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Safeguarding Devolution

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Speaker Kingi to CoG: Stop unsubstantiated allegations

The Speaker says there are institutional channels through which conduct of House committees may be formally raised and addressed.



Speaker Amason Kingi

Speaker Amason Kingi has said established and legitimate institutional channels exist through which conduct or operations of the House committees may be formally raised and addressed.

The Speaker said the Senate is committed to fulfilling its constitutional mandate and ensuring that oversight over public funds allocated to county governments is robust, objective and timely and warned the Council of Governors (CoG) against unsubstantiated allegations against Senators.

“The Senate remains open to struc-

tured and constructive dialogue with devolution actors, recourse to public mudslinging and unsubstantiated allegations in the media, unsupported by evidence, is neither appropriate nor conducive to intergovernmental cooperation,” said the Speaker.

The Speaker made the comments in a Communication to the House on Thursday. The Communication was designed to respond to the letter from the Council in which had communicated a resolution suspending Governors’ appearance before the two watchdog committees of the House.

In the letter, the Governors had cast aspersions on the conduct of four unnamed members of the County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) and vowed that none of them would appear before it until the Committee was reconstituted.

The accused the Committee of political witch-hunt, harassment, extortion and intimidation, allegedly involving four unnamed Members of the Committee.

The Council also resolved to limit appearances before the CPISFC to once per audit cycle.

The Governors vowed not to appear

before the two committees until the concerns raised in the letter about the Committees are adequately and conclusively addressed which includes the removal of four Senators from the affected Committees as a pre-requisite to restoring confidence, integrity and fairness in the oversight process.

But the Speaker rejected the demands, warning that it is an attempt to frustrate parliamentary oversight and if allowed it will result in an overthrow of the constitutional order, which was untenable.

“The Senate’s audit committees are guided by Article 229 of the Constitution, which requires Parliament to consider and dispose of audit reports within three months of their receipt from the Auditor-General by March 31 of each year. Compliance with this constitutional timeline is not optional and any actions that impede the audit process undermine accountability and prudent use of public resources,” Speaker observed.

The constitutional oversight mandate, the Speaker explained, is exercised as often as whenever the Senate in its judgment considers appropriate and any purported restriction or limitation of the mandate, such as CoG has proposed, is unconstitutional.

Article 124 of the Constitution vests in Parliament the power to establish its committees and to make Standing Orders for the orderly conduct of its proceedings, including the proceedings of its committees while Article 125 gives either House of Parliament and any of its committees, the power to summon any person to appear before it for the purpose of giving evidence or providing information.

“The totality of the constitutional ar-



Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot.

chitecture vests in the legislature the power and mandate to exercise oversight over all State organs and State officers in the performance of their constitutional and statutory functions. No organ, authority or person, not least the Senate, has the power to suspend, compromise, vary or waive the legislature's mandate," said Speaker Kingi.

Citing the constitution, the Speaker

rejected the proposed boycott arguing that it would be a violation of the strict constitutional timeliness spelt out in Article 229 on the audit cycle.

Article 229(4) of Constitution requires that the Auditor-General shall, within six months after the end of each financial year, audit and report, in respect of that financial year on the accounts of the national and county gov-

ernments and all funds and authorities of the national and county government

The Speaker ruled that the provision must be complied with and correspondingly that Parliament must debate and consider such reports within three months after receipt of an audit reports adding that this puts the cut-off date for the consideration of audit reports at March 31 of each year and severely constrains the programme of the watchdog committees.

He ruled: "The resolution by the CoG that Governors will not appear before CPISFC until the concerns raised in their letters are addressed through a structured engagement between the leadership of the Senate and the CoG is untenable. Equally, the resolution by the CoG that governors will only appear once for every audit cycle to respond to any queries before the CPAC comprehensively, is also untenable."

He however accepted the request by the CoG for an engagement with the leadership of the Senate saying it is consistent with the requirements of Articles 6(2) and 189 of the Constitution for consultation and cooperation between the two levels of government.

Senators led by Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot welcomed the ruling saying that Parliamentary summonses are equivalent to an order of the High Court and can never be waived by the CoG or any other authority.

"If you feel that you have been harassed by a member of a certain committee, you should write to the Speaker because he is the umpire of this House who ensures that everything that we do and how we operate is in accordance with the law, statutes and the Constitution," said the Majority Leader.

He defended CPAC saying it is not doing enough of what needs to be done.

"For each of us here from the counties that we represent, there are more difficult questions being asked by wanjanchi and the people that we represent than what is being asked in the CPAC. It is our duty to ensure that we represent our constituents and ask the right question so that devolution succeeds."

Minority Whip Ledama ole Kina said the Senate does not audit county governors. "The audit is carried out by the Auditor-General," he said, as he challenged governors to uphold the fiduciary responsibility.

Speaker directs House to expeditiously focus on BPS

Speaker Amason Kingi has directed House Committees to prioritise the scrutiny of the Budget Policy Statement (BPS), with special focus to the Senate's constitutional function of protecting the interests of counties and their governments and safeguarding devolution.

The document was tabled in the House on Thursday, alongside the 2025 Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy, the Draft Division of Revenue Bill, 2025, the Draft County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2025 and the Draft County Governments Additional Allocations Bill, 2025.

The House has 14 days to consider the BPS, a financial instrument that sets out the broad strategic priorities and policy goals that guide the national Government and county governments in preparing their budgets both for the following financial year and over the medium term.

Section 25 of the Public Finance Management Act requires the National Treasury to prepare and submit the BPS to Parliament by February 15 each year. Lawmakers are required to consider and make a determination on the report by the Committee on Finance and Budget by February 27, 2026.

