO doesn’t have electricity transmission allocation in the Northern Coast.

“Investors have shunned the Northern Coast due to lack of power connectivity,”

he complained.

Principal Secretary Alex Wachira said that when President William Ruto visited South Korea, he negotiated a loan that will connect the northern coastal region to the national grid.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied in the meeting by KETRACO Managing Director Eng John Mativo and Principal Secretary for Energy, Alex Kamau Wachira.

Tharaka-Nithi and Meru border dispute to be determined by IEBC



Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire

The Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development says only the electoral commission can resolve the longstanding Tharaka-Nithi-Meru boundary dispute that has been in existence since 1992.

Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome said locations in the Tharaka Nithi have been the subject of long-standing land ownership disputes.

She was responding to the question by Senator Senator Gataya Mo Fire on

the status of adjudication of border areas of Tharaka-Nithi and Meru Counties.

The Cabinet Secretary said land adjudication along Meru and the Tharaka County boundary has not been unlocked yet as there has been no consensus between the disputing communities.

The boundary has been contested since 1992 and the solution will pave the way for the ascertainment of land rights as adjudication officers for the respective adjudication areas will have clear jurisdiction over the extent of their areas of operation.

“The definition of adjudication sections follows established administrative boundaries. For us to do adjudication sections, we follow established administrative boundaries, which then have been disputed,” she told Senators.

“We stopped the work. This scenario is in response to a statement submitted

by the Ministry to the Senate Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunities and Regional Integration.”

CS Wahome said the challenge (of the boundary dispute) is the people. “What they are asking me to do is gerrymander along the administrative boundaries or the county boundaries. Some people are Tharaka. They live in Meru, an area that is said to be within the boundary. They say that their land cannot be registered as Meru because they are Tharaka.”

The same also affects the Meru people who have land in Tharaka.

She called on the elected leaders to help in sensitising the people that if they are living in Meru, they should allow the government to demarcate and title their land as if it were in Meru because people and land are two different entities.

She recalled that the last time she

was in Tharaka to give titles, the Njuri-Ncheke members and other leaders asked her not to touch the question of administrative boundaries.

“To alter the boundary, you need the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to be appointed by Parliament to do this specific work, but we shall not have resolved the problem.”

Senator Gataya Mo Fire this is one of the issues affecting the Tharaka Nithi County along the boundary between the Tharaka and Meru Counties.

“This is why I want to know from the Cabinet Secretary whether she can provide a status update on the adjudication of the areas along the border of the Tharaka Nithi and Meru Counties, particularly the Toroni, Viite, Nkondi and Turema locations in Tharaka Nithi County.

Commissioner Ameso support for grass root initiatives



Members of Shisele Tosha Community Based Organisation (CBO) with the leadership of County Assembly of Kajiado.



Hon Loisa John Ntione Lemayian, Majority Leader Kajiado County Assembly, speaks to members of the CBO during their visit.



Members of the Shisele CBO in a group picture with Commissioner Rachel Ameso and Members of Parliament who attended the meeting.



Commissioner Rachel Ameso acknowledges greetings from members of Shisele CBO during their meeting at County Hall, Nairobi.



Commissioner Ameso poses for a picture with one of the members of Shisele Tosha CBO during the event.

Hon Rachel Ameso, a member of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) last week hosted 92 members of Shisele Tosha Community Based Organisation (CBO), from Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County.

Commissioner Ameso served as Kakamega Woman Rep between 2013 and 2017 and she, together with the local leaders, had invited the ladies to visit Parliament to learn financial management and book keeping, resource mobilisation and how to manage team dynamics for their CBO.

Members of the CBO also visited Kajiado County Assembly as part of the training.

Shisele Tosha CBO is a women-led

initiative aimed at empowering communities through resource mobilisation and innovative solutions.

The engagement marked the first time a CBO has been officially hosted by the Parliament, showcasing a growing recognition of grassroots organisations in national development.

Their visit underscored the importance of grassroots advocacy in driving national development.

