



The SENATE

Weekly

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Laid to rest

Senator William Cheptumo's voice carried the weight of experience, wisdom, and reason, whether on the floor of the House, in Committee deliberations, or during informal engagements.



Senators led by Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot (in black suit) and Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina carry Senator William Cheptumo's casket to its resting place during the burial ceremony.

Senator William Cheptumo was laid to his final resting place on March 1, 2025 even as Senators paid glowing tribute to a politician they described as a humble, polite but firm, who was committed a lifetime of service.

Mourners who attended the burial, led by President William Ruto, Speak-

er Amason Kingi and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula, singled out the late Senator for his passion for peace, describing him as a Peace Ambassador who passionately pushed for coexistence among Kenyans, noting that the void he has left would be felt over time.

Speaker Kingi told mourners, among

them President William Ruto, that he discovered the deceased's love for peace in December 2007 when they were first elected to the National Assembly.

"Senator Cheptumo was a peace ambassador and I witnessed this in him when the country was going through a very difficult time in 2007," said Speaker Kingi, adding that the late Cheptumo

offered wisdom when peace was needed. "Senator Cheptumo had accepted Jesus Christ as his comforter and guide."

"The Senate is feeling the loss but we pray for God's comfort and strength to help the family overcome the loss of their pillar."

The Speaker recalled that the late Senator's voice carried the weight of ex-

perience, wisdom, and reason, whether on the floor of the House, in committee deliberations, or during informal engagements.

Senator Cheptumo was hailed as a leader who was always calm amidst the storm.

“Even in heated debates, he never raised his voice unnecessarily—he simply raised his argument. He believed in dialogue, in finding solutions rather than dwelling on problems, and in forging consensus for the greater good of the country,” said the Speaker.

“Many times, I would watch him step into the chamber, his characteristic humility evident in his measured steps and warm smile. No matter the gravity of the matter at hand, he was never one to seek the limelight. He spoke not to impress

but to guide. His legal mind was sharp, but his heart was even greater.”

As the Chairperson of the Committee on National Security, Defence, and Foreign Relations, Senator Cheptumo carried out his duties with unmatched dedication.

“He passionately advocated for the well-being of police officers, soldiers, and victims of banditry—always reminding us that security was not just about policies but about human lives.”

The people of Baringo County knew him as a leader who walked with them, sat with them, and understood their struggles. His contributions in improving access to education, expanding electricity connectivity, and pushing for better infrastructure were not just political commitments; they were personal mis-

sions.”

Speaker Moses Wetang’ula said Senator Cheptumo was a dedicated servant of the people. “Even when his health was shrinking, he continued to attend parliamentary sessions,” said Speaker Wetang’ula.

Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot told mourners the late exhibited many qualities with humility standing high among them.

“I lead a House where 90 per cent of the membership is older than me. Senator Cheptumo recognised me as his leader despite being the age of my father,” adding that he helped silence the guns of cattle rustling when he pushed for the adoption of the Motion compelling for the declaration of the vice as a national disaster.

Senator Ledama ole Kina termed the demise of their colleague as a sad moment as Senator Cheptumo was a sober leader. “All the leaders should serve with dedication so as to be remembered after their lifetime. Senators are not given bur-sary or any allocation but Senator Cheptumo was there for his people,” said Senator ole Kina, while calling for speedy establishment of IEBC so as the void left by Senator Cheptumo is not felt for too long.

And to honour the late Senator as a peace ambassador, Senator ole Kina urged the leaders to be focused and unite the whole country calling for the equitable distribution of resources and development to all the 47 counties.



1. President William Ruto, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula and Speaker Amason Kingi during Senator William Cheptumo's burial service in Baringo County,
2. Senators who attended Senator Cheptumo's requiem mass in Nairobi

3. Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen (left) Speaker Amason Kingi, Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot and Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina during Senator Cheptumo requiem mass at the African Inland Church, Nairobi.
4. Senator Veronica Maina, Senator William Kisang, Hon Rachel Ameso, PSC Commissioner, former Taveta MP Naomi Shaban and Senator Peris Tobiko during the requiem mass.



5. Family and friends pray after they received the casket bearing the late Senator's body in Baringo County.
6. Speaker Amason Kingi, Majority Whip Boni Khalwale, Mjority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot and Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo during the requiem mass in Nairobi's African Inland Church.
7. Senator Peris Tobiko, former Taveta MP Naomi Shaban, PSC Commissioner Rachel Ameso and Senator Veronica Maina during the requiem mass in Nairobi.
8. Members of the late William Cheptumo's family eulogise the Senator during the requiem mass.
9. President William Ruto speaks at the burial ceremony in Baringo County.
10. Speaker Amason Kingi receives President William Ruto at the late Cheptumo's rural home before the burial ceremony.
11. Speaker Amason Kingi consoles the late Senator William Cheptumo's son at AIC Church in Nairobi.

US financial freeze disrupts health services - CS Barasa



Health CS Deborah Barasa (right) and the PS for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni follow proceedings during last week's Questions and Answers Time.

The recent withdrawal of funding by the American Government has had profound and far-reaching consequences on several critical health programmes in Kenya, the Government has said.

Health Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa told the House on Wednesday that the US Government's abrupt shift in financial support has disrupted essential services, ongoing initiatives and placed an immense strain on the national healthcare system, particularly in the areas that rely heavily on official aid.

The affected programmes include the HIV&AIDS programme.

"The withdrawal of funding affects the provision of life-saving antiretroviral therapy for over 1.4 million Kenyans living with HIV in the country," said Dr Barasa adding that there are 12,345 people living with HIV, with 10,456 currently receiving Antiretroviral therapies in Kirinyaga County alone.