"I urge the Committees to prioritise the scrutiny of the BPS, taking into consideration our most important function of protecting the interests of counties



Members of Committee on Finance and Budget: From left, Senator Eddy Oketch, Senator Boni Khalwale and Senator Tabitha Mutinda, the vice chair.

and their governments and safeguarding devolution," directed the Speaker on Thursday.

BPS contains an assessment of the current state of the economy and the financial outlook over the medium term, including the macro-economic forecasts, the financial outlook with respect to Government revenues, expenditures and borrowing for the next financial year and over the medium term., the criteria used to allocate or apportion the available public resources among the two levels of Government and various programmes and projects and the proposed expenditure limits for the national Government, including those of Parliament and the Judiciary and indicative transfers to county governments.

With respect to consideration of BPS), the Standing Orders states that the BPS

shall be committed to each Committee to consider and submit its recommendations to the Committee on Finance and Budget within seven days.

House rules further provide that the Committee on Finance and Budget 12 days to table a report for consideration by the House.

"Cognizant of the importance of the BPS and the statutory timelines, I direct that the BPS be considered by all committees. Each committee is expected to concentrate on matters that fall under its mandate, highlighting any policy and financial recommendations thereof. These recommendations should be forwarded to the Committee on Finance on or before February 20, 2026," said Speaker Kingi

The Committee on Finance will be required to consider the recommendations

from the other House Committees as well as to consult stakeholders in finalising its report on the BPS. The Standing Committee will be required to table its report on or before February 25, 2026.

Senators with any proposal regarding the BPS, the draft Division of Revenue Bill 2025, the draft County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2025, the draft County Governments Additional Allocations Bill 2025, and the financing structure therein, among other recommendations, must be canvassed and forwarded to the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning for consideration when finalising the Budget for the relevant financial year.

The Speaker observed that any proposal that Senators may have regarding the BPS, the draft Division of Revenue Bill, 2026, the draft County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2026, the draft County Governments Additional Allocations Bill, 2026 and the financing structure therein among other recommendations, must be canvassed and forwarded to the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning for consideration when finalising the budget for the relevant financial year.

This is a requirement pursuant to Section 25(8) of the Public Finance Management Act and Senate Standing Orders.

Senate introduces biometric system

The Senate leadership has introduced a mandatory biometric fingerprint system for all Senators, marking a major technological shift in how attendance and proceedings will be managed in the Chamber.

Speaker Amason Kingi announced that the newly installed multi-media digital congress system now incorporates built-in fingerprint scanners on each delegate unit.

The move effectively replaces the previous key-card sign-in method. The biometric system will generate official attendance reports electronically.

Under the new system, any Senator who attends a sitting but fails to sign in through the system will be marked absent.

The installation, undertaken during the long recess, is aimed at modernising Senate operations and addressing per-

sistent challenges associated with outdated systems.

Beyond attendance tracking, the new digital system also controls microphone access and speaking requests through touchscreen interfaces and physical buttons.

At the same time, the Senate reconstituted the powerful Senate Business Committee (SBC), an organ that is responsible for scheduling all business of

the House.

Senators approved the nomination of Ali Ibrahim Roba, Fatuma Dullo, Hillary Sigei, Mohamed Faki, Veronica Maina, Shakila Mohamed and Crystal Asige to serve on the Committee alongside the Speaker and the House leadership.

Chaired by the Speaker, the SBC plays a pivotal role in determining which Bills, motions and committee reports reach the Floor and when they are debated.



1. Senator Veronica Maina, who had accompanied Speaker Amason Kingi, records his condolences as she mourned the son of Senator Agnes Muthama.
2. Speaker Kingi signs the Condolences Book at Senator Agnes Muthama's home. The Senator lost his son
- 3.. Speaker Amason Kingi when he hosted Her Excellency Jenny Da Rin, the Australian High Commissioner to Kenya who had paid him a courtesy call. Others who attended the meeting are Senator Raphael Chimera Senator Veronica Maina and Senator Fatuma Dullo.
- 4.. Speaker Amason Kingi poses for a photo with Ms Jenny Da Rin, the Australian High Commissioner to Kenya who had paid him a courtesy call. They were joined by Senator Raphael Chimera, Senator Fatuma Dullo and Senator Veronica Maina.
5. Australian High Commissioner to Kenya Jenny Da Rin signs the Visitors' Book when she paid a courtesy call to the Office of Senate Speaker.

Auditor General: oversight gaps will undermine oil revenues



Auditor General Nancy Gathungu



Members of the Energy, led by Senator Oburu Oginga, the chair, during one of their meetings. Others are Senator William Kisang (second left), Senator Beatrice Ogola and Senator Danson Mungatana.

Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu has raised concerns on the legislative, fiscal and oversight gaps in the proposed development of oil Blocks T6 and T7 in the South Lokichar Basin, warning that failure to address the issues could significantly reduce Kenya's share of petroleum revenues.

Ms Gathungu said the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) remains committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in the petroleum sector but requires stronger legal backing and timely access to information.

The OAG made the comments when she appeared before the Joint Committee of the National Assembly Committee on Energy and the Committee on Energy of the Senate.

The engagement focused on stakeholder input into the Field Development Plan (FDP) and Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for Blocks T6 (formerly 10BB) and T7 (formerly 13T) in Turkana County.

Ms Gathungu told lawmakers that although the Constitution mandates her office to audit public resources, including petroleum revenues, no approved recoverable cost statements for the two blocks have been submitted for audit to date. She noted that the lack of audits on costs incurred during the exploration phase has denied the country an opportunity to disallow ineligible expenditures, which could ultimately reduce government revenue once production begins.

She explained that under the Petroleum Act, the government may audit contractors' books within seven years, but warned that delayed audits risk contractors' accounts being deemed correct by default. Earlier PSC provisions had

even shorter audit windows.

The Auditor-General also cited delays in the review of the Field Development Plan, which was submitted in October 2021 but had not been approved for three years, as well as past delays in establishing key institutions such as the National Upstream Petroleum Advisory Committee.

Her office's previous financial and performance audits have flagged several weaknesses in petroleum oversight, including failure to monitor cost recovery, irregular submission of progress reports by contractors, inadequate review of work programmes and budgets, and insufficient monitoring of local content requirements.

In a 2021 performance audit, the OAG found that Tullow Kenya B.V. had implemented work programmes and budgets before approval, and that cost recovery statements were submitted inconsistently and without sufficient breakdowns. The audit also revealed gaps in enforcement of local employment and training obligations, including unpaid training fees amounting to millions of dollars and irregular use of the Petroleum Training Fund.

She expressed concern that Parliament has not debated most of the performance audit reports submitted by her office, saying consideration of those reports would have helped close policy and operational gaps earlier.

On international best practice, she cited Uganda and Indonesia, where supreme audit institutions have explicit mandates to directly audit oil companies' recoverable costs. In Kenya, she said, the legislative framework remains weak, and Parliament should strengthen

the law to ensure transparent and timely cost audits.

Turning to the South Lokichar Field Development Plan, the Auditor-General highlighted inconsistencies with existing legislation. She questioned the contractor's request for unitisation of the development area under harmonized fiscal terms, noting that both blocks are held by the same contractor and may not meet the legal threshold for unitisation under the Petroleum Act.

She further warned that proposed revisions to fiscal terms—including exemptions from VAT, withholding tax, railway development levy and import declaration fees—could result in multi-billion-shilling revenue losses if approved without thorough review by the Kenya Revenue Authority.

Additionally, the contractor's request to raise the cost recovery limit to 85 per cent, from the current limits of 55 per cent and 65 per cent for the respective blocks, contradicts the Petroleum Act's 60 per cent ceiling. While acknowledging that such incentives may aim to attract investment, Gathungu cautioned that higher cost recovery limits reduce immediate government take and require robust real-time monitoring to prevent cost inflation.

She also flagged the absence of a comprehensive decommissioning plan in the Field Development Plan, contrary to the Decommissioning, Site Abandonment and Restoration Guidelines, 2025, which require submission of such a plan before development begins. The current proposal indicates that contributions to the Decommissioning Fund would start in 2036, despite development being scheduled to begin in 2026.

Citing global practice in Nigeria, Brazil and Indonesia, she recommended that contractors begin contributing to decommissioning funds early in the production stage to ensure adequate resources for site restoration.

On the Early Oil Pilot Scheme, which transported crude from Turkana to Mombasa between 2017 and 2020, the Auditor-General said her office had previously sought documentation to conduct an audit but did not receive the information. A factual findings report was only shared last week, and the OAG will review it before undertaking a full audit once approved financial statements are submitted.

Gathungu further pointed out broader legislative gaps, including unclear procedures for awarding petroleum contracts, lack of prescribed formats for reporting recoverable costs, ambiguity on government participation percentages in upstream projects, and Kenya's non-membership in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

She warned that non-membership in EITI may elevate governance risk perceptions among international lenders and investors, potentially increasing borrowing costs for energy infrastructure projects.

To strengthen oversight, the Auditor-General announced plans to reconstitute a dedicated Petroleum Audit Unit and continue building staff capacity in oil and gas accounting, petroleum economics and energy law. She noted that her office may also outsource specialized audits where necessary, as permitted by the Public Audit Act.

House wants tough action taken against criminal gangs



Senator Tom Ojienda



Senator Hezema Lemaletian



Senator Tabitha Keroche



Senator Gataya Mo Fire

Senators have called for the immediate implementation of the community policing approach insecurity management to deal with criminal gangs that are threatening national security.

The call was made by the lawmakers during debate on the request for a Statement by Senator Tom Ojienda on the state of public security in Kisumu County.

Community policing is anchored on the premise that partnership between policing agencies and the communities they operate in is crucial in dealing with insecurity.

The gangs are causing havoc in many parts of the country. Senator Mohamed Faki says parts of Kisauni and Likoni of Mombasa County are the worst hit and argued that the adoption of the community policing strategies will improve cooperation between the police and the people in apprehending members of the gangs.

“The police should invest in proper intelligence mechanisms to preempt the kind of gang violence we have seen in Mombasa,” said the Senator even as he challenged the Judiciary to be firm on suspects arrested in connection with such violence.

He said the judiciary should only release suspects through tough bail terms.

In the recent past, Government agencies have mounted operations targeting criminal gangs implicated in extortion, robbery and other violent acts within Kisumu County. The operations follow heightened concerns over rising insecurity and threats to the safety and wellbeing of residents.

Senator Ojienda says the situation has raised public alarm and calls for clarity on the measures being undertaken to restore order and safeguard communities.

In the Statement, the lawmaker said the Committee should explain the scope, progress and current status of the ongoing operations against criminal gangs in Kisumu County, measures being implemented to prevent recurrence of gang-related crime and to strengthen security in the counties.

He also wants details of the support mechanisms available to affected

communities presented to the House, including protection of residents, accessible reporting channels and rehabilitation programmes for former gang members.

Senator John Methu blamed laxity of the National Police Service (NPS) in tackling the gangs. He cited cases where armed gangs have been escorted by the police in political engagements.

“This may look fashionable, especially when you have some opponents that you are running against. However, if we allow the gangs to exist today, tomorrow when the opponent will not be there, you will be the opponent that they will be engaging,” he said.

Citing the recent attack at Watima ACK Church in Nyeri County, the lawmaker said the gangs were escorted by police in uniform.

“The police must remain apolitical. You cannot condone, support or escort criminal gangs to go and attack other Kenyans. It is the work of the police to ensure that they deal with these criminals.”

Senator Enock Wambua said the challenge of the criminal gangs is not an isolated case in Kisumu County, Nairobi or Mombasa. “It has become a nationwide catastrophe. We have criminals who have developed very high levels of confidence and impunity never witnessed in this country.

Senator Ledama ole Kina blamed the emergence of the gangs on unemployment and rural-urban migration. “There is no day that we will stop having problems in cities like Kisumu, Nairobi and Mombasa. The first thing we must do as the Senate is to work with our county governments to reengineer their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) to incorporate projects that can provide employment to the youth.

He told the House that gangs thrive as a surrogate for jobs, offering income, protection and purpose to idle youth. “If you go to Kibera today, there are so many idle youths. Of course, when a gang comes, it will thrive as a surrogate, offer protection, give them jobs and they make money. We need to look at our social position and families. We must mentor our youth and provide them with jobs to end this unemployment.”

Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire



Senator John Methu (right) with Senator Samson Cherarkey.

called for a national conversation. “It is not a light matter that we can easily discuss. Some individuals in this country, out of levels of connections, have in one way or the other, manufactured serious issues to do with impunity, where people commit crime and walk away,” he said, adding that the matter should be addressed. “Regardless of our political affiliations and where we want to push our politics. It all revolves around politics. We do not have to treat anybody with levels of “you cannot be touched”. It is an issue that needs national conversation.

Senator Hezema Lemaletian linked the gangs to drug abuse, unemployment and corruption within the systems and inadequate facilitation for the law enforcement authorities.

“As the Senate, we need to ensure that we are proactive in ensuring that resources at the helm of the Ministry of Interior and National Administration trickle down to the common police officer down at the grassroots, because these are the people who are directly in charge of ensuring that there is a proper law enforcement within these counties and major towns.”

Senator Tabitha Keroche urged the Inspector General of the National Police Service (NPS) to act swiftly to stop the crisis. She warned that if no action is taken President William Ruto’s efforts to support youth and entrepreneurs through

the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Programme will be undermined.

Senator Daniel Maanzo said the gangs have become a serious menace and the worst is when they appear at political rallies, creating uncertainty and risking injury to both leaders and the public.

“At times, gangs operate under police protection, as witnessed during demonstrations in the city or even what was witnessed recently in a church in Nyeri. Why should people without uniforms or police numbers be allowed to act this way? This must stop because it endangers everyone. The government must also address the difference between the rich and the poor. When wealth is not distributed fairly, when youth lose hope and when graduates remain.

Senator Okiya Omtatah said the Government takes deliberate steps to make the people rich.

“If we continue stealing from this country and turning it into a basket case, we cannot expect anything other than a scavenger culture thriving across the nation. Those destroying the economy must stop. The police cannot and will not be able to contain a country where people are hungry. Simply trying to cover up the problem will not work. We must drain the swamp and the swamp is the bad policies that are impoverishing this nation. Let us focus on developing our people.”

Senator Okenyuri: Government should do more to stem GBV



Senator Esther Okenyuri speaks in the House as Senator Mariam Omar and Senator William Kisang listen.

Senator Esther Okenyuri has urged the national Government to regularly inform the Senate the progress being made in the making reforms to the laws that touch on Gender-based violence.

The lawmaker said there are notable gaps in harmonisation, implementation and enforcement of existing laws and that there is a lack of comprehensive legal definition and recognition of femicide as a distinct offense.

“While physical and sexual violence are the most visible forms of GBV in Kenya, other manifestations often remain overlooked and underreported and socially accepted. These include economic violence, psychological abuse, digital and cyber violence and harmful cultural practices such as forced and child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and widow disinheritance,” said the Senator.

She spoke when she made a Statement on a matter of general topical concern regarding the 16 days of activism campaign against Gender Based Violence (GBV), including femicide, which was observed in the country from November 25, 2025 to December 10, 2025 as a build up towards the International Human Rights Day commemorated annually on December 10, 2025.

The 16 Days of Activism is an international movement widely acknowledged as a means to raise awareness, strengthen advocacy and promote action to prevent all forms of gender-based violence.

Last year’s programme offered an opportunity to reflect on the forms of violence against women, girls, men and boys in Kenya.

During the 2025 commemoration, prevalence of online and technology-enabled genderbased violence, such as cyberstalking, online harassment, and non-consensual distribution of intimate images, digital surveillance, creation and spread of gender-deep fakes and hate speech targeting women and girls were cited.

“These forms of violence are especially prevalent against women in public life, politicians, journalists and human rights defenders. Further, the economic and emotional abuses commonly experienced in intimate relationships are rarely treated with the same seriousness as physical assaults, despite their long-term impact on mental health and autonomy,” she told the House.

Kenya has enacted several laws to address GBV, including the Sexual Offences Act, which criminalises various forms of sexual violence and sets out penalties

and protective measures. The Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, which provides for protective orders and redress for survivors of domestic violence and the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, which has legislated against several forms of computer or technology-facilitated GBV, amongst others.

“These efforts by the state demonstrate a clear intention to address GBV. The Government’s commitment to engage in policy, legal and institutional reforms to address GBV in both the offline and online environments was reiterated by the Government in the course of the campaign. This also includes the enforcement of the existing legal frameworks, digital safety, support services to survivors and inter-agency collaboration with enforcement agencies, among other measures.”

The lawmaker admitted that despite the efforts, there are notable gaps in harmonisation, implementation and enforcement of existing laws.

“There is a lack of comprehensive legal definition and recognition of femicide as a distinct offense. Although campaigns are key, they should be coupled with the key actions such as budgetary provisions as well as accountability. Survivors still lack access to justice due to challenges such as fear of stigma, inad-

equated investigations, slow prosecution, as well as insufficient psychological or legal assistance services, especially at the county level.”

The devolved system of government places responsibility on county governments to aid in the coordination, prevention and response to GBV.

But the lawmaker said despite the political will, the county government interventions have been plagued by systematic and resource challenges.

“I would like to emphasise that the struggle against GBV does not stop after the 16 days. It requires sustained commitment at the national level, and it should be centered around survivors, while looking towards the eradication of the root causes of such violence.”

The causative factors include harmful social norms as well as the misuse of technology. Even though digital tools such as mobile apps, SMS-based hotlines and online portals like Spot have created safe and anonymous channels for survivors to seek help through offering timely reporting and referral to essential services and real-time data collection for policy planning, access disparities in rural areas and among low-income populations must be addressed to ensure equitable digital justice.

Fix Grade 10 admission challenges, Senators demand



Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire and Senator Okiya Omtatah

Concerns over the challenges that have characterised the transition of learners into Grade 10 has found its way to the floor of the House with lawmakers urging the Government to address the challenges that have seen many learners fail to report to school.

The move from Grade 9 to Grade 10—especially with the rollout of the Competency-Based Education (CBE)—has been widely seen as historic but also challenging. The pioneer class of learners entering senior school (Grade 10) in 2026 has highlighted several problems that students, parents, schools, and education stakeholders are facing.

While many secondary schools are struggling with space and facilities, insufficient classrooms have increased congestion, the most pronounced challenge has been financial constraints. While education is officially subsidised by the State, families from low-income

homes still face costs for uniforms, transport, meals, books, and other supplies, which has kept some learners from reporting to school.

There is also a shortfall of trained teachers ready to handle the CBE approach and the specialized pathways (STEM, Social Sciences, Arts and Sports). Many teachers also need retraining on the new curriculum and methods.

Senator Mwenda Gataya Mo Fire says the financial situation has raised widespread concern among parents, learners and stakeholders, as it directly affects equitable access to quality education and successful implementation of the CBE.

In the request for a Statement on the issue, Senator Gataya wants the Ministry of Education to explain the measures being taken to support learners who have not reported to school due to financial constraints, to access college education regardless of their background.

He also wants the State to explain the budgetary allocation for senior secondary schools for the 2025/26 financial year, indicating whether there are plans for an upward review of the senior secondary schools' capitation to address the shortage of learning materials, high admission costs and infrastructure development.

"The Ministry should state the strategies and interventions being implemented to ensure a smooth transition from Grade 10 learners to senior secondary schools," said the Senator in the Statement.

He also wants the House told the steps being taken to address the shortage of teachers in senior secondary schools and the expected timeline for resolving the challenge, the mechanisms in place to improve infrastructure in senior secondary schools, particularly in ASALs and rural areas.

Senator Okiya Omtatah pointed an accusing finger at the Kenya Kwanza administration saying the tax regime imposed by the regime is at the heart of lack of money in people's pockets thus the failure to take children to school.

"It is not an act of God; it is an act of the Kenya Kwanza Government. This Government has made sure that people do not have disposable income by imposing unnecessary taxes, which when collected, the money is then repatriated to go and pay odious debts," he said, urging the House to address the question of taxation in the country.

"There can be disposable income for families to run around. You will find so many children not going to school today because the middle class in Kenya subsidises the State.

Senators demand action on police brutality



Senator Samson Cherarkey



Senator Okiya Omtatah

The House has expressed outrage in the face of growing cases of police brutality meted against innocent members of the public.

The lawmakers declared that Kenya cannot be allowed to slide into a police state even as it challenged the Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations to deal with the matter decisively.

The legislators want the Committee to summon both the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration and the Inspector-General of the National Police Service (NPS), warning that the kind of impunity displayed by the police is not good for the country.

“What we witnessed recently in Nakuru and Nandi is unacceptable in the 21st Century. It demonstrates a problem in the training of our police officers. That a human being with a family can brutally assault young people enjoying the freedoms we fought for is intolerable,” stated Senator David Wakoli, who is also the Majority Whip.

“I request the Inspector General to re-deploy such officers to areas where their energies can be fruitful in the country, not against young people investing in talent, cohesion and integration, while enjoying the sweet drinks produced in the villages.”

The Senators were making contributions to the request for a Statement that was made by Senator Samson Cherarkey regarding the assault of youth by police officers in Nandi Town while playing a

pool game.

On the night of January 10, 2026, at around 10.00 p.m., police officers of the Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) stormed an entertainment establishment in Nandi Town and assaulted several youths who were playing a game of pool, leaving some of the youth nursing injuries.

Senator Cherarkey insists that Pool is not illegal in Kenya and wants the Ministry of National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations to explain the measures being taken to ensure accountability and justice for the victims.

The Senator wants the Committee to give a status report on the investigations in the assault, including the agencies leading the inquiry, timelines and any other interim findings to date.

“The Committee should explain the disciplinary, administrative or criminal actions taken against police officers involved, including any steps to ensure individual and command responsibility,” said Senator Cherarkey, adding that the circumstances and the basis for entering the entertainment establishment and whether the actions taken complied with applicable laws, regulations and policing standards.

He also wants the Committee to state the nature of injuries sustained by the youth, medical treatment received, the social psychological support provided and any compensation or victim support measures in place.

Senator Joe Nyutu said the attack should be condemned by all people who



Senator Okongo Omogeni speaks during a meeting of CPAC as Senator Johnes Mwaruma looks on.

value the freedoms Kenyans enjoy; the freedom to assemble and play whichever game at whichever hour, as long as it is within the licensed time of the facility.

“If anyone commits a crime, the police are trained to arrest and charge such individuals in accordance with the law. I do not think we have a provision in our laws that allows the police to clobber people without a good reason.”

Senator Karungo Thangwa supported the statement arguing that nobody deserves police brutality. Police brutality against a citizen is police brutality; police brutality against a politician is still police brutality, he said.

“I will not keep quiet because police brutality is unacceptable. I will speak together to call out rogue police officers and demand that the Inspector General takes action.”

Senator Okongo Omogeni wondered how long it takes for action to be taken against the offending police officers.

“If a crime has been committed like

what we saw, how long does it take before we see action? Is it after one, two or three years? Heads should have rolled by now. What can we explain to this country if the same police officer repeated the same crime tomorrow in Nairobi? Transferring is not disciplinary action,” he said.

Senator Richard Onyonka urged the House to summon the Inspector General of Police to interrogate the matter.

Senator Godfrey Osotsi said the Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA), which is supposed to oversight the National Police Service, has failed in its mission.

Senator Okiya Omtatah said the event in Nandi was an expression of oppression, domination and control.

“The police officers are not supposed to be controlling, oppressing and doing all those kinds of things. We need to go back and look at the systemic issues that make the police so militarised in their approach to issues instead of being civil.”

Police to arrest public officers who defy House summons, IG Kanja



Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja when he appeared before CPAC.

Article 125 of the Constitution has acquired a new lease of life after the Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja vowed that the National Police Service (NPS) will hence arrest public officers who defy Parliamentary summonses.

Mr Kanja said the NPS is cognizant that Article 125 gives Parliament and its Committees the power to summon public officials. “In instances where they refuse to honour such summons, the NPS under the direction of Parliament is always ready to arrest and present them before the Committees as requested,” he said.

The IGP made the comments when he appeared before the County Public Accounts Committee (CPAC) during the meeting which discussed how the two institutions can work together to strengthen good governance and public trust.

While the Article gives Parliament and its committees powers equivalent to that of the high court insofar as summoning witnesses, the provision has largely been moot and rarely has it been put to good to effective use despite the overwhelming number of summonses parliamentary Committees have issued.

CPAC welcomed Mr Kanja’s observation that no public officer is above the law even as he gave commitment that NPS is ready to partner with Parliament and ensure that where misuse of public funds is established, robust investigations will be carried out and those culpable prosecuted.

“We appreciate the commitment you have given to partner with this commit-

tee, and to a large extent Parliament,” Senator Moses Kajwang told the Inspector General during the session, adding that NPS is the greatest partner of Parliament in enforcing requirement for witness appearances.

Senator Okongo Omogeni supported the commitment saying it will help foster integrity and the spirit of constitutionalism because accountability is the foundation of the rule of law.

“I am impressed when you say no public officer is above the law and this means that we have to develop a good working relation with the NPS.”

The Committee had invited the IGP to share experiences on how the committee recommendations can be enforced in line with Article 125 of the constitution.

The provision gives the Parliament and its Committees the power similar of the High court where it can summon witnesses and request for documents.

The Committee has issued summonses against Governor Lelelit Lati of Samburu County and Abdi Guyo of Isiolo and has demanded the IGP to arrest and present them before it.

During the meeting, the IGP had reaffirmed the provision of Article 125 of the constitution which mandates the Committee to summon public officers to appear before it.

“In instances where they refuse to comply, the NPS under the direction of the Committee is always ready to arrest and present them before the committee as requested,” he said.

He said he was ready to arrest the two Governors and present them before the



Senator Okongo Omogeni and Senator Enock Wambua during the meeting with the Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja.



Senator Moses Kajwang makes his point during the meeting between CPAC and Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja. Senator Mwenda Gataya listens.

Committee. However, it is the Committee to issue clear directives on when and where the Governor should be presented.

He added that NPS is ready to provide security to the committee while it undertakes its functions during the sittings at the Senate and during field visits to counties.

“NPS is ready to comply with the Committee by providing information and reports relevant to its own mandate, including details of investigations whenever requested.”

Senator Kajwang pushed for a professional and respectful relationship be-

tween the two institutions and suggested that there need to be regular review meetings between the two sides on matters of common interest.

“We can have quarterly meetings where the NPS can appraise the Committee on the progress of all matters referred to it by this Committee,” he said, even as requested by Mr Kanja to detail one of his officers from DCI to sit on the Committee as a Liaison officer.

The IGP directed the Director of Legal Services at the National Police to engage the Committee on the modalities of the engagement.

Clerk Nyegenye calls for staff collaboration in service delivery



Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye makes his remarks during the meeting with staff.



Mr Zakayo Mogere, Deputy Director, Legislative and Procedural Services, makes his submission during the staff meeting. Looking is Mr Boniface Lenairoshi, the Deputy Director of the Social and Economic Committees and Ms Emmy Chepkwony, the Deputy Governance and Accountability Committees.



Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye speaks to staff during the meeting.



Mr Anthony Njoroge, the Director, Litigations and Compliance speaks as Mr Njuguna Njenga, the Director of Governance and Accountability Committees listens.

The Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye, has reaffirmed the unwavering support for the Secretariat, urging staff to embrace synergy in their service to the nation.

Speaking during a high-level staff charette themed “Driving Excellence from Draft to Delivery,” Mr. Nyegenye told officers that the Senate’s success rests fundamentally on the dedication of its workforce.

The strategic workshop held on February 4, brought together technical expertise from the Directorates of Legislative and Procedural Services, Legal Services, Socio-Economic Committees, Governance and Accountability Committees, Litigation and Compliance Services and Research Services.

The Clerk, who is also the Secretary of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), emphasised that as the Senate fulfills its constitutional mandate, the demand for high-quality, timely, and procedurally sound legislative outputs

has never been higher.

“These rigorous standards depend entirely on the professionalism, expertise, and commitment demonstrated by staff members in their daily duties,” he said, adding that such excellence is a requirement for maintaining the institution’s integrity.

A central theme of the address was the necessity of collective responsibility. Parliament’s administrative head noted that while each directorate possesses unique expertise, they must function as a cohesive unit to achieve institutional effectiveness, stressing that the complexity of legislative work requires a departure from independent operations in favor of a unified approach.

“It is imperative that we operate not as isolated units, but as an integrated system for the benefit of the legislature.”

This call for integration was put into practice throughout the session as participants identified and analysed recurring challenges in committee reports.

By reviewing anonymised samples, staff engaged in a candid assessment of practices to improve consistency across Bills, amendments, and vellum preparation.

The collaborative dialogues culminated in the development of a general framework designed to guide the drafting of amendments, ensuring every tool on the Order Paper meets the highest standards of accuracy.

Deputy Clerk Mohammed Ali reinforced this vision, emphasising that excellence is achieved through consistency, cohesion, and sustained collaboration.

He encouraged the team to remain steadfast, noting, “This session allows us to reflect not only as individual directorates but as one institution guided by the Constitution and our Standing Orders on how we can do better together as we process the legal framework.”

Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi, further highlighted the charette’s value in

harmonising operations and developing standardised procedures to enhance efficiency, underscoring the importance of developing standardised procedures that enhance efficiency.

Beyond technical competence, Clerk Nyegenye counseled the staff that true excellence requires a sophisticated blend of interpersonal and institutional values, sustained through effective communication and a spirit of teamwork.

He pointed to cultural alignment—a deep appreciation for the Senate’s shared objectives—as the bedrock of a high-performing Secretariat.

He commended the staff for their contributions, acknowledging their vital role in upholding the trust and privilege bestowed upon the Senate by the people of Kenya.

Ultimately the much-needed charette reaffirmed the Senate’s commitment to continuous improvement and teamwork, ensuring the delivery of high-quality legislative outputs for the nation.

From Legislative Counsel to the Bench: Dr Okello's distinguished transition

Parliament's legal landscape has undergone a historic shift as it bid farewell to one of its most illustrious administrative servants.

Dr Johnson Okello, the outgoing Director for Legal Services, took to the podium, and facing the Senate staff, delivered his final verdict, before assuming his new role as the judge of the Court of Appeal.

In an address that was both tactical briefing and a heartfelt goodbye, the Appellate Justice delivered his verdict: Senate is not just a legislative body, but a finishing school for the highest levels of legislative and public service.

Dr Okello, who joined the Parliamentary Service Commission in 2014, used the occasion to showcase the powerhouse of talent he leaves behind, urging the Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye, to recognise and promote the legal team, whom he described as tiny but dy-

namite. From experts in agriculture and finance to specialists in AI and drafting. He credited the Directorate's success to the sheer grit of the team.

"I am proud of the Senate," Dr Okello remarked, as he reflected on the institutional growth. "We have such a strong professional team that has fought all the battles that have been thrown their way."

A central theme of the farewell was the Senate's expanding global footprint. Dr Okello highlighted the African Colloquium of Legal Counsel, a Senate baby and a brainchild of Clerk Nyegenye, submitting that under his stewardship, the Colloquium has exported the Nairobi Principles across the continent.

"Now we have Sierra Leone and seven other parliaments setting up Legal Directorates based on the Nairobi Principles," he noted, even as challenged his successor and the Senate Board of Management to ensure the banner of the

Colloquium continues to fly in the upcoming missions to Libya and Ghana.

Turning to the weightier matters of the Constitution, Dr Okello did not mince words regarding the challenges facing the Senate. He acknowledged the winds currently blowing against the House, most notably the recent court ruling on the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

"Working for the Senate should be a calling; it is almost a vocation," he stated, echoing the Clerk's earlier sentiments. "I exhort you to be vigilant and remain very firm in our pursuit to defend devolution. Let us not tire. We must defend the Constitution."

He praised the Clerk as the Captain who has weathered political storms with a smile, ensuring the Senate remains a working board despite the daggers often drawn against the institution.

In a moment of light-hearted wit that

drew cheers from the staff, Dr Okello reminded his colleagues that while he is moving to the other side of the legal divide, the bond remains.

"Thank God now you are coming to appear before me," he joked, referring to his new role on the bench. "I will have mercy on you."

He advised the staff to maintain emotional intelligence when handling Senators during turbulent political seasons, particularly in the wake of shifting political landscapes. He leaves behind a roadmap for the future, including a policy paper on integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into legal services, ensuring the Senate remains at the cutting edge of legislative drafting.

"My door is open," Justice Okello promised. "All for one, one for all. The Senate is strong."



Appellate Judge Johnson Okello makes his farewell speech to Parliamentary staff as Mr Jeremiah Nyegenye, the Secretary of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) looks on.



Clerk of Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye, who is also the Secretary of PSC, shares a light moment with Justice Okello and other senior Parliamentary staff. From left, Ms Mary Chesire, Director, Social and Economic Committees, Mr Njuguna Njenga, Director, Governance and Accountability Committees and Mr Mohamed Ali, the Deputy Clerk.

House resumes for 2026



The Senate has resumed its sittings for 2026 (Fifth Session) amid a legislative and oversight workload.

The workload includes dozens of Bills, petitions and statements pending as lawmakers enter the second-to-last

session before the next General Election.

In the Communication to the House, Speaker Amason Kingi outlined the magnitude of business awaiting consideration. The Senate currently has 64 Bills before it, with 18 at Committee stage, 42 at Second Reading and four awaiting First Reading.

In addition, 19 petitions are pending before Committees, alongside 452 statements yet to be concluded.

Speaker Kingi urged Senators to brace for an intensive session, noting that the term of the 13th Parliament is approaching its final stretch and that legislative timelines are tightening.

He challenged Members to redouble their efforts both in plenary and in committees to ensure the House concludes its business expeditiously.

The Speaker also called on the leadership of both the Majority and Minority sides to engage the National Assembly to fast-track 29 Senate Bills that remain at various stages of consideration in the National Assembly.

The delay in processing the Bills, he indicated, risks slowing down key reforms affecting counties. Among the immediate priorities for the Senate is the budget cycle as Parliament is expected to receive the 2026 Budget Policy Statement.

The House will then be required to consider the Division of Revenue and the County Allocation of Revenue Bills.

These critical financial instruments determine how nationally raised revenue is shared between the national and county governments and are central to the functioning of devolution.

Senator Cheburet taken through induction



Senator Cheburet consults Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi and Mr Zakayo Mogere during the induction.



Senator Cheburet speaks during the induction.



Senator Cheburet poses for a group photo with senior Senate management led by Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi.

Senator Kiprono Chemitei Cheburet has been through a comprehensive induction programme aimed at strengthening his capacity to effectively deliver on the Senate's core mandates of representation, legislation, and oversight.

The Senator, who was elected through the November 2025, by election, was taken through the exercise which was facilitated by the Office of the Clerk.

The by election was occasioned by the death of Senator William Cheptumo, who died in February 2025 after a long illness.

Senator Cheburet was sworn in on De-

ember 2, 2025.

The induction exercise provided the Senator with an in-depth understanding of Parliament's administrative framework within the Kenya's presidential system of governance. Senior parliamentary officers guided him through the structure, functions, and interrelationships of various directorates and departments that support the legislative process.

Key areas of focus included the Standing Orders, committee systems, and the procedural flow of legislative business. The sessions were designed to equip the Senator with practical knowledge on

how to navigate parliamentary processes efficiently, contribute meaningfully to debates, and actively participate in committee work.

Speaking during the engagement, the Deputy Clerk of the Senate Eunice Gichangi, underscored the Secretariat's commitment to providing professional and technical support to Senators to enable them to effectively fulfil their constitutional responsibilities. She noted that a well-informed legislator is essential for a responsive and accountable Parliament.

Senator Cheburet commended the

Senate leadership and staff for the thorough orientation, describing the programme as timely and invaluable in preparing him for the demands of legislative service. He reaffirmed his commitment to working collaboratively with the Senate Secretariat to advance the interests of Baringo County and contribute to national development.

The induction reflects the Senate's ongoing efforts to build institutional capacity and ensure that Members are well-equipped to serve the people with competence, integrity, and professionalism.

2026 Session: Clerk Nyegenye calls for resilience from staff

The Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye has exhorted the Senate fraternity to look beyond the metrics of their daily tasks and focus on outputs and outcomes that will deliver a lasting impact on the lives of the Kenyan people.

Addressing staff during the meeting to review the 2025 Session of the House and strategise for the 2026 session, Mr Nyegenye anchored his message on the House's pioneering legacy. He reminded the assembly that the Senate service was not built on administrative convenience, but on a deliberate, courageous choice.

Taking the staff on a historical journey of the bicameral system's establishment, the Clerk noted that when the House was in its infancy, lacking standing orders, a chamber, or even a roadmap, it was those who sought a challenge who stepped forward.

"The Senate service was built on the foundation that was the coalition of the willing. After the establishment of the bicameral House, the people who came were the bold and the resilient. They came knowing the land was dry and parched. We pride ourselves as the House of the bold and the resilient."

The spirit of choosing the difficult path remains the Senate's North Star. To illustrate this, Mr Nyegenye shared a personal anecdote from his career, revealing that when he topped the interviews for Clerk of both the National Assembly and the Senate, his choice was immediate.



Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye



Clerk Jeremiah Nyegenye, senior management of the Senate and staff from the Directorate of Legislative and Procedural Services with Justice Johnson Okello of the Court of Appeal.

While others might have sought the established ease of the National Assembly, he chose the Senate because he craved the challenge of pioneering a new House.

A significant portion of the Clerk's address was dedicated to the new kids on the block, the newly embedded maintenance, research, and procurement units. For the Clerk, resilience is not found only in grand legislative battles, but in the very environment where that work happens.

"I want to encourage a maintenance culture," he observed. "In public service, some are content to live with a broken window or a broken seat. I want the Senate to have a culture of dignity. We have the resources and the personnel; don't suffer in silence. Don't sit on a broken chair."

He emphasised that professional excellence requires a foundation of self-respect and environmental pride, urging staff to engage directly and proactively with the maintenance teams.

The address took a somber and more vigilant turn as the Clerk touched upon contemporary legal and political challenges, specifically citing a recent court decision regarding the Senate's role in the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) and revenue-sