

The SENATE

Weekly

Issue No. 0062

Senators want Scheme of Service for Chiefs, their Assistants

The legislators say Chiefs and their assistants are the cornerstone of the rule of law and order within communities.

Senators have asked the Ministry of Interior and National Administration to develop a Scheme of Service for Chiefs and their Assistants arguing they are the cornerstone of the rule of law and order within the community.

While the lawmakers want the members of Nyumba Kumi committee included in the proposed Scheme, they observed that clarity on career progression path will motivate the administrators as one can begin as a village elder or assistant chief and go through the administrative ladder and become regional commissioner.

"The service offered by the administrators is so crucial that an assistant chief plays the roles of a judge, family counsellors, administrators and arbitrators," said Senator Enock Wambua during the debate in the House.

He argued that such a critical role justifies the need for a proper scheme of service.

The lawmakers were responding to the request for a Statement by Senator Johnes Mwaruma who wants the House furnished with details of the scheme of service currently guiding the recruitment, promotion and career progression of chiefs and assistant chiefs including when it was last reviewed and updated.

The lawmaker wants the Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations to explain the criteria used for hiring and promoting the administrators, the entry level, job group, highest attainable job group within the ranks and the minimum and maximum duration an officer stays within a job group before promotion.

"The Committee should submit the breakdown of emoluments received by chiefs and assistant chiefs including the basic salary, housing allowance, transport allowance, extraneous allowance and



Senator Enock Wambua makes submissions in one of the sessions of the County Public Accounts Committee as Senator Edwin Sifuna looks on.

annual salary increments," he told the House when he made the request.

He also wants the details of existing gaps and reforms needed in the current scheme of service to address stagnation in career progression and improve motivation and retention among these officers.

The positions of assistant chief and chief are the lowest level of administration in the national Government.

Supporting the Statement, Senator Wakili Sigei said the proposals for a scheme of service for the officers should have been done a while back.

"This is a team of men and women who run our affairs as a nation at the lowest level of administration. They are the people who deal with every case before it gets to the police station, court and any other baraza that deals with it. They are the first point of call when there is a problem in any family or society," he told the House.

He said a scheme of service will help the administrators in many ways, including motivating them to know that they can grow in the system.

"Having been employed as an assistant chief, you have an opportunity to have your career progress when there is a scheme of service. Failure to have such an arrangement will always discourage them from performing their roles. Besides operating without resources and offices, most of them operate from their homes."

He challenged the Committee, which is chaired by Senator Fatuma Dullo, to go beyond the scope of service and ensure that part of what they come up with also addresses the operationalisation of several administrative units that have been gazetted across.

"Chiefs and their Assistants receive all kinds of problems and they are expected to deal with them. Having a scheme of service, having them in a

structured kind of arrangement will have them supported, so that they deliver for the people that they represent."

Most public participation exercises conducted by Parliament and the executive conduct, it is the chief and their assistants the people who call upon the residents to participate, and Senator Wakili observes that without them, it would be difficult.

Senator Boni Khalwale said the administrators are critical to alternative resolution of disputes.

He says chiefs and assistant chiefs are the only ones who are not corrupt in that court involving alternative resolution of disputes. "They are able to preside over serious issues, including land matters and they settle those cases amicably, without having to be corrupted," he said adding that families who have opted for the conventional dispute resolutions have been left bankrupt.

"They spent years without end, waste



Senator Boni Khalwale (left) and Senator Johnes Mwaruma.

hundreds of thousands of shillings, and no resolution of the dispute will come.”

Senator Khalwale proposed that there should be a clear distinction between the key issues of the alternative dispute resolutions court, the chiefs and their roles, and the police stations.

Supporting the Statement, Senator Samson Cherarkey also called for the Ministry to look into the case of the Nyumba Kumi leaders saying they ensure there is peace in the villages.

He however advised the Ministry of Interior and National Administration not to include academic qualifications for village elders.

“The only qualification the village elders need is to understand the cultural norms and behaviour of a community. We do not even need to know whether the village elders went to school or not. All they need is to be above 40 years old,

married and have an understanding of the local culture of the place.”

Senator Enoch Wambua warned against making the service of village elders too academic or elitist. He said the best qualification for a village elder is a person who is mature enough to understand the challenges of the village and who is known within the village, who knows the boundaries of the village, relationships within the families of the village and the culture of the village.

“We should not make these things too academic. Otherwise, we are going to have a situation where we shall say that the people who work in our farms must have degrees in agriculture. Let us be realistic. Where the rubber meets the road in the villages, let us have mature men and women who can arbitrate on issues, people who understand the issues in their villages.”

Give children with autism early screening, Senator Methu urges

Senator John Methu has hailed the Senate for the passage of the Persons with Disabilities Bill, which for the first time formally recognises autism and other neurological conditions as disabilities under law.

The lawmaker said the passage of the Bill provides groundbreaking step towards equity and inclusion, only if the legislation is matched by action.

“Inclusion is not charity. It is justice. Children and adults with autism are not asking for special treatment but for equal opportunities to learn, to grow, to thrive and to contribute meaningfully to society,” said the Senator on Thursday.

The legislator was making a personal Statement on the floor of the House to mark the World Autism Awareness Day, which is marked annually on April 2, and to further observe the entire month as Autism Acceptance Month.

The recognition of autism is a significant occasion for promoting understanding, inclusion and support for individuals living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

This year’s theme is “Moving from Surviving to Thriving” which the Senator noted challenges the nation to shift from awareness to meaningful action.

Autism is a complex neurodevelopment condition that affects how a person communicates, interacts socially and experiences the world around them.

