



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – (FIFTH SESSION)**

**THE SENATE**

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, APRIL, 02 2026 AT 2.30 PM**

1. The Senate assembled at thirty Minutes past Two O'clock.
2. The proceedings were opened with Prayer said by the Speaker.

3. **QUORUM OF THE SENATE**

The Deputy Speaker, having counted the Honourable Senators present at the commencement of the Sitting and confirming that there was no Quorum, directed that the Bell be rung for ten minutes, pursuant to Standing Order 40;

And there being a Quorum before the expiry of the ten minutes;

The Speaker invited the Clerk to call the Orders of the day.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Speaker conveyed the following Communication from the Chair:

a) **Visiting delegation from the United States of America and Members of the Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF)**

“Honourable Senators,

I would like to acknowledge the presence, in the Speaker’s Gallery this afternoon, of a visiting delegation from the United States of America. The delegation comprises of members of the Africa Youth Leadership Forum who are on a 9-month Fellowship Program. Their visit is aimed at connecting with friends of the USA Prayer Breakfast in Kenya and learning how Kenyan leaders grow in their journey of following Jesus and leading with faith and purpose. They also volunteer at the National Prayer Breakfast and at the Capitol Hill. The delegation is in the Senate on a courtesy call to Sen. Daniel Maanzo, MP.

Honourable Senators,

I request each Member of the delegation to stand when called out so that you may be acknowledged in the Senate tradition –

1. Mr. Jackson Eugene Thompson - Member, AYLFF and volunteer at Capitol Hill
2. Mr. Benjamin Casey Burgess – Member, AYLFF and volunteer at Capitol Hill
3. Mr. David Maanzo Kitonga - Member, AYLFF
4. Mr. Gabriel Odhiambo Achayo – County Coordinator, AYLFF

I thank you.”

**b) Visiting delegation from the Kenyatta University**

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Hillary Sigei, MP) conveyed the following Communication from the Chair:

“Honourable Senators,

I would like to acknowledge the presence, in the Speaker’s Gallery this afternoon, of a visiting delegation from the Kenyatta University. The delegation comprises thirty-three (33) students, who are visiting the Senate for an academic tour.

On behalf of the Senate and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the delegation and wish them a fruitful learning.

I thank you.”

**5. PETITIONS**

Pursuant to Standing Order 236 (2)(a), the Senator for Samburu County (Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi, MP) presented a Petition to the Senate by citizens and professional educators serving in public schools within Samburu County regarding prolonged appointments, staffing challenges and working conditions of teachers in Samburu County. Pursuant to Standing Order 238 (1), the Speaker committed the Petition to the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare.

**6. PAPERS LAID**

The following Papers were laid on the Table of the Senate: -

- i) Report of the Standing Committee on Health regarding its consideration of the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 19 of 2022).

*(The Vice Chairperson, Standing Committee on Health)*

- ii) Statement pursuant to Standing Order 57 (1) on the business of the Senate for the week commencing Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2026.

*(The Deputy Senate Majority Whip)*

7. **NOTICE OF MOTION - PROMOTION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND INNOVATION POLICY IN KENYA**

(Sen. Karungo Thang'wa, MP)

THAT AWARE THAT, the Fourth Industrial Revolution is redefining economies globally through emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain, and financial technology (Fintech);

FURTHER AWARE THAT Kenya has made commendable strides in digital infrastructure and mobile innovation, positioning itself as a potential leader in Africa's tech-driven future;

NOTING THAT in a landmark decision, the African Union Executive Council endorsed the Continental AI Strategy during its 45<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in Accra, Ghana, on July 18-19, 2024 to underscore Africa's commitment to an Africa-centric, development-focused approach to AI, promoting ethical, responsible, and equitable practices;

COGNIZANT THAT the Continental AI Strategy calls for unified national approaches among AU Member States to navigate the opportunities of AI-driven change, aiming to strengthen regional and global cooperation and position Africa as a leader in inclusive and responsible AI development;

APPRECIATING THAT the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy recently formulated and launched the Kenya National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy 2025-2030;

RECOGNIZING the need to align Kenya's development with global standards in AI adoption while also safeguarding national values, inclusivity, and employment;

CONCERNED THAT the absence of a comprehensive framework may hinder innovation among local start-ups and youth-led tech enterprises and slow down Kenya's ability to harness AI for inclusive growth;

NOW THEREFORE, the Senate resolves that the Ministry of Information, Communication and Digital Economy develops a Policy to promote Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies with particular emphasis on:

- i) promoting research and development of locally relevant AI solutions;
- ii) facilitating ethical guidelines to ensure responsible and beneficial application of AI;
- iii) creating innovation-friendly 'Sandboxes' for supervised testing of AI and emerging technologies;
- iv) strengthening public-private partnerships to build digital skills and innovation ecosystems; and

- v) integrating AI and coding into the education curriculum to prepare the next generation for the digital economy.