She was responding to a Question filed by Senator James Murango who wanted the Ministry to highlight the programmes in the health sector that will be affected by the decision by the American Government to withdraw funding from aid-funded health care programmes in the country with

particular focus on how such withdrawal affects the health sector in Kirinyaga County.

The lawmaker also wanted to know the action the Cabinet Secretary is taking to ensure that critical services under the affected programmes do not stop, and thus avert the likelihood of putting healthcare in jeopardy in the counties and at the national level?

Dr Barasa said critical lab commodities for early infant diagnosis and viral load testing are at risk of stock out, jeopardising the timely detection and monitoring of HIV in newborns and patients on ART.

The malaria control programme and the recent funding freeze has disrupted the distribution of critical malaria control commodities across multiple counties.

These include insecticide-treated nets, rapid diagnostic test kits and preventive treatment for pregnant women.

The setback poses a significant risk to malaria-endemic regions, particularly in counties with high transmission rates such as Kisumu, Migori, Kakamega and Tana River.

"Without timely intervention, malaria cases and related complications could rise, undermining progress made in

reducing malaria-related morbidity and mortality," she observed.

The withdrawal of funding has significantly impacted the availability of essential family planning commodities nationwide, stock levels of contraceptives, including implants. Injectable contraceptives or pills, have dropped below the required minimum, affecting both public and private facilities. This shortage threatens the ability of women and families to access reliable family planning services with potential implications for maternal and child health outcomes, particularly in counties with high unmet contraceptive needs such as Nairobi, Bungoma, Nakuru and Kilifi.

On vaccines and immunisation programmes, the funding freeze has disrupted the procurement of critical vaccines, affecting approximately five per cent of Kenya's total vaccine supply, amounting to Sh585 million.

Counties with large immunisation coverage gaps such as Turkana, West Pokot, Mandera, and Garissa, face a heightened risk of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks and this reduction in funding threatens Kenya's ability to sustain its routine immunisation programmes and respond to emerging

public health threats, potentially reversing hard-won gains in child health.

On the nutrition programme, the withdrawal of funding has disrupted the supply of life-saving nutrition commodities, including therapeutic foods used to treat severe acute malnutrition in children under five.

Counties with high rates of malnutrition such as Marsabit, Samburu, Kitui and Baringo, are particularly affected, putting thousands of vulnerable children at risk of severe health complications.

The CS said without urgent intervention, malnutrition-related deaths could increase, exacerbating the already critical burden of food insecurity in drought-affected regions. Kirinyaga County is flagged nationally for overweight and obesity challenges, particularly amongst the reproductive age women, at 65 per cent being the highest in the country and is therefore a target for intervention by the ministry's Non-Communicable Diseases.

Government will insure PwDs, CS Barasa tells House



Health Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa addresses the House flanked by Principal Secretary, Harry Kimtai

Health Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa has assured the House that the Government has developed a health insurance subsidy for People with Disability (PwDs) so that those who require life-sustaining medication can access those medications for free.

The Cabinet Secretary said working together with the social protection under the Social Health Authority (SHA), the Government will ensure that the people with severe disability are incorporated and are being paid for under the SHA regime.

“The Government will take care of PwDs in matters of health insurance.

We will ensure that the medicines are cost effective and we are having cancer reforms ongoing to ensure that we promote inter-county engagement between KEMSA and the county,” said Dr Barasa.

The Cabinet Secretary made the remarks when she appeared in the House to respond to concerns raised by Senators during the Questions and Answers session on Wednesday morning.

Senator Catherine Mumma had wanted the Cabinet Secretary to provide details on the availability and affordability of life-supporting prescription drugs for persons with

disabilities living with seizure-related ailments such as epilepsy.

She also wanted the Cabinet Secretary to explain which pharmaceutical manufacturers, suppliers and distributors are collaborating with the Ministry of Health and the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) to ensure the availability of these medicines and the terms of their operation and the steps the Ministry taken to ensure that the life saving drugs are included in the essential drugs list and made readily available under the existing public national health insurance scheme.

The Cabinet Secretary told the House that KEMSA stocks a number of anti-epileptics or anti convulsants such as lamotrigine tablets, valproic acid tablets and syrup, phenytoin tablets, phenobarbitone tablets and injections, midazolam injections, magnesium sulphate injections, levetiracetam injections, gabapentin tablets, diazepam injections and tablets.

The Cabinet Secretary said the Ministry of Health has undertaken to ensure that life-saving medicines are included in the essential medical list and made readily available under the existing public national health insurance scheme, life-saving medicines are listed in the current Kenya Essential Medicine List 2023 Edition, which is

reviewed every three years and are captured under various therapeutic categories including medicines of pain, anticonvulsants, medicines for anxiety disorder, medicines for mood disorders among others.

“SHA) aims to provide affordable accessible and quality healthcare services to Kenya as guided by the essential health benefit package that defines the services covered by the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF). Social Health Authority (SHA) will use the Essential Medicines List to guide the reimbursement of health services and health products to health facilities for various conditions including those provided for People with Disabilities (PwDs),” said the Cabinet Secretary.

There are 42 registered local pharmaceuticals or medicine manufacturers who have good compliance with manufacturing practices.

To enhance local manufacturing of medicines in the country, the Ministry of Health in 2020 conducted a capacity assessment of the manufacturers and the report of this assessment forms the basis of the development of a local manufacturing strategy for Kenya that seeks to incentivise innovation and production of health products.