Senator Methu said children and adults with autism in Kenya continue to face systemic barriers from stigma and discrimination to inadequate access to healthcare, limited education opportunities and underfunded support structures.

Families raising children with autism often bear a heavy emotional and financial burden, often without commensurate public support. World Kenya RAC (Regional Advisory Committee) National Autism Registry and available estimates from the Ministry of Health and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) suggest that at least one in every 100 children in Kenya may be living with autism. With a child population of over 20 million, this means that more than 200,000 children could be on the autism spectrum, many of whom remain undiagnosed and misdiagnosed. The number of adults with autism is likely to be higher considering gaps in diagnosis in previous decades.

“It is not enough to simply recognise autism. We must build systems that empower individuals on the spectrum to live full, dignified and independent lives,” said the Senator, adding that Autism Awareness Day and the entire month of April should remind Kenyans of their duty to build a Kenya where all people, regardless of ability or diagnosis, are valued and supported.

He challenged all relevant institutions to ensure that children with autism receive early screening, therapy and inclusive education; families receive adequate support services both in urban and rural settings; public awareness is deepened so that stigma no longer isolates those living with autism.

“The institutions should ensure that resources are directed towards specialised training for teachers, medical professionals and caregivers.”



Senator John Methu

Nyamira County Assembly: Committee to submit report this week



Senator Okongo Omogeni makes comments during the meeting between the Committee on Devolution and Nyamira MCAs on the crisis in the Assembly. Senator Richard Onyonka and Senator Margret Kamar listen on.

The Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations has said court cases are posing a challenge to efforts to resolve the crisis in the Nyamira County Assembly.

The Committee on Tuesday, April 8, held a meeting with the two factions of the County Assembly also heard presentations from the Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakango.

In a status report to the House, the Chairman of the Committee Mohamed Abbas expressed reservation that cases pending in court are a danger to the Committee's efforts to resolve the issue will prejudice the court.

"The Committee met the parties and listened to them. The only challenge that we have is that the matter is in court. We therefore cannot reach a decision because it will be prejudice of the court," Senator Abbas told the House on Thursday.

He however promised to submit the report this week. "We have asked our legal team to advise us accordingly. It is important for us to note that Senate is not in court. We will try our best to submit the report next week, Thursday."

The Assembly has been in a leadership paralysis in the last five months. It is split into two rival groups, each conducting parallel sittings in different venues across the county. One is at the main County Assembly building and the other

one conducts its sitting in other towns within the County.

The rival groups are led by separate individuals, each claiming to be a legitimate speaker and clerk of the County Assembly.

During the Tuesday meeting, both Mr Thaddeus Nyabaro and Mr Enock Okero claimed to be the legitimate Speaker while Mr Duke Onyari and Mr Sylvanus Ndemo both claimed to be the legitimate Clerk leaving the assembly at a crossroad.

Speaker Enock Okero, who was impeached in October 2024, told the Committee that the Assembly impeached him but the High Court in Kisii reinstated him and suspended any attempts to remove him from office.

He explained that despite the court orders, the Assembly elected a new speaker, published the changes in the Kenya Gazette, and continued operating in defiance of judicial directives.

"I attempted to resume office under the protection of interim court orders. What followed was a chaotic confrontation: armed individuals stormed the chambers, MCAs were physically ejected, and police officers allegedly used force against elected members," Mr Okero told the Committee.

Mr Nyabaro rebuffed the claims claiming that the MCAs followed the law



Senator Mohamed Abbas, the chair of the Devolution Committee, listens as MCAs from Nyamira County make their submissions on the crisis.

to the letter while impeaching Mr Okero. He declared he is legally in office as the substantive speaker of the assembly.

Dr Nyakang'o testified that her office had received conflicting communication from both factions, which complicated budgetary approvals.

She noted that her office's most recent engagement, as of April 2, 2025, was with the County Treasury, which recognised Mr Okero and Acting Clerk Silvanus Nyamora as the legitimate officeholders.

The Committee pledged to scrutinise all relevant documents including court rulings, budget statements, Gazette notices, and Assembly Hansards, before initiating consultative talks with the Governor of Nyamira County and both factions of the County Assembly.

"This impasse has led to the erosion of the institutional integrity of the assembly which is unfair to the people of Nyamira. We will get to the bottom of this to find a lasting solution," Senator Abbas committed.

Governors reject Bill that seeks to empower their deputies



The Chairman of Devolution Committee Mohamed Abbas during the meeting with Council of Governors.



Governor Ahmed Abdullahi, the Council of Governors chairman, with Governor Mutahi Kahiga during the meeting.



Senator Margret Kamar, flanked by Senator Richard Onyonka, speaks during the Committee on Devolution meeting with Council of Governors.

The Council of Governors has rejected the County Government Laws (Amendment) Bill 2024 in its entirety claiming it contravenes the Constitution.

The Bill, which is sponsored by Senator Karungi Muthuri, seeks to amend the County Governments Act and the Intergovernmental Relations Act to provide a definitive role for the deputy governor, clarify their responsibilities, and foster harmonious relations between governors and deputy governors.

Additionally, it seeks to provide for the representation of governors by deputy governors in the meetings of the National and County Government Coordinating Summit.

The County Governments Act currently provides a vague mandate for deputy governors, stating that they shall

deputise the governor and may be assigned additional responsibilities.

The lack of clarity has led to inefficiencies, power struggles, and strained relationships between governors and their deputies, undermining effective governance and limiting the deputy governor's ability to contribute meaningfully to county development.