8. **QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

**a) Requests for Statements pursuant to Standing Order 53(1)**

- i) Nominated Senator (Sen. Catherine Mumma, MP) sought a Statement from the Standing Committee on Health regarding the challenges affecting the implementation of the country's health insurance framework under the Social Health Authority (SHA).
- ii) The Senator for Kiambu County (Sen. Karungo Thangwa, MP) on behalf of the Senator for Nyandarua County (Sen. John Methu, MP) sought a Statement from the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget regarding the impact of the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA'S) enforcement of electronic Tax Invoice Management System (eTIMS) and tax recovery policies.
- iii) The Senator for Embu County (Sen. Alexander Mundigi, MP) sought a Statement from the Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources regarding the reported discovery of minerals in Embu County.
- iv) The Senator for Machakos County (Sen. Agnes Kavindu, MP) sought a Statement from the Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations regarding the deteriorating condition of Mlolongo market in Machakos County.
- v) The Senator for Machakos County (Sen. Agnes Kavindu, MP) sought a Statement from the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare regarding the non-payment of gratuity to thirty-three (33) former employees of the County Government of Machakos.
- vi) The Senator for Marsabit County (Sen. Mohamed Chute, MP) sought a Statement from the Standing Committee on Education regarding the status of Komothe Primary School in Elmolo, Marsabit County.
- vii) Nominated Senator (Sen. Tabitha Mutinda, MP) sought a Statement from the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget concerning the impact of the debarment by the World Bank Group of Price Waterhouse Coopers Limited, Kenya (PwC Kenya) on donor-funded projects in Kenya.
- viii) The request for statement by the Senator for Kisumu County (Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, SC, MP) from the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget regarding land rates and single business permit enforcement in Kisumu County was dropped in the absence of the Senator.

**b) Statement pursuant to Standing Order 57 (1)**

The Deputy Senate Majority Whip on behalf of the Senate Majority Leader issued a Statement on the business of the Senate for the week commencing Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2026.

**9. THE EQUALISATION FUND APPROPRIATION BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 21 OF 2025)**

(The Senate Majority Leader)

Order for First Reading read;

Bill read a First Time and committed to the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget.

**10. THE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS BILL (SENATE BILLS NO. 8 OF 2026)**

(The Chairperson, Standing Committee on Finance and Budget)

Order for First Reading read;

Bill read a First Time and committed to the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget.

**11. THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BILL (SENATE BILLS NO. 4 OF 2026)**

(Sen. Karen Nyamu, MP)

Order for First Reading read;

Bill read a First Time and committed to the Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology.

**12. THE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL (SENATE BILLS NO. 5 OF 2026)**

(Sen. Mohamed Chute, MP)

Order for First Reading read;

Bill read a First Time and committed to the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget.

**13. MOTION - IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY SELECT COMMITTEES ON COUNTY PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CPAC) AND COUNTY PUBLIC INVESTMENTS AND SPECIAL FUNDS (CPI&SF) ON AUDITOR GENERAL REPORTS FOR FY 2024/2025**

Order read;

Motion made and Question proposed;

AWARE THAT, Article 96(1) and (3) of the Constitution mandates the Senate to represent counties, protect their interests, and oversee national revenue allocated to county governments; and that Article 229(8) and the Public Audit Act require Parliament to debate audit reports and act within three months;

CONCERNED THAT, despite repeated invitations and summons, fifteen county governors defied the Select Committees on CPAC and CPI&SF by refusing to appear and answer for financial mismanagement and accountability failures in the Auditor General's FY 2024/25 reports;

APPRECIATING THAT, CPAC and CPI&SF diligently interrogated the Auditor General's issues, filed reports within constitutional timelines, and secured Senate approval on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026;

NOTING THE urgent need for rigorous follow-up on these recommendations and ongoing Senate oversight of implementation;

NOW THEREFORE, notwithstanding Standing Order 225, THE SENATE RESOLVES that the Select Committees on CPAC and CPI&SF immediately:

1. Track implementation of the Senate-approved recommendations and table monthly progress reports detailing compliance status;
2. Fast-track the next audit cycle by prioritizing Auditor General reports on county financial statements for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026, tabling committee reports promptly to enable thorough Senatorial scrutiny;
3. Enforce fiduciary accountability by re-summoning non-compliant county governors, recommending sanctions for defiance (including budget withholding under Article 229), and escalating unresolved cases to the Controller of Budget, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, or Director of Public Prosecutions as appropriate;
4. Collaborate with oversight bodies—Controller of Budget, EACC, and DPP—to impose consequences under Chapter Six (Leadership and Integrity) for governors' failure to appear, including contempt charges, suspension of county equitable share, personal liability for losses, and disqualification from future electoral candidacies.

*(Sen. Ledama Olekina, MP – 01.04.2026 – Afternoon Sitting)*

Debate interrupted on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026 – Afternoon Sitting, resumed;

Amendment proposed;

THAT, the Motion be amended by deleting the words “Select Committees on CPAC and CPI & SF immediately” appearing in paragraph 5 of the Motion and substituting thereof the following –

- a) “To establish an Ad Hoc Committee constituting of 15 Senators,” and

- b) by inserting a new resolution after the resolution listed No. 4 to include, “submit a final report to the Senate within 90ndays after its establishment.”

Debate on the amendment arising;

And the time being thirty minutes past Six O’clock, the Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Hillary Sigei, MP) interrupted the proceedings and adjourned the Senate without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Orders.

14. SENATE ROSE – at thirty minutes past six O’clock.

**M E M O R A N D U M**

*The Speaker will take the Chair on  
Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2026 at 2:30 pm*

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