The event highlights the growing collaboration between Parliament and community-based organisations. It sets a new precedent for integrating local initiatives into Kenya's national agenda, demonstrating Parliament's commitment to empowering grassroots movements.

Shisele Tosha CBO's visit symbolises

the power of women-led organisations to influence policy and underscores the importance of investing in community-driven solutions for sustainable development.

Commissioner Ameso commended the CBO, pledging her full support for grassroots initiatives, particularly those led by women.

"I am delighted to welcome you to Parliament. You have done an amazing job by forming this CBO. You are women with good hearts, and I will always support all women and Kenyans, starting with Ikolomani Constituency and the 11 constituencies in Kakamega," she promised, during a meeting with the members at the Mini Chamber, County Hall, on Wednesday.

Ikolomani MP Bernard Shinali celebrated the visit as a proud moment for his constituents.

Discussions during the meeting revolved around enhancing financial support for CBOs to enable them to create a more significant impact.

Hon Gladys Omukongolo Malenya, MCA for Idakho North Ward, and Chairperson of the CBO, appealed for increased grants.

The event was graced by leaders, including Members of Parliament Hon Mishi Mboko, Hon Millie Odhiambo, Hon Beatrice Elachi, Hon Nabii Nabwera and former Kakamega County First Lady Priscilla Oparanya.

Education Committee plan stakeholder retreat

The committee on Education has planned a retreat bringing together both State and non-State actors, to deliberate on the issues related to the implementation of Junior Secondary School education, the new university funding model and the acceptability of Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC).

The revelation was made by Senator Joe Nyutu, the chair of the Committee, who said the retreat will be held during the long recess, running from December 2024 to January 2025.

“The retreat will comprehensively deliberate on the issues related to the implementation of the issues that afflict the education sector,” said Senator Nyutu in a brief to the House.

During the Motion on the Current State of the Nation, the House directed the Committee to liaise with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders with a view to resolving the concerns raised regarding JSS education, the new funding model for university education, and the acceptability of CBC.

The Committee is currently inquiring into the implementation of the university funding model and has consequently held a meeting with the key actors in its implementation.

The actors include, the Universities Fund (UF) that grants scholarships to students, Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) that extends loans to students and KUCCPS that oversees

the placement of students into higher learning institutions.

During the meeting with the stakeholders, the committee made preliminary observations on different challenges facing the implementation of the model and requested the Ministry to expeditiously address them.

These challenges include: disparities to resource allocation from the use of Means-Testing Instrument (MTI) used to determine students’ level of need. The approach used risk, underestimating the true financial needs of students who face compounded challenges, thereby potentially excluding them from necessary financial support.

The second challenge is discrepancy in funding in which university students are supposed to obtain an average of 60 per cent Government scholarship and a Government loan at an average of 33 per cent, with the household contribution being seven per cent.

On the other hand, the funding for TVET education is through Government scholarship of 50 per cent and a loan of 30 per cent, while household contribution accounts for 20 per cent.

This policy is on enhancing technical and vocational training to equip the youth with the relevant skills for the 21st Century.

The third challenge is financial ambiguities and debt crisis in universities. Whereas the funding streams for



Senator Joe Nyutu, the Chair, Committee on Education

universities include student financing, research funding, capital infrastructure grants and free for service activities like consultancy, there are concerns that universities may face ambiguous financial allocations, potentially leading to reduced funding.

The fourth challenge is data protection: The Committee raised concerns about the legality of obtaining

information on applicants from various government agencies.

“During the engagements, it became evident that data-sharing agreements had not yet been executed. Moreover, applicants had not provided explicit consent for their data to be collected and processed even through the MTI to determine a student’s level of financial need was already in operation.

This Week in History

House to probe deal between Narok County Government and Mara Conservancy



Senator Peter Mositet

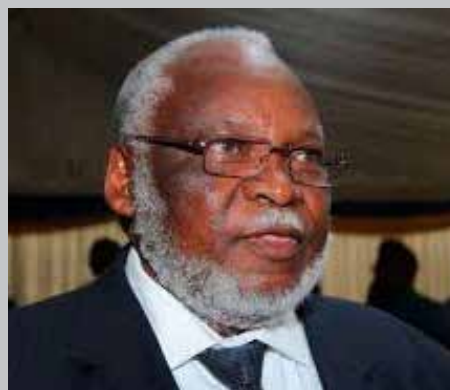
On November 26, 2014, the House debated a Petition on the Financial Mismanagement and Irregularities in Procurement by the County Government of Narok.

The Petition presented to the House by Mr Joseph Tipanko ole Karia, a resident of the County, claimed that the County Government and the Mara Conservancy together with the Kenya Airports Parking Services Limited Company (KAPS) were engaging in unabated suspect financial transactions which had cost the County Government millions of shillings.

The Petitioner wanted the Senate examine records of the transactions between the Conservancy and the County Government, including copies of receipts that had been issued by the then County Council of Trans Mara and the Narok County Government’s Chief Finance Officer to the Mara Conservancy in furtherance of the agreement from the commencement of the agreement.

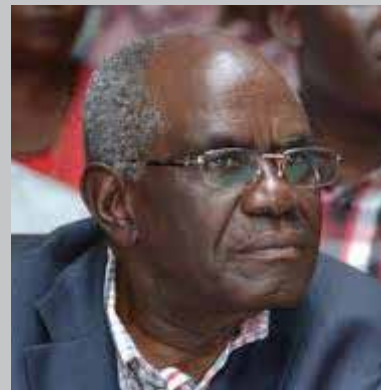
He also wanted the Senate to direct the Auditor-General to undertake an audit of all the transactions in furtherance of the agreement and on account of al park entry fees to the Mara Triangle collected or payable by tourists and visitors lodging at Kichwa Tembo Camp and an inquiry as to why some tourists and visitors are exempted from paying park fees.

Senator Peter Mositet welcomed the Petition noting that it had come at the right time. “I would like to request the relevant committee to move fast on this issue because from what we have read and saw a few days ago on the happenings in Narok County, if the Senate will not move fast, then we will be setting ourselves up for a bigger or major problem. I believe the committee which will be responsible for this will move fast and not necessarily wait for the 90 days. If possible, they should move to the ground to assure the residents of Narok County that the Senate is there for them and will do everything to protect them and their interests.



Senator Wilfred Machage said:

“The importance of tourism in the economy of Kenya cannot be underscored. The Mara Conservancy actually neighbours my county, Migori County. Interference with the same also affects the economy of Migori County. The management of the transition in many counties is wanting. Actually, many resources that were hitherto collected by many counties are yet to be fully accounted for by many of the current governors in this country. Therefore, this is just one example of what is likely to happen in many counties in the process of accounting for what had been a normal collection by the previous local governments. Therefore, the Petition that has been raised by the people of Narok County is important and an eye opener to the whole country on the truth about mismanagement and corruption of public resources.”



Senator David Musila said:

“We already have issues with the revenues collected by county governments during the transition period. As I speak, there are investigations by the CID that are going on in Kitui County about monies collected and not accounted for. Of more concern is that this House, through the committee chaired by Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale has attempted to summon governors to explain some of these problems. My concern is that what we have read points to alleged inefficiency of the governor. Of necessity, the governor will have to be summoned.”



Senator Mutula Kilonzo Junior said:

“Under Article 125 of the Constitution, the Senate has got powers to call the attendance of witnesses, summon for evidence, call for production of documents and issue any commission to any person. Therefore, the fact that there is a gag order against governors does not stop the Senate from calling for evidence from any other person. The Senate should not look as if we have been rendered impotent by virtue of that court order.”

No framework for stadia construction – CS Murkomen



Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen on the floor of the Senate.

Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has said there is no clear framework of intergovernmental relations in regard to development and management of sports facilities.

He however revealed that the Ministry through Sports Kenya has developed a master plan categorising sports infrastructure in line with international standards.

International stadia are in Category

4 of FIFA and CAF, which is over 30,000-seater, National stadia is Category 3A of the CAF, which is 15,000 to 30,000-seater, Regional or County stadia will be category 3B, which is between 10,000 and 15,000-seater and then community grounds, which is basically between 5,000 to 10,000-seater.