In a meeting with the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations at Parliament Buildings on Thursday, the county bosses informed Senators that while the Bill purports to address alleged ambiguities by prescribing additional statutory duties for the deputy governors, it lacks a legislative gap.

The Council explained that Article 179 (4) and 179 (5) of the Constitution and Section 32 of the County Governments Act already outlines the deputy

governor's duties and there was no need to legislate on the same.

"These provisions afford each Governor the flexibility to delegate responsibilities based on county needs. County Governments assign the deputy governors responsibilities in the respective County Executive Orders," Governor Ahmed Abdullahi, the Chairperson of the Council of Governors, said.

By attempting to create rigid statutory mandates, they explained, the Bill narrows the Governor's ability to manage county leadership effectively and therefore no genuine governance gap exists that requires further legislative intervention.

The Council of Governors also poked holes on the County Governments (Amendment) Bill claiming that several proposed provisions in the Bill illustrate

overreach and governance challenges

"This Bill envisions a role for the Deputy Governor in budget oversight, yet the County Assembly and the County Department of Finance already bear statutory responsibility for this function," Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga started.

"In addition, it provides appearances of deputy governors before the assembly which could invite bureaucratic inefficiency and may create conflicts with other county officers' established oversight responsibilities," he added.

They explained that such measures risk undermining the clear leadership hierarchy in counties, inviting unnecessary tensions, and fostering parallel chains of command and beseeched the Senate to drop the Bill.

NDMU to compensate Mradi explosion victims

The House has adopted a Motion that requires the Nairobi City County Government to stop licensing petroleum facilities in residential neighbourhoods as the first step toward addressing the proliferation of gas filling plants and petrol stations.

Senators also resolved that victims of the Mradi Gas explosion should be compensated through the National Disaster Management Unit, (NDMU) whose main function is to administer a comprehensive emergency disaster programme, which is carried out in collaboration with stakeholders, including Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA), with the aim of saving lives and protecting property.

The lawmakers argue that such proliferation poses undue and unnecessary danger to the residents of Nairobi and other affected regions.

The House further directed the Ministry of Energy to expedite the approval of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Regulations of 2019, which have provided for more stringent compliance measures when it comes to operation of similar plants.

The lawmakers made the decision when they unanimously approved the Motion on the Report of the Committee on Energy on its inquiry into the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Explosion in Mradi Area, Embakasi, Nairobi City County.

“All the licensing authorities, especially the county governments, must enforce zoning boundaries prior to issuing any permits,” said Senator Edwin Sifuna, a member of the Committee on Energy, and who moved the Motion.

On February 1, 2024, an LPG explosion occurred in the Mradi area of Embakasi, Nairobi County. The facility involved was an LPG plant used for storing and filling gas cylinders. The explosion claimed the lives of 11 Kenyans and left at least 280 other people injured.

The explosion further resulted in a massive fire which spread to nearby buildings, causing extensive damage to residential and commercial properties.

One of the key observations that the

Committee made is that there is involvement of multiple legal regulatory bodies in the licensing process, which creates a complex web of responsibility, making it difficult to establish accountability where safety issues arise.

There are a number of licences that somebody needs to obtain before they operate such a facility. “The problem we have is that the various agencies that are responsible for issuing the licences do not speak to each other,” Senator Sifuna told the House.

“Somebody will go to the county government of Nairobi and obtain a business permit, saying they want to set up a shop somewhere there and they will go with that approval to NEMA, saying we are setting up a garage.”

The Mradi site was registered as a garage and they did not have a license from EPRA to operate a gas filling plant.

“The presence of multiple legal regulatory bodies and the fact that they do not coordinate and speak to each other when required, causes that complex web of responsibility, and it is very difficult to pin someone down and say you are the person responsible.”

The Committee directed the Directorate of Criminal Investigation to investigate how Maxxis Energy obtained an LPG storage and filling plant license, and those found culpable be charged in accordance with Section 99 of the Petroleum Act.

Further, the National Police Service (NPS) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) are expected to fast-track all pending criminal cases relating to non-compliance of LPG regulations.

Supporting the report, Senator Tabitha Mutinda said people lost lives and the culprits should be brought to book as it is equal to murder. “The law is there and very clear. The security operators and the legal system should ensure they fasten this so that it sets an example to others who are still not adhering.”

Senator Samson Cherarkey challenged the Committee of Energy to submit an audit of LPG gas production companies in the estates within 90 days.



Senator Tabitha Mutinda



Senator Samson Cherarkey

House to decide fate of Petition on external lawyers



Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi



Senator Danson Mungatana



Senator Ledama ole Kina and Senator Mariam Omar



Senator Edwin Sifuna

Senators are divided on the Petition presented to the House seeking to bar county governments, and their entities, from procuring the services of external law firms in their cases.

While some of the lawmakers say barring the law firms is against the constitution and free market economy, some argue that such restriction is necessary because it is a huge burden on taxpayers as the law firms make exorbitant demands.

However, Deputy Speaker Kathuri Murungi deferred the vote on the Motion on Thursday to a later date.

During the debate on the Petition, a ceiling should be placed on legal fees charged by the law firms to protect public interest.

“There should be provisions for agreements on the legal fees that can be charged for any court case. Lawyers should not be permitted to present fee notes as they please, based solely on the Advocates’ remuneration order,” said Senator Danson Mungatana, adding that there must be a clear agreement in place.

The lawmaker was contributing to debate on the Motion of the joint Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs; and Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations that sought to restrain counties from hiring private law firms from representing them in court cases.