STATEMENTS

Senator calls for reform in KALRO salary processing system



Senator Eddy Oketch

Senator Eddy Oketch has asked the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) to reform its salary processing system to avert persistent salary delay at the institution.

The lawmaker told the House that KALRO has failed to implement the annual salary increments that were due last year and blamed the management for not offering explanation to staff.

In a personal statement to the House,

the lawmaker said that over the past year, KALRO employees across the country have experienced repeated delays in salary payments. Salaries for January, 2024 were paid on February 16, 2024, April, 2024 salaries were paid on May 9, 2024, May, 2024 salaries were paid on June 12, 2024, and August 2024 salaries were paid on September 13, 2024.

“In all these instances, the institution failed to provide any explanation to its employees as to why those delays were necessitated. Although there has been no outright default in salary payments, these persistent delays have caused significant inconveniences and hardship,” said the Senator.

Employees with bank standing orders and other time-sensitive financial commitments have been particularly affected. The delays have disrupted personal financial planning, often forcing employees to take loans, which accrue interest they would have otherwise avoided.

The lawmaker told the House that the lack of credit regarding the increments

has exacerbated employee frustration and dissatisfaction. “The combined effort of delayed salaries and unimplemented salary increment has had a demoralising impact on staff morale, particularly among scientists who play a crucial role in conducting applied and adaptive research to address the country’s agricultural challenges,” he explained.

“It is the fundamental responsibility of every employer, particularly a Government institution, to ensure that salaries are paid on time. This obligation is not merely a matter of goodwill. It is a contractual and an ethical commitment that reflects an employer’s duty of care toward their employees.”

He wants KALRO to reform its salary processing system to ensure timely payment of salaries going forward, implement the salary increment as per the agreed terms and conditions and a review of its communication structure and practices to enhance transparency and accountability.

Senator Dullo is the new Security Committee chair

Senator Fatuma Dullo has expressed gratitude to members of the Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations after she was unanimously elected to lead the Committee. She replaces the late William Cheptumo who led the Committee since the 13th Parliament was inaugurated in September 2022.

After her election, Senator Dullo vowed to ensure the Committee delivers on its mandate. "We have had challenges in the past but going forward we shall address various issues touching on foreign relations, issues to do with insecurity, cattle rustling among others," she stated, even as she urged committee members to commit fully to their work, emphasising the importance of collaborative efforts



Senator Fatuma Dullo after she was elected chairperson, Committee on National Security.

for effective oversight.

She will be deputised by Senator Ojienda who echoed the call for teamwork. Senator Edwin Sifuna pushed for focus on national security concerns. "As a committee, we should dig deeper into various issues that are under our watch,



Senator Joseph Githuku, Senator Lelegwe Ltumbesi and Senator Tom Ojienda, who was elected the vice chairperson.

issues such as abductions and insecurity. We should also look at the issue of our country's foreign relations to ensure Kenya gets it right," he said.

The committee's full membership includes

Besides Senator Fatuma Dullo, Sen-

ator Ojienda and Senator Sifuna, other members of the Committee are Senator Lelegwe Ltumbesi, Senator Julius Murgor, Senator Tabitha Keroche, Senator Joseph Githuku, Senator Abdul Haji and Senator Okong'o Mogeni.

PARTNERSHIPS

Senator Faki seeks to promote tourism through sport



Senator Faki hands football equipment to the captain of the Walking Football teams that has signed up.



Senator Mohamed Faki follows the training sessions of the Walking Football teams in Mombasa.



Senator Mohamed Faki with members of Taifa Walking Football (top) and Members of Taifa Walking Football pose for a group picture after a training session.

Senator Mohamed Faki has launched an initiative that seeks to promote sports tourism in his county through Walking Football.

Walking Football was invented in 2011 and aims at keeping people aged over 50 involved with football if, due to a lack of mobility or for other reasons, they are not able to play the traditional game.

The sport can be played both indoors and outdoors. In many ways walking football is similar to regular football but the biggest difference is that in walking football you are not allowed to jog or

run.

You may, of course, walk as fast as you like as long as one foot is in contact with the ground at all times. Tackling is only allowed if there is no contact, all free kicks are indirect and the ball must never go above head height.

Walking football is played on small pitches, indoors, on artificial grass pitches or on natural grass. The game uses small goals and, typically, is played by six-a-side teams.

Senator Faki seeks to register as many teams as possible across the six constituencies in Mombasa County that

will participate in the initiative.

He is calling upon senior citizens aged 50 years and above to sign up and form teams that will not only play hosts to visiting walking teams but act as tour guides as well.

Through this initiative, which targets football teams of both genders, participants will benefit from sports tourism packages, powered by Senator Faki.

Mombasa remains Kenya's most popular tourist destination with pristine beaches, historical sites, wildlife and Marine parks.

Kenya has emerged as a sports tour-

ism hub with increased domestic and foreign sporting enthusiasts converging to enjoy the breathtaking flora and fauna either as spectators or active participants.

Sports tourism is a major part of the global tourism industry and a fast-growing sector. It has a huge impact that includes stimulating infrastructure projects, like roads, stadiums and restaurants, as well as local communities through spending on accommodation, cultural artefacts and food.

Cancel wheat importation notices, Senators demand



Senator Ledama ole Kina, Senator Edwin Sifuna and Senator Aaron Cheruiyot

Senators have called on the National Treasury to nullify notices in the Kenya Gazette that open the way for the importation of wheat and other commodities when the country is in the harvesting season.

The lawmakers said the notices are retrogressive and directed the Ministry to give priority to the common people trying to get themselves out of the economic mess.

“We cannot have produce rotting in the farms and yet we are allowing importation of the same commodity we have in plenty here,” said Senator Edwin Sifuna during debate in the House.

He expressed surprise that Kenya would subscribe to such a situation, where farmers in Narok whose crop is rotting in their stores and yet the Government has allowed importation of wheat.

“Kenyans are getting tired of explanations. The farmers in Narok do not want explanations on their wheat. They want to be put in the right place in terms of compensation for what they have lost after putting their sweat in their land and being let down by their own government.”

The lawmaker was making comments on a Statement brought by Senator Ledama ole Kina, who wants the Committee

on Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries regarding the plight of wheat farmers in Narok County and the whole of Kenya due to the influx of imported wheat into the country.

Senator ole Kina, who is the Minority Whip, wants the Committee to explain whether the Cabinet Secretary of Agriculture and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economic Planning are working together to determine what would be the shortage of wheat after sweeping all locally available wheat.

The Senator says the two Cabinet Secretaries ought to do that before agreeing to the quota allocated by the Council of

East African Ministers under Legal Notice No. EAC/204/2024, which is a total of 3,096,500 metric tonnes of wheat grains, which has caused tremendous suffering of local farmers whose produce for 2024 is still in their stores.

“Millers opt to import cheap grains rather than buy local produce. The local farmers’ frustrations have previously led to a six-hour farmers’ demonstration where all farmers parked their tractors and farm implements along Narok-Nairobi Road causing tremendous distractions for businesses in Narok town.

In his request, Senator ole Kina wants the Committee to give details of the current wheat deficit in the country, the total wheat production in Narok County and how much of it has been bought by the local millers.

In the Gazette Notice, the Ministry had given the mandate to import the varying quantities of wheat grains into the country.

“The National Treasury and Economic Planning must degazette the notice in the Kenya Gazette. We expect Hon. John Mbadi to do better by revoking most of those gazette notices. When we are in the harvesting season of maize or any other produce, we must stop importation.

However, Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot said the issue of the importation is beyond the reach of Kenya alone because the notice is an East African Community (EAC) regional notice, which Kenya is a signatory to.

STATEMENTS

Senator demands probe on data breach at BRS

Senator Mohamed Faki has expressed concern regarding the unauthorised access by third parties to personal and company information in the Business Registration Service (BRS) platform, on e-Citizen.

The lawmaker says the illegal act took place on or around January 31, 2025.

He has sought the intervention of the Committee on Information, Communication and Technology over the matter.

He wants the committee to explain when the Government first became aware of the unauthorised access, an act that is in contravention of Section 25 of the Data Protection Act 2019.

He wants the Committee to outline

the immediate containment measures implemented to address the data breach, provide a status update on investigations into the matter disclosing the nature and extent of the breach.

The committee should reveal the number of affected individuals and companies; the vulnerabilities of the information management system that were identified to have been exploited, and the individuals or entities responsible for the data breach, including the legal or administrative actions taken against them.

“The Committee should outline measures in place to mitigate the risks of identity theft and fraud arising from the data breach, stating whether the affected individuals and companies were notified

of the breach,” said the Senator.

He also wants actions taken by the Government to strengthen the security protocols of its public digital platforms, including e-Citizen, to prevent similar breaches in the future.

He also wants to know whether the Data Protection Commissioner has initiated enforcement actions in response to the data breach, and if so, outline the recommendations that have been made to improve data security.



Senator Mohamed Faki

Lawmaker welcomes decriminalisation of attempted suicide



Senator Hamida Kibwana

Senator Hamida Kibwana has hailed the recent High Court ruling which declared Section 226 of the Penal Code unconstitutional, thereby decriminalising attempted suicide in Kenya.

The lawmaker said the ruling is a victory for mental health advocacy and the dignity of the individual suffering

from mental health conditions.

“For far too long, those battling depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other mental health challenges have been treated as criminals instead of patients in need of urgent care and support,” said the Senator in a personal Statement to the House on Tuesday.

“The criminalisation of attempted suicide not only stigmatised victims but also deterred them from seeking the help they desperately needed.”

She singled out the Kenya National Commission of Human Rights (KNCHR), Charity Muturi, the Kenya Psychiatrists Association, and other stakeholders, who filed the case, for their unwavering commitment to the noble cause.

“These efforts have set a precedent for a more compassionate and evidence-based approach to mental health in our country. This ruling aligns with our constitutional values under Article 43, which guarantees every Kenyan the right to the highest attainable standard of health, including mental health.”

She argued that the judgement further

upholds the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and human dignity enshrined in Articles 27 and 28 of the Constitution.

“The decriminalisation of attempted suicide is a significant milestone. It is only the beginning. As legislators, we must now focus on strengthening mental health care in Kenya,” she said, throwing a challenge to the Senators to amend relevant laws.

“Parliament must swiftly repeal all provisions of the Penal Code that criminalise mental health-related conditions and align our legal framework with global best practices,” she noted, calling for increased budgetary allocation for mental health.

She said there is a critical need for more resources in mental health services, including counseling, rehabilitation, and suicide prevention programmes at all levels of health care public awareness and de-stigmatisation campaigns.

She called on the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to intensify public education on mental health and emphasise that suicide is a

medical condition and not a crime.

She also called for the establishment of crisis response units and urged counties to establish well-equipped mental health crisis response teams to provide timely intervention for individuals in distress.

She pushed for the implementation of the Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-2026 and arguing that the government should fully implement the existing strategy, focusing on early detection, intervention, and community-based mental health support programmes.

“The ruling reaffirms the critical role of the judiciary in safeguarding fundamental rights and protecting vulnerable members of our society. It is now upon us, as the Senate, to complement this progress by ensuring that the necessary legislative and policy measures are enacted to promote a supportive, rehabilitative, and dignified approach to mental health care,” she said, adding that lawmakers should join hands in transforming Kenya into a country that treats mental health with the urgency, care, and humanity it deserves.

This Week in History - March 6, 2018

Senators debate petition on the proposed Mitubiri Sanitary Landfill project in Muranga County



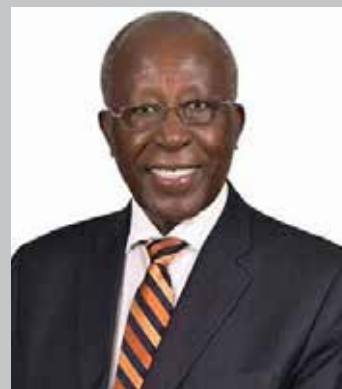
Senator Irungu Kangata

Senator Irungu Kangata presented a Petition on behalf of the residents of Maragwa, Kandara, Kigumo and Gatanga Constituencies over the proposed Mitubiri Sanitary Landfill Project in Muranga County. The project is intended to be a dumping site for waste from the five counties of Nairobi, Kiambu, Kajiado, Murang'a and Machakos. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), but Murang'a County Government dismissed claims that it was involved in the planning of the project. Area residents have raised concerns that the project may turn the county into a dumpsite and, therefore, affect ground water and pollute the soil. The Petitioners wanted the Senate to intervene and have project halted pending consultations, ensure that a safety audit is undertaken to guide the implementation and the effects of the project and that fresh public participation exercise is conducted to enable residents to understand the implications of the project. “Ninety per cent of the water consumed by the people of Nairobi County comes from Murang'a County. But the ‘thank you’ we get from the people of Nairobi County is giving us their waste. We give them water for free but instead of them thanking us, they are giving us waste. We are very unhappy with this project that intends to bring all the waste— from Dandora dumpsite in Nairobi and Machakos— and relocate it to Murang'a County,” he said.



Senator Mary Seneta said:

“This is not only a problem in Murang'a or Nairobi counties, but also in all our urban areas, towns and shopping centres. We, as Senators, need to legislate on solid waste management in this country. It is a big a problem. Dumping waste everywhere causes conflict among communities. For example, we cannot allow Kajiado or Murang'a county to be the dumping site of waste from Nairobi County even if water comes from Murang'a County. It is unacceptable. We, as a country, need to think of a technological way of managing our waste. Currently, we have waste all over our counties. We need to designate specific areas as dumping sites where we can recycle the waste and make use of it.”



Senator Sam Ongeri said:

“I would urge the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources to draw heavily from the document of the New Urban Agenda which has been globally debated at various fora of United Nations regarding waste management, disposal and sustainable cities and urban centres and how they need to grow. All our county governors were represented in this global debate. This has come out as a result of a sustainable programme and activities that need to be carried out. I can put to you regarding Nairobi City. In fact, Senator Johnson Sakaja should pick up the proposal by Japan to generate power to the national grid from the Dandora Dumpsite. The major element we need to pick out of this petition is how to handle solid waste, how to segregate the solid waste from the hazardous waste against the innocuous waste which can be turned into manure and other events.”



Senator Isaac Mwaura said:

“If you look at the history of this Republic, in the 1980s, the major concern was the dumping of poisonous waste from the so-called developed countries to African countries. In fact, a classical case was where somebody from the United Kingdom wanted to buy land worth Kshs2 billion then to use it for toxic waste dumping. It is quite interesting that with the advent of devolution, we are seeing this issue arising from two neighbouring counties –Nairobi and Murang'a. The data that is available shows that if we are not able to take care of our waste globally, our oceans are suffocating with plastic waste. In fact, it is estimated that by 2050, there may be more plastic waste than fish in our oceans. That is something that is quite telling. We need to look at this because plastic alone takes about 500 to 1000 years for it to decompose and much less years if at all that process is fast tracked. Yet, if you look at plastic particularly, only about 12 per cent is recycled for use globally.”

Senator wants State to construct five national referral hospitals



Senator Richard Onyonka

A Senator has given a notice of Motion which seeks to compel the Ministry of Health to establish National Teaching and Referral hospitals in five regions of Kenya - Coast, Eastern, North Eastern, Nyanza and Western – as one of the strategies of improving health care services across the country.

Citing Article 43 of the Constitution, which provides that every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, including reproductive health care, Senator Richard Onyonka proposes that the National Government should fully equip the facilities with modern medical equipment, supplies and person-

nel, once established.

The health sector is one of the devolved functions as provided for in the Fourth Schedule of the 2010 constitution. There are 6 different levels of health care in Kenya. Levels 1 - 5 are managed by the county government and level 6 by the national government. Under the referral system patients are required to move from one level to the next using a formal referral letter.

Level 4 are Sub-County Hospitals, Level 5 are County Teaching and Referral Hospitals, Level 6 are National Teaching and Referral Hospitals.

There are four national teaching and referral hospitals: They are Kenyatta University Research and Teaching Hospital (KUTRRH), Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), Kenyatta National Hospital, the National Spinal Injury Referral Hospital and Mathari National Teaching and Referral Hospital.

The level 6 offer a range of services similar to level 5 but they also offer specialised treatments in addition to having advanced infrastructure.

In his Motion, Senator Onyonka says

Kenyans with critical health conditions are forced to travel long distances in order to access specialised services.

The lawmaker argues that the facilities are located far apart and that people are expected to travel long distances incurring high cost of travel, augmented disease and in some cases deaths along the way.

“The bed capacity, medical equipment and human capital in these National Teaching and Referral hospitals are not sufficient to absorb all the patients seeking specialised treatment,” the lawmaker argues in his Motion, adding that many Kenyans with critical health conditions have to endure long distances to access specialised services.

While giving notice of the Motion, the Senator says that County Governments should be compelled to allocate more funds to their respective health dockets to adequately facilitate their County Level 5 and Level 6 hospitals in order to enhance provision of critical health services to reduce the demand for such services from the National Teaching and Referral Hospitals.

House pays tribute to Police officer killed in Haiti

The House has called for full compensation to the family of Mr Samuel Kaitwai, the police officer who was killed while serving as part of the Kenyan-led and United Nations-backed multinational security support mission to Haiti.

Mr Kaitwai lost his life on February 23, 2025, after he was shot during a security operation in response to a distress call from residents of Pont-Sondé, an area in Haiti, which is under the control of heavily armed gangs. His death is the first casualty of the multinational security support mission since its deployment in June 2024.

While mourning his death, Senator Seki Lenku ole Kanar described Mr Kaitwai as a committed and courageous officer who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the service of both his country and Haiti, where he was working to help restore peace.

He pleaded with the Government to provide reasonable financial assistance to the bereaved family who have now lost their primary breadwinner, noting that it is of utmost importance that the



Senator Seki Lenku ole Kanar and Senator Esther Okenyuri during a past meeting of the Committee on Trade. Senator ole Kanar paid tribute Mr Kaitwai.

Government fulfils its moral obligation to demonstrate the nation's commitment to honouring the sacrifice made to their states.

“His death serves as a stern reminder of the extreme dangers faced by those who serve in peacekeeping missions around the world. It underscores the urgent need for enhanced support and protection for those risking their lives for global peace and stability,” Senator

Ole Kanar told the House in a personal statement.

He called on the Government to adequately arm and equip the officers so that they can carry out their missions safely and effectively.

“I trust that the Government is doing all that is within its powers to ensure the safety and the repatriation of the body of Mr Kaitwai to Kenya. This must be done swiftly and without unnecessary bureau-

cratic delays. I salute the service of this fallen hero. His bravery and ultimate sacrifice will forever be remembered.”

Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi led the House in observing a one-minute silence to honour the departed police officer at the request of Majority Whip Boni Khalwale.

Shirika la KALRO lamulikwa na Seneta Oketch



Seneta Eddy Oketch (kulia) na Seneta Boni Khalwale

Seneta Eddy Oketch amelitaka Shirika la Utafiti wa Kilimo na Mifugo nchini Kenya (KALRO) kurekebisha mfumo wake wa usindikaji wa mishahara ili kuhakikisha malipo ya mishahara.

Akitoa taarifa ya binafsi bungeni, Seneta Oketch alitoa wito kwa shirika hilo kutekeleza nyongeza ya mishahara kulingana na sheria na masharti yaliyokub-

aliwa kando na kukagua muundo na desturi zake za mawasiliano ili kuimarisha uwazi na uwajibikaji akiongeza kwamba Bunge la Seneti litazingatia suala hilo kwa kina ikizingatiwa kuwa kilimo kimetataliwa.

“Katika mwaka uliopita, wafanyakazi wa KALRO kote nchi ni Kenya wame-shuhudia kucheleweshwa kwa mishahara mara kwa mara hasa Januari, 2024 msha-

hara ulilipwa tarehe 16 Februari, 2024, Aprili, 2024 mishahara ulilipwa tarehe 9 Mei, 2024, Mei, 2024 mishahara ulilipwa tarehe 12 Juni, 2024 huku mwezi Agosti, 2024 mishahara ukilipwa tarehe 13 Septemba, 2024,” alifichua Seneta Oketch.

“Katika matukio hayo yote, taasisi ilishindwa kutoa maelezo yoyote kwa wafanyakazi wake ni kwa nini ucheleweshaji huo ulishuhudiwa, na kwa kweli ucheleweshaji huo unaoendelea umesababisha usumbufu na ugumu wa maisha,” aliongeza Seneta Oketch.

Alifichua kuwa wafanyakazi walio na maagizo ya kudumu ya benki na ahadi zingine za kifedha zinazozingatia wakati wameathiriwa pakubwa akisikitikia namna ucheleweshaji huo umevuruga mipango ya binafsi ya kifedha huku mara nyingi ukiwalazimu wafanyakazi kuchukua mikopo inayotozwa riba ambayo wangeepuka.

Mbali na hayo, Seneta huyo wa chama cha ODM alisema kuwa KALRO

imeshindwa kutekeleza nyongeza ya mishahara ya kila mwaka ambayo ilifaa kulipwa mwaka jana bila mawasiliano yoyote kutolewa kutoka kwa usimamizi akikariri kuwa hatua hiyo imezidisha kufadhaika na kutoridhika kwa wafanyakazi.

Kadhalika Seneta Oketch alisema hatua za pamoja za mishahara iliyocheleweshwa na nyongeza ya mishahara isiyotekelezwa zimekuwa na athari ya kudhoofisha maadili ya wafanyakazi, haswa kati ya wanasayansi ambao wana jukumu muhimu katika kufanya utafiti kuangazia changamoto za kilimo nchini.

“Ni jukumu la msingi la kila mwajiri, haswa taasisi ya Serikali, kuhakikisha kuwa mishahara inalipwa kwa wakati, jukumu hili sio tu suala la nia njema, ni ahadi ya kimkataba na ya kimaadili inayoonesha jukumu la mwajiri la kuwajali wafanyakazi wao,” alisema Seneta Oketch.

Seneta Hamida ataka uwazi kwenye uanishaji wa maafisa tabibu

Seneta Hamida Kibwana anataka Taarifa kutoka kwa Kamati ya Afya kuhusu vigezo vinavyotumiwa na Mamlaka ya Afya ya Jamii nchini Kenya (SHA) kuwaorodhesha maafisa wa utabibu na wanaohitaji huduma za afya.

“Wasiwasi imeibuka kuwa SHA inawatambua tu maafisa tabibu walio na uhusiano na Muungano wa Madaktari, Wafamasia na Madaktari wa Meno nchini Kenya (KMPDU), ikiwaacha wengine, wakiwemo wanaohusishwa na Muungano wa Maafisa wa Utabibu (KUCO),” Seneta Hamida alifichua katika Bunge hilo.

Aliongeza, “Hatua hiyo ina athari kubwa kwani inaweka mzigo usio wa haki wa kifedha kwa mamilioni ya Wakenya, haswa katika maeneo ya mashambani, ambao wanapaswa kulipa pesa ili kupata huduma za afya katika vituo vya afya vinavyoaminika na vinavyoendeshwa na maafisa tabibu waliotengwa.”

Katika ombi lake, Kiongozi huyo anaitaka Kamati kueleza vigezo vinavyotumiwa na SHA kuwaorodhesha maafisa wa utabibu na vituo vyao husika, ikishughulikia wasiwasi kwamba ni maafisa tabibu walio na uhusiano na KMPDU pekee ndio wanaotambuliwa kando na kueleza hatua zozote zinazochukuliwa ili kuhakikisha kuwa maafisa wote wa

utabibu waliohitimu na vituo vyao vya afya wanapata ufahamu kuwezesha upatikanaji wa huduma za afya kote nchini na kila mtu aliyesajiliwa na SHA.

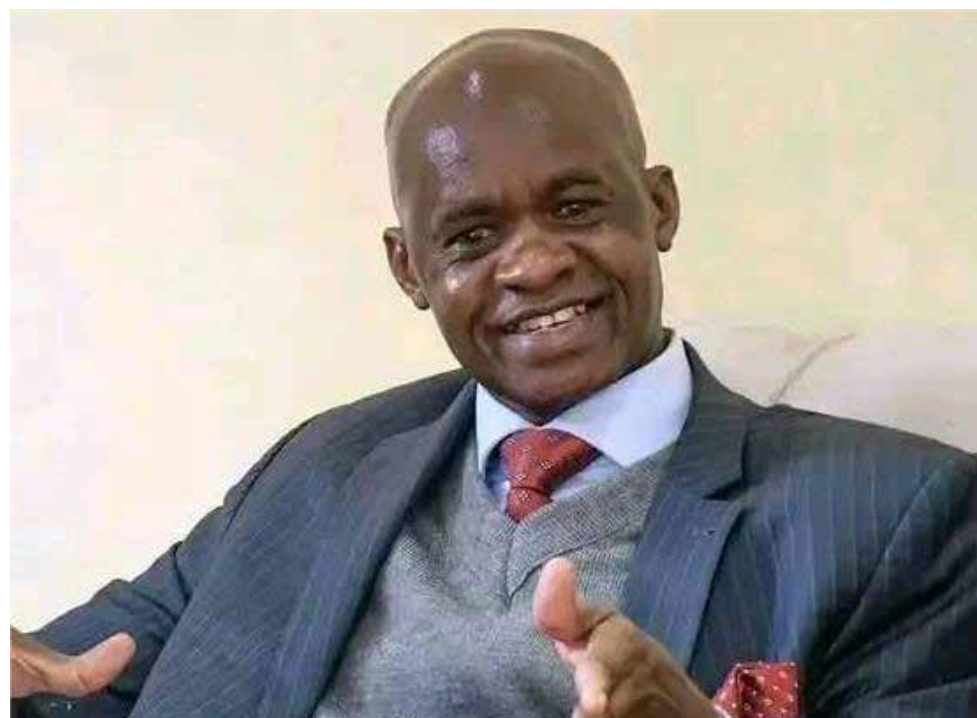
Katika ombi jingine, Seneta huyo anaitaka Kamati ya Afya kutoa taarifa kuhusu hali ya malipo ya madeni ya Hazina ya Kitaifa ya Bima ya Afya (NHIF).

Kamati hiyo aidha imetakiwa kutoa taarifa ya kina kuhusu madeni yote ambayo hayajalipwa ya NHIF yakiwemo maombi ya malipo ambayo bado hayajalipwa, malimbikizi ya malipo kwa watoa huduma za afya na majukumu mengine ya kifedha, ikifafanua jinsi madeni hayo yanavyoshughulikiwa.

Kadhalika, Kamati hiyo inayoongozwa na Seneta Jackson Mandago imetakiwa kueleza katika ripoti yake muda maalum wa kulipa madeni hayo.

Kwingineko Seneta Alexander Mundigi ametaka majibu kutoka kwa Kamati ya Afya kwenye Seneti kuhusu changamoto za kiutawala zinazoathiri Mamlaka ya Afya ya Kijamii nchini Kenya (SHA).

Seneta Mundigi alielezea wasiwasi kuhusu kusalia wazi kwa muda mrefu kwa wadhifa wa Afisa Mkuu Mtendaji kwenye mamlaka hiyo kufuatia kusi-mamishwa kazi kwa Kaimu Afisa Mkuu Mtendaji mnamo Novemba 12, 2024 ili kuruhusu uchunguzi kuhusu mienendo



Seneta Alexander Mundigi

na utendakazi wake.

Alibainisha kuwa pengo hilo la usimamizi limeibua wasiwasi kwa wadau wakiwemo wagonjwa, wafanyakazi na wananchi kwa jumla.

Seneta huyo ameitaka Kamati hiyo kufafanua kuhusu kucheleweshwa kwa uteuzi wa Afisa Mkuu Mtendaji mpya na kutoa ratiba ya wazi ya mchakato wa kuajiri.

Aidha, Kiongozi huyo anataka maelezo ya kina kuhusu mambo yanayosababisha changamoto za kiutawala katika malipo ya wagonjwa wanaotibiwa na kurejea nyumbani na mipango ya Wizara ya kuzitatua changamoto hizo yakiwemo mapendekezo ya suluhu, muda wa utekelezaji na fedha zilizotengwa.

Set aside heroes' corner, Senators' plea to State as they eulogise Mambo Mbotela



Senator Mohamed Faki (left) speaks to Senator Issa Juma



Senator Samson Cherarkey (right) and Senator Okiya Omtatah

The House has asked the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and Nairobi City County to designate land where national heroes will be buried.

The call was made on Tuesday during the debate on the Motion on the celebration of the life of the late Leonard Mambo Mbotela, the renowned media personality who passed away on February 7, 2025, aged 84.

"In future we should have a heroes' corner where people of integrity who have served this nation with distinction can be buried," said Senator Samson Cherarkey while contributing to debate on the Motion.

The Motion was sponsored by Senator Dunson Mungatana.

"I hope the Nairobi City County has the foresight to do that. We should honour state burial with all state honours. Such heroes, whom we have full recognition of, should be honoured through a state burial."

Senator Cherarkey challenged the National Heroes Council to propose a street to be named after the late Mbotela in Mombasa City County.

"We also want to ask the Government to name at least one or two streets in Nairobi and other cities in the country to celebrate him. There are cases where we have names that do not belong to us, the local people or local leadership."

Mr Mbotela had an illustrious career in media spanning over five decades, and was one of the most influential voices in Kenyan radio, especially through his long running radio and Television programme, "Je, huu ni ungwana?"

He was one of the pioneer radio and television presenters who worked for the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) at time it was the only radio station in the country that was operating.

In his presentation, Senator Mungatana said the late Mbotela's command of the Kiswahili language kept Kenyans informed on many topics while his exceptional football commentaries on radio brought joy to many people and popularised the sport at a time when live football on television was rare.

He said the late Mbotela was in the league of broadcasters like Amina Faki, Khadija Ali, Ali Salim Manga, the late Mohammed Juma Njuguna and many others.

"They were real nationalists who promoted Kiswahili language and nationhood. The late Mbotela with his programme; Je, huu ni ungwana? was able to impart nationalism, cultural values and many other things which made Kenyans flock to their television stations to listen."

He added: "He contributed a lot to this country. It fits that as a country and the Senate to celebrate and appreciate his life as a remarkable Kenyan."

Senator Mohamed Faki, who moved the Motion on behalf of Senator Mungatana, said the late Mbotela mentored many radio and television presenters and that his death was a great loss to the country.

"On behalf of the people of Mombasa, where he originated from, I convey my sincere condolences to the family, friends, and workmates on the demise of this great person."



Senator Beatrice Ogola and Senator Danson Mungatana, the sponsor of the Motion.



Senator Beatrice Ogola celebrated the late Mbotela because of the influential voice he had all over the radio noting that the country remained proud of him.

"Each one of us grew knowing his voice. Even when you were not close to the radio or television, you could identify the voice," she said.

Senator Veronica Maina said the late

Mbotela brought a culture of honour, an honour which she wished was carried along by other anchors and media stations.

"Every time there was a certain culture that went against the African principles, or value system, he was quick to ask the people, 'Je, huu ni Uungwana?'"



1. President William Ruto and Deputy President Kithure Kindiki share a light moment with Speaker Amason Kingi during the Head of State's development tour of Kilifi County on Wednesday.
2. Deputy Clerk of the Senate, Ms Eunice Gichangi, with other Parliamentary Staff during the burial of Senator William Cheptumo in Baringo County.
3. Senator Karungo Thangwa (left) and Senator John Methu during the late William Cheptumo's requiem mass in Nairobi.

4. Speaker Amason Kingi and Majority Leader at the African Inland Church in Nairobi.
5. Speaker Kingi signs the Condolences Book when he visited Senator William Cheptumo's Nairobi home to commiserate with the family.
6. Speaker Amason Kingi consoles the late Cheptumo's widow at the family home in Nairobi.



7. Speaker Kingi with the family of the late Cheptumo at their Nairobi home.
8. Tiati MP William Kamket (left) joins Senator Allan Chesang, Senator Moses Kajwang and Senator Eddy Oketch during the Senator William Cheptumo's requiem mass in Nairobi.
9. From Left: Senator David Wakoli, Senator Joe Nyutu, Senator Catherine Mumma, Senator Beatrice Ogola and Senator Allan Chesang when they were introduced to mourners during the burial in Baringo County.

10. Senator William Cheptumo's widow speaks at the burial in Baringo County flanked by their children.
11. From left: Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot and Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina lead other Senators in singing a final song before the body of the late Cheptumo was lowered in its final resting place.



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