Community ground A and B, which are category 1, and are less than 5,000 capacity.

“Although Sports Kenya is mandated by law to develop, manage and enforce

standards and regulations for sports facilities, there are no approved regulations,” the Cabinet Secretary told the House.

To standardise the development of sports stadia, the Ministry sought the services of Kenya School of Technical and Vocational Training to develop the standard prototypes for various categories of stadia,” said the Cabinet Secretary

The prototypes were recently submitted to the Ministry and going forward, the Cabinet Secretary said, the country can plan the development of facilities with estimated cost, hence avoid wastage and create standardised facilities.

The Ministry is in the process of developing standards and regulations for all the stadia development and management and will soon be tabling to both houses the sports stadia regulations and standards for consideration and approval, he said.

Hon Murkomen told the House that his Ministry has gazetted a task force to review sports policy and law to align it with the 2010 Constitution as one of the ways of addressing the legislative and policy gaps in the sports sector.

The Ministry does not receive budgetary allocation from the National Treasury to facilitate the construction of sports facilities and the resources are sourced from the Sports Arts and Social Development Fund.

However, it is refurbishing several facilities in preparation to host AFCON 2027: Moi International Sports Center, Kasarani, Nyayo National Stadium, Kipchoge Keino Stadium, Ulinzi Training Grounds and Police Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisation (SACCO) Training Grounds.

“The Ministry transferred the responsibility of procurement and project management of the AFCON infrastructure to the Ministry of Defence to undertake the procurement of contractors and manage the development of the facilities,” he said.

On the Question of long-term sustainability, the stadia being refurbished are being customized for multi-use. Skyboxes, hustler bazaars and conference rooms have been incorporated to enable the Ministry to generate revenue.

Further, the Ministry will engage corporate stakeholders for branding and naming rights for all major sporting facilities.

We have tightened noose around land fraudsters, CS Wahome tells House



Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome speaks on the floor of the House last week.

The Ministry of Lands has enhanced mechanisms for fighting fraud in the land sector, Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome has said.

She made the revelations when she assured the public of the safety of the 367 security documents that were recently stolen from the Government Printer.

“The Ministry is working closely with security and investigative agencies to identify individuals responsible for the identified lapses that resulted in the loss of land and title documents, and

take necessary legal action,” she told the House on Wednesday, adding that the matter was reported to the Central Police Station and investigations are ongoing.

The Cabinet Secretary was speaking when she appeared on the floor of the House to respond to Members’ questions.

Senator Tabitha Mutinda had asked the Cabinet Secretary to explain circumstances that led to the loss documents. The lawmaker further wanted the Cabinet Secretary to explain the subsequent release of a contradictory statement by the Ministry, indicating that security papers and not title deeds, had been lost.

She also wanted the Ministry to explain measures the Government has put in place to ensure that the lost land documents are not illegitimately used and provide details on the assistance or compensation the Government will provide to individuals who fall victim to such use.

“I want to assure Kenyans that the particular serial numbers of the 367 documents are known and we do not see a threat to them,” she said.

She added: “Assuming any of those documents land somewhere and have become like a title, we can direct rectification of the register and documents where the document in question has been obtained by fraud.”

Where the Ministry picks documents from the Government Press, they are all serialised.

Each document is accounted for at the stores in the Ministry. For any documents picked from the Government Press, there is also a corresponding record by the Ministry and the Government Press. “We have a dispatch book at the Government Press where all title documents are recorded and signed for by our officers. We have put additional security features on the title deeds and thus it is not possible to have them printed elsewhere

She told the House her Ministry is working closely with security and investigative agencies to defeat the strategies that cartels and corrupt officials have traditionally used to commit land fraud.

Every state department, working with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), is required to submit their strategies to the national

Government of what they are doing to reduce corruption.

There are strategies, including ensuring that only people who need service come to your office or the Ministry and ensuring that your materials are serialised. We have therefore ensured that the materials for title deeds are serialised

“Anti-corruption efforts will be applied to ensure that none of the documents that have been reported as stolen become a threat to land ownership,” CS Wahome said.

She also revealed that the Ministry has settled 301,872 families in 463 settlement schemes since independence in 1963.

The total is 1.288,244 hectares of the land the government has given out for settlement, translating to a total of 3.183,320.25 acres of land across the country.

This has occurred in 26 counties.

In the last three years, the Ministry has settled 16,376 families in approximately 21,000 hectares of land across 10 counties.

“This is a big achievement by the government,” she said.



1. The Deputy Clerk of the Senate Eunice Gichangi is among those who received President William Ruto when he arrived to deliver the State of Nation address in Parliament Buildings.
2. President William Ruto and Major (Retired) Samson Sorobit, Director, Serjeant-At-Arms, in the Senate.
3. President William is welcomed by Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo.
4. Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina and President William Ruto.

5. President William Ruto and Deputy President Kithure Kindiki pose for a group picture with the leadership of Parliament led by Hon Amason Kingi (Speaker Senate) and Hon Moses Wetangula (Speaker, National Assembly). Others are Mr Jeremiah Nyegenye, Clerk of the Senate, (second right) and Ms Eunice Gichangi, Deputy Clerk of the Senate (right). Others are Clerk of the National Assembly Samuel Njoroge (second left) and Serah Kioko (left) Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly.



6. President William Ruto and Majority Whip Boni Khalwale.
7. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi is welcomed to Parliament by Mr Zakayo Mogere, the Deputy Director, Legislative and Procedural Services (Senate).
8. Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina, Senator Richard Onyonkah (in green) and Senator Ali Roba speak to journalism students from Elgon View College during the tour of Parliament as Senator Esther Okenyuri looks on.
9. Senator Tabitha Mutinda (left), Senator Karen Nyamu and Senator Raphael Chimera with Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen at Parliament Buildings.
10. Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo (left), Senator Mohamed Chute, Mr Mohamed Maalim, Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Senator Tabitha Mutinda (right) see off Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome after she responded to concerns of the lawmakers during last week's Questions Time.

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11. Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen shares a light moment with Senator Esther Okenyuri and Senator Tabitha Mutinda (right) after he addressed the House during last week's Questions Time.
12. Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen and Senator Betty Montet.
13. Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen is received at the Senate by Senate staff.
14. Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome follows deliberations on the floor of the Senate as Members sought clarification on the issues she addressed during last week's Questions Time. With the CS are Mr Kennedy Njenga, Director of Land Adjudication and Settlement and Mr Mohamed Maalim, Administration Secretary at the Ministry.
15. Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome is led to the holding area by Senate staff when she appeared for Questions Time last week.



16. Senator Esther Okenyuri with journalism students from Elgonview College during their academic tour of the Senate.
17. Members of the Committee on Delegated Legislation from Taita Taveta County follow proceedings of the Senate from the Speaker's Gallery during their capacity building tour of Parliament.
18. Members of Shisele Tosha CBO from Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County, after their tour of Parliament Buildings.
19. President William Ruto and Clerk of Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye on the day of the State of Nation address.
20. Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi (left), Governor Cecily Mbarire and Eng B.K. Njenga, Secretary, Urban and Metropolitan Development, follow the discussions during the COP29 UN Climate Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.



1. Speaker Amason Kingi and Her Excellency Salim Mohamed Al Hashmi, the Ambassador of Oman to Kenya, and Mr Said Al Amri, the Deputy Ambassador, who had paid a courtesy call in the Speaker's Office. They are joined in this group photo with from left, Senator Fatuma Dullo, Senator Karen Nyamu and Senator Raphael Chimera (right).

2. Speaker Kingi receives a gift from Her Excellency Salim Mohamed Al Hashmi, the Oman Ambassador in Kenya.
3. Speaker Amason Kingi presents the Oman Ambassador a gift.
4. Speaker Kingi and Her Excellency Salim Mohamed Al Hashmi, the Ambassador of Oman, during their bilateral discussions.



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