The salient feature of the Petition, submitted to the Senate by Mr Laban Musundi, argued that County governments have internal legal departments headed by County Attorney and that reliance on external law firms is costly on taxpayers as the law firms charge exorbitant fees.

In their report on the Petition, the Joint Committee observed there is need for counties to comply with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015, especially when they are seeking to outsource legal services.

“They should also ensure that the fees which lawyers charge county governments are also within the provisions of the Advocates Remunerations Order and other relevant statutes, including an engagement where prior to getting instructions, requests of proposals for legal fees and quotations are made by county governments, so that the lowest bidders are considered,” the Joint Committee said in its report.

By doing that, the Committee noted, county governments will be using resources efficiently by making sure that they do not just do it for the sake of hiring lawyers.

The Committee recommended that county governments should be encouraged to build capacity of employees under the Office of the County Attorney.

This will help them to ensure that complex cases which they made reference to as a basis of hiring lawyers from outside are justified.

It also directed counties to strictly adhere to the regulations, legal framework, the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, as well as the Advocates Remuneration Order when approving payments for legal services.

“When they adhere to that, definitely they will charge within the scale. That will ensure that public resources are managed well and also the expenditure on legal services generally is managed,” said Senator Wakili Sigei, the chair Committee on Devolution while moving the motion on the report of the Petition.

Further, the Committee directed counties to limit external lawyers to occasionally complex cases that would be justified because of the expertise generally available within county governments.

While supporting the Petition as presented by Mr Musundi, Senator Edwin Sifuna said the Joint Committee recommendations were weak.

“The committee should have been stricter than what it has recommended,” he said, adding lawyers have abused the legal fee system to siphon money from county governments.

“It is unconscionable because the

committee says that the bill should be charged according to the remuneration order. The order says you use the value of the property to calculate your fees.”

Senator Ledama ole Kina said the Joint Committee ought to have capped the amount of money that any county government can spend in outsourcing legal services.

He rejected the recommendation to build the capacity of the office of the County Attorney, arguing that appointing a county attorney is subjected to a vigorous process of hiring a qualified lawyer, who is trained by the Kenya School of Law, who understands matters, if it is litigation, conveyancing and tax laws.

Senator Godfrey Osotsi opposed the proposal to restrain counties from engaging expert legal services outside their county attorney office.

“That would be against the Constitution; against the Public Procurement and Disposal Act, which provides that there must be competitive procurement where counties, for some reason, want to engage in competitive procurement.”

“If there is any county that is engaged in an illegal activity of paying exorbitant amounts of money to law firms, it should be handled on a case-by-case basis, because the law is there.”

Ganda residents seek Senate help on their land



Speaker Amason Kingi

Residents of Ganda Ward, Kilifi County, are urging the Senate to intervene and save them from harassment and threats of eviction from their land by private developers.

The residents say they have lived on the land for over 50 years, the time in which they have established homes, schools, churches, mosques and social amenities.

In a Petition to the Senate, they complain that they have experienced constant harassment by alleged private developers which has escalated tensions within the community and raised security concerns among the local residents and leaders.

Despite numerous attempts to seek redress from the Land Registrar, the National Land Commission, and the Ministry of Lands, the residents say the re-

sponses have been unsatisfactory.

“The lack of resolution has left us vulnerable to further harassment and intimidation,” they say in the Petition submitted to the Senate by Hon Oscar Wanje, a Member of the County Assembly (MCA) of Kilifi County, representing Ganda Ward.

On October 7, 2024, the residents wrote to the Mombasa Land Registrar and the National Land Commission (NLC) requesting an official property search and intervention regarding the threats they were facing.

However, their efforts yielded no results. On October 28, 2024, the residents submitted another request to the County Land Registrar for the deed plan for the plots. However, these efforts were also unsuccessful.

The Petitioners seek the intervention

of the Senate to the concerns with a view to make appropriate recommendations including making proposals for legislative interventions as may be necessary to address the issues raised in the Petition.

They also want the Senate, after their inquiry, to recommend the fast-tracking of the process of adjudication and granting ownership of the land to the residents of Plot Nos. 87, 170, 216, 238, 240, 255, 256, 288, 299, 308, 372, and 403 in Ganda Ward.

Speaker Amason Kingi committed the Petition to the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources for consideration.

In terms of Standing Orders, the Committee is required, in not more than 60 calendar days to table its report in the House for consideration.

STATEMENTS

Concern over marginalisation of PwDs

Senator Tom Ojienda has expressed concerns regarding entrenched ethnic exclusion and the marginalisation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs,) within county assemblies, noting that it is a blatant violation of constitutional and statutory mandates on inclusivity.

The lawmaker argues that the violations not only undermine constitutional principles of inclusivity, equality, and non-discrimination, but also erode the core objectives of devolution, threatening national utility, unity and cohesion.

He wants the Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations to explain the role of County Public Service Boards (CPSBs) and county assembly boards in contributing to the disparities and specify measures they have taken to address and rectify the imbalance in public service employment.

The Committee should outline the specific actions undertaken by oversight bodies, particularly Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and NCIC to address the violations and enforce compliance with diversity and inclusion.

He further wants the Committee to clarify whether there are any ongoing or planned policy and legislative interventions aimed at eliminating ethnic patronage in the county employment and enforcing the five percent employ-

ment quota for People with Disabilities (PWDs) and ensuring strict adherence to constitutional and statutory provisions on inclusivity within county assemblies.

The Auditor General’s Report and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission’s (NCIC) Ethnic and Diversity Audit of the County Public Service 2023 revealed that 34 counties, that is about 72 per cent of counties, have violated Section 65 of the County Government Act.

He said the violation is demonstrated by over-representing dominant ethnic groups in their workforce.

“This has resulted in the migration of minority communities such as the El Molo, the Daasanach, the Pokomo, as well as a systematic failure to meet the constitutional requirement of allocating at least five percent of public appointments to persons with disabilities.”

Senator Danson Mungatana challenged the Committee, when considering the matter, to engage stakeholders, particularly the large employers in the public service at the national government level. “Specifically, they should provide data on how many individuals from counties such as Tana River, Lamu and other small population counties are represented at the national level,” he said, adding that there are departments



Senator Danson Mungatana and Senator Tom Ojienda

where people can communicate in their mother tongue, but lack representation from the counties.

“This situation is highly unfair. I pray for the day in this country when fairness will not only be preached, but truly felt at all levels. This presents an opportunity

for the Senate to thoroughly investigate this matter, engage with stakeholders and obtain comprehensive statistics on the status of employment in small communities and counties with lower populations.”

Senator Maina at the helm of Kewosa



Senator Veronica Maina.

Senator Veronica Maina is the new Chairperson of the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA) succeeding Senator Hamida Kibwana whose term has ended.

In the elections held on April 1, Senator Hezema Lemaletian was elected the vice chair while Senator Beth Syengo, Senator Mariam Omar and Senator Esther Okenyuri will continue in their roles as Secretary, Treasurer, and Organising Secretary, respectively.

Together, the officials declared their commitment in creating a more inclu-

sive and purpose-driven Association, ensuring that no woman is left behind.

KEWOSA is also confronting a national crisis: the rising tide of gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide.

The Association has expressed outrage over the increasing cases of violence against women and girls across the country. From Wajir to Nyamira, Kisii to Kilifi, heart-breaking stories demand action and justice.

“We mourn the loss of 17-year-old Gaala Aden Abdi from Wajir, murdered for rejecting an arranged marriage. We



Senator Veronica Maina flanked by Senator Beth Syengo (left) and Senator Esther Okenyuri during the election.

remember the woman in Baringo, tragically killed by her estranged husband in front of her children. We stand with widows in Kisii and Nyamira, who are stripped of their dignity by outdated customs. These are not traditions—they are crimes,” said Senator Maina.

While appreciating the government’s allocation of Sh100 million to combat GBV and femicide, KEWOSA stressed that laws alone are insufficient without implementation. With counties like Nairobi, Kiambu, and Nakuru grappling with alarming cases, KEWOSA is taking

the fight to the grassroots. Each nominated senator has been allocated Sh930,000 to lead advocacy and community sensitisation programmes tailored to their constituencies.

“From advocating for gender desks in police stations, expediting GBV case prosecutions, and promoting responsible media reporting, to fostering community-centered action and empowering survivors, KEWOSA is declaring: Enough is enough. Today’s message is not just a statement. It’s a call to action,” Senator Maina affirmed.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A total 783 million out of 15 billion trees planted, CS Barasa

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry is spearheading the National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy while actively participating in the 15 billion-tree growing as part of the national initiative aimed at preventing deforestation and promote reforestation efforts.

Out of the 15 billion trees targeted, the Ministry has planted 783 million across the country, 652 trees have already been incorporated into the Jaza Miti application, which is data driven where the Government is monitoring the growing of the 15 billion trees.

The CS, 131 trees have been manually collected.

“In the application, we are monitoring the growth to ensure that these trees are thriving and viable. We will be able to share with you the comprehensive report per county. We have had several discussions that, every month, every county should have a report on how many trees they have been able to plant vis-a-vis what has been targeted. I can assure you that this comprehensive report will be shared within seven days,” Cabinet Secretary Deborah Mulongo told the Senate.

The exercise, which is restoring degraded ecosystems while boosting cli-

mate resilience, is being implemented in partnership with partners, stakeholders and county governments.

“In the 15 billion tree growing initiative, every county has an obligation to grow a given number of trees over the next 10 years. To ensure production of quality tree seedlings, certified seeds are sourced from authorised seed provider, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KE-FRI), for quality assurance,” she told the House on Wednesday.

The Cabinet Secretary had appeared in the House to respond to Members’ questions. Senator Kamau Murango had wanted the Ministry to provide to the House details on the ongoing tree harvesting in Kamuruana Hill Forest in Kirinyaga County, stating whether the harvesting is legal and whether public participation was undertaken prior to the harvesting.

The lawmaker also wanted to know the steps the ministry has taken to prevent deforestation and promote reforestation efforts across the country.

The Cabinet Secretary told the House the Ministry has finalised the development of National Forest Policy 2023 and the National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy 2023-2032, mobilised resources and mainstreaming tree

growing in all sectors, awareness creation and publicity.

The Ministry has coordinated production of quality tree seeds towards achievement of 100 metric tonnes annually, coordinated seedling production towards achievement of 1.5 billion annually, coordinated growing of trees towards achievement of 1.5 billion annual targets.

The Ministry has recruited a total of 2,664 forest rangers and 474 foresters across all the forest stations for protection and surveillance to enhance survival of planted seeds, rehabilitated 61,256 hectares of degraded public natural forests, established 10,763 hectares of public forest plantation, fenced 1,190 kilometres of natural public forests, rehabilitated 7,505.69 hectares of mangrove forest ecosystem and rehabilitated 3,054 hectares of bamboo forests.

“The recent recruitment of forest rangers, forest officers and cadets has been a game changer, achieving a significant reduction in illegal forest activities which contribute to deforestation,” she explained.

The Ministry deployed a multi-agency security team to enforce and eradicate illegal logging and charcoal production. The enhanced surveillance and patrols,



Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa

KFS has intensified surveillance efforts including aerial monitoring and ground patrols to deter illegal activities.

“These measures have contributed to a reduction in illegal logging and charcoal production as communities become more aware of the importance of forest conservation.

She said legal enforcements individuals apprehended for engaging in illegal logging and charcoal production face legal consequences including fines and other penalties. This strict enforcement serves as a deterrent to others considering involvement in such activities.

Seneta ataka suluhu mzozo wa wahudumu wa tekisi na wauzaji wa samaki



Seneta Tom Ojienda

Seneta Tom Ojienda ameibua wasiwasi kuhusu migomo ya mara kwa mara ya madereva wa tekisi za kidijitali na changamoto za uendeshaji zinazokabili Soko la Samaki la Kisumu.

Seneta Ojienda alielezea wasiwasi kubwa kwa Maseneta wenzake huku akitaka hatua za hima kuchukuliwa ili kuzikabili changamoto hizo.

“Madereva wa tekisi za kidijitali wamegoma mara kwa mara kutokana na mifumo ya unyonyaji ya bei na viwango vya juu vya ada zinazotozwa wahudumu, ambavyo havizingatii kupanda kwa gharama za uendeshaji,” alisema Seneta Ojienda. “Madereva wamepinga kutengwa kwao katika kuamuliwa kwa nauli na wametaka kuongezwa kwa nauli

ya msingi hadi shilingi 300, ambayo haijawahi kutekelezwa.”

Akizungumza kwenye kikao cha Seneti, mwanasheria huyo aliiomba Kamati ya Barabara, Uchukuzi na Makazi chini ya Uenyekiti wa Seneta Eddy Oketch kushughulikia utiifu wa asilimia 18 ya ada, kuzingatia kubainisha viwango vya msingi vya nauli na kuchunguza uhusika wa madereva katika kuamua nauli na maamuzi ya sera.

“Tunahitaji mipango ya kurekebisha mfumo uliopo wa udhibiti wa sekta ya tekisi za kidijitali ili kuimarisha haki na uwazi,” alisisitiza Kiongozi huyo.

Kuhusu Soko la Samaki la Kisumu, Seneta Ojienda alibainisha, “Kituo hiki kilianzishwa ili kuimarisha biashara

ya samaki na kuimarisha ustawi wa kiuchumi wa wavuvi na wafanyabiashara katika Kaunti ya Kisumu. Hata hivyo, tangu kutekelezwa kwake, wasiwasi kadha imebuliwa kuhusu usimamizi, ufikiaji na ufanisi wake.”

Seneta huyo aliitaka Kamati ya Biashara, Viwanda na Utalii inayoongozwa na Seneta wa Kaunti ya Kwale Issa Juma Boy kuchunguza hali ya uendeshaji wa kituo hicho, vyanzo vya fedha, muundo wa usimamizi na changamoto zinazoathiri utendaji wake.

“Lazima tuhakikishe rasilimali hii muhimu ya kiuchumi inafikia malengo yaliyokusudiwa kwa manufaa ya watu,” Seneta Ojienda alihitimisha.

Seneta Abbas ataka ripoti ya visa vya saratani Wajir

Seneta Mohamed Abbas

Seneta Abass ataka ripoti kuhusu ongezeko la visa vya saratani Wajir

Seneta Abass Mohamed ameeleza hofu kuhusu kuongezeka kwa visa vya saratani katika Kaunti ya Wajir akihusisha hali hiyo ya kutatanisha na tuhuma za utupaji taka za sumu na nyuklia Kaskazini mwa Kenya.

Kwenye ombi aliloliwasilisha katika Bunge, Seneta Abass anatafuta takwimu za kina kuhusu visa vya saratani katika Kaunti ya Wajir tangu 2014, vilivyoinishwa kulingana na umri, jinsia na aina ya saratani. Vilevile anataka kufahamu iwapo uchunguzi wowote wa kisayansi au mazingira umefanywa ili kubaini sababu za ongezeko hilo.

Seneta huyo anashinikiza kupata habari za mara kwa mara kutoka kwa Mamlaka ya Kitaifa ya Kusimamia Mazingira (NEMA) na Mamlaka ya Kudhibiti Nyuklia nchini Kenya (KNRA) kuhusu masuala yoyote yanayoendelea au yaliyopita katika Kaunti zikiwemo Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, Marsabit na Isiolo, maeneo ambayo yamekuwa yakivumishwa kwa muda mrefu kuwa yalilengwa kwa utupaji taka hatari.

Seneta huyo anadai ufafanuzi wa kina kuhusu hatua za haraka na mikakati ya muda mrefu ambayo serikali inachukua kushughulikia hatari ya kiafya inayoongezeka. Anatoa wito wa ukaguzi kamili wa kimazingira wa maeneo yaliyoathiriwa ili kubaini ikiwa wakazi

wameathiriwa na vichafuzi vya mionzi au kemikali.

Ikiwa uchafuzi utathibitishwa, Seneta Abass anasisitiza kuhusu juhudi za haraka za kusafisha na ulinzi kwa jamii zilizo hatarini.

Ombi lake sasa limewasilishwa kwenye Kamati ya Afya, inayoongozwa na Seneta Jackson Mandago kwa hatua zaidi.

Kwingineko Seneta Raphael Chimera ameitaka Kamati ya Haki, Masuala ya Kisheria na Haki za Kibinadamu kutoa maelezo kuhusu kufutuliwa mbali kwa nyadhifa 171 zilizotangazwa hivi majuzi na Tume ya Huduma za Mahakama (JSC).

Seneta Chimera ameibua wasiwasi kuhusu uamuzi wa JSC wa kusitisha mchakato wa kuajiri uliotangazwa mnamo Novemba 2024. Nafasi hizo, zikiwemo 60 za watafiti wa kisheria na 111 za wanagenzi, zilifutuliwa mbali mwezi Machi 2025 kutokana na ugumu wa kifedha. Seneta huyo alihoji ni kwa nini Tume iliendelea na matangazo ya kazi bila kutathmini uwezo wake wa kifedha, jambo ambalo alifichua kuwa lilisababisha matumaini ya uongo kwa wengi waliohitimu.

Seneta huyo vilevile alieleza wasiwasi kuhusu athari katika ufanisi wa Mahakama, hasa uhaba wa watafiti wa kisheria. Aliitaka Kamati hiyo kuchunguza kushindwa kwa JSC kutathmini hali yake ya kifedha kabla



Seneta Mohamed Abbas



Seneta Raphael Chimera

ya kutangaza nafasi hizo na kufafanua mipango ya kuajiri siku zijazo kando na kubaini ikiwa nafasi hizo zitatangazwa tena.

Alisisitiza haja ya uwazi na uwajibikaji katika mbinu za kuajiri za JSC akihimiza Kamati kushughulikia masuala ya waombaji wa nafasi za kazi walioathiriwa.

Ministry to construct bumps on highways in road carnage fight

The Ministry of Roads and Transport is planning to construct ribbons and bumps in all known black spots to warn road users to slow down as one of the ways of addressing the increasing number of road accidents.

Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir said there is absolutely no reason why ribbons, bumps and proper road signage are not placed on national roads, more importantly at blackspot areas.

"We have given direction after the challenge that we have faced on rampant road accidents, more importantly at blackspot areas," Senator Chirchir told the House, adding that the measures are quick wins the Government can implement immediately.

"Blackspots are known and there is no reason for not doing that. We will implement that very quickly."

He was responding to a question from Senator Wakili Sigei who had challenged the Cabinet Secretary to address the growing concern over the number of road accidents.

One such incident is the tragic accident in Kaplong near Bomet, where 15 lives were lost.

The CS visited the site and made a commitment to provide a comprehensive report on the accident. "Could you elaborate on the steps the Ministry is taking to reduce such accidents? There are challenges such as the role of traffic

officers, unnecessary roadblocks and the narrowness of certain roads. You made a commitment that you will give a comprehensive report. I will be glad to hear that," the lawmaker said.

With respect to camera rollout on the roads, the CS told the House that the Government is working on implementation of a number of cameras in the cities.

"It is not about the testing, but about the budget. We will move quickly to ensure deterrence. When road users know that cameras are there and that they are being watched, we tend to do what is right. We will ensure that we provide budgets rather than just having one camera on that road. We need to have four, five or six mobile cameras for purposes of deterrence."

Road users do not quite know the location of cameras because they are mobile.

He said the Ministry has finalised the regulations on Alcoblow which are currently in the Attorney-General's office.

When the Government implemented it previously, it was outlawed by the Court in 2014. Similarly, the Traffic Act did not recognise alcoblow as a tool that could be employed because it was not covered as an offence under the Traffic Act.

Parliament has since amended the Act.

"We hope to get a gazette this week

and thereafter introduce alcoblow to ensure that we do not have drunken drivers endangering the lives of road users for that matter."

The Traffic Act is under NTSA while the implementing agency or the enforcement agency, traffic police, is under the Ministry of Interior and National Administration.

"These are some of the things we are working on to polish up so that we can address this challenge of loss of innocent lives and carnage on our roads."

The Ministry has taken a multifaceted approach that includes technology, public education and legislative action to create a safer driving environment for all road users.

One of the major challenges regarding speed limit signs is vandalism. Drivers often claim that there was no signage making it difficult to secure conviction in court for over speeding offences.

The CS, in collaboration with road agencies, undertook to improve signage maintenance, including anti vandalism measures.

"This will be by prioritising regular inspection and maintenance of speed limit signs, installing tamper proof, vandal resistant signage, use of CCTV surveillance or community policing, which I think is more effective, to monitor and prevent vandalism."

The Ministry will also use intelligent



Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir

speed adaptation systems in vehicles for data recording and so on, conduct continuous public awareness of community engagement using national Government structures to educate locals on the importance of speed signs.

This Week in History - On April 18, 2018

Senators pay tribute to the late Kenneth Matiba who died on April 15, 2018



Leader of Majority Kipchumba Murkomen

After Speaker Kenneth Lusaka communicated the death, Leader of Majority Kipchumba Murkomen rose on a point and requested the House to pay tribute to the late who he described as one of the politicians who made great sacrifices in terms of personal life, health, family, business and eventually paid the highest price.

"Many people who are much younger than me may never appreciate the name of hon. Matiba," he told the House, describing it as a shame. "It means that our history is not properly documented or taught."

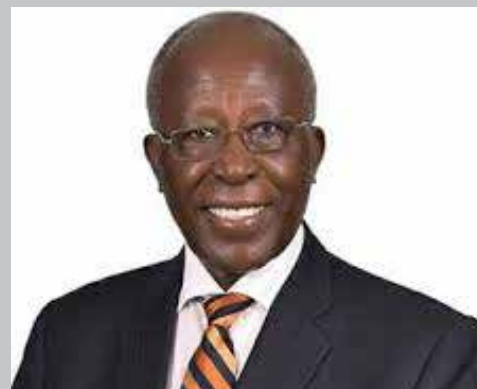
He said that it also means that Kenyan heroes are not properly celebrated. "We cannot continue paying lip service to this kind of important national policy position on our heroes. It is important that we reorient the curriculum of this country to the national discourse, to appreciate those who came before us and did a great job, like hon. Kenneth Matiba."

He challenged the Senate to lead in that process, including the Bill that dealt with the Hall of Fame in counties. "We must be able to put into perspective and appreciate those who have made the greatest sacrifice in this nation. I want to wish his family God's grace. May God guide them through this very difficult moment of grief. As a nation, we should rise up to the occasion to do that which is right for humanity and our country."



Senator Ephraim Maina said:

"Whenever I met the late hon. Matiba, even in the state that he was, he was clearminded about what he wanted Kenya to be. As leaders, we should ask ourselves whether we live according to what he believed in. This country needs to reflect on how we are treating our heroes. I went to Zimbabwe one day and would not sleep in Harare before visiting the Heroes Acre. I got there past 6.00 p.m. when they had closed, but when I told them that I was a Mau Mau veteran from Kenya, they opened for me. That is the spirit we want in this country. We must recognize people not because of big titles or the wealth they have amassed, but for what their spirit stands for and what they have given for this Country. The late hon. Matiba gave his health."



Senator Sam Onger said:

"I came into contact with him in the early years. He had just finished Makerere University and I was doing my medicine course. When we came on a vacation actually on an inaugural flight, he was seated in Gill House in charge of higher education. At that time, in 1960 it was a colonial government although we had some very limited democracy at that time. I remember vividly at one point when some of us were considered as elements who were enemies to the Government of the day; at that stage he warned us that 'in your soul journey you should be careful, otherwise you are earmarked for being picked by the colonial government because you are considered to be a communist'. Yet he was in that same government as many other senior officers in charge of higher education and had the courtesy to tell us of the impending trouble before us. We used that with great wisdom."



Senator Amos Wako said:

"As Senator James Orengo said, he left Alliance High School with a good record. As a student, he was disciplined, focused and gave his best in whatever task he was given to do at the school. In fact, the staff of Alliance High School almost worshiped him when he came to the school. They were happy that President Jomo Kenyatta had appointed him to head an important Ministry of Education. While in Form Two, we continued interacting with him. He would visit the school because his greatest friend was the son of Stephen Smith who was then the Deputy Head Master of Alliance High School since the year 1927. Later on, all his businesses were done in partnership with the son of Stephen Smith."



1. Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir is received by Mr Stephen Maru, the Principal Serjeant-At-Arms, Senate, when he arrived for Question Time in the Senate.
2. Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir is led to the Senate Chamber by Senate staff.
3. Senator Wahome Wamatinga speaks to Environment Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa and senior Ministry officials after her submissions to the House.
4. Senator Hezema Lemaletian greets Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa watched on by Senator Veronica Maina.
5. Senator Veronica Maina sees off CS Deborah Barasa after last week's Question Time.
6. Majority Whip Boni Khalwale speaks to Environment CS Deborah Barasa when she visited him in his Parliament Office.



1. Roads Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir speaks to Senator Mohamed Chute (left) Senator Seki Lenku ole Kanar and Senator James Lomenen after his presentation to the House.
2. CS Chirchir shares a light moment with Senator Veronica Maina, Senator Mohamed Chute and Senator Miraj Abdulahi (in red).
3. Senator Tabitha Mutinda (left), Senator Veronica Maina and Senator Miraj Abdulahi escort CS Davis Chirchir out of the Senate Chamber.
4. Senator Miraj Abdulahi and Senator Joyce Korir (right) with CS Davis Chirchir.
5. Senator Eddy Oketch, who chairs the Transport Committee, with CS Davis Chirchir.
6. Majority Whip Boni Khalwale poses for a photo with Members of Speaker's Panel from Taita Taveta County Assembly who were in the Senate for a benchmarking tour.



1. Senator Allan Chesang', the chair of the Committee on ICT, speaks during the preparatory meeting for 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Nairobi.
2. Members of the All Parties Parliamentary Group from the House of Commons and House of Lords in the UK follow proceedings in the Senate. They are in Kenya to familiarise with the working of Parliament.
3. Deputy Speaker Kathuri Muringi during the meeting with Members of the Speaker's Panel from Taita Taveta County Assembly.
4. Senator Allan Chesang', the chair of the Committee on ICT, poses for a group picture with delegates from across Africa during the preparatory meeting for 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference in Nairobi.



1. Residents of Olderkesi Community, Narok County, pose for a group picture with Senate Staff. They have filed a Petition in the Senate over land injustices affecting their community.
2. Senator Mohamed Faki, Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina and Members of the Olderkesi Community in a group picture. Senator Faki is the chairman of the Committee on Lands handling the Community's Petition.
3. Speaker Amason Kingi addresses the 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Tashkent, Uzbekistan, which was held between April 5 and 9 2025. The General Debate focussed on the overall theme Parliamentary action for social development and justice and provided a platform for delegates to deliberate, exchange views and galvanise parliamentary action in this area.
4. The Assembly adopted resolutions on the emergency item and on the subject items taken up by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security entitled *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine* and by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*.

4. Speaker Amason Kingi and the delegation of Kenya Parliament to the 150th Assembly of the IPU. They include Hon John Makali (left), Hon Millie Odhiambo, Minority Whip, National Assembly, Senator Catherine Mumma (behind Hon Odhiambo), Senator Raphael Chimera and Hon John Kiarie (right).



A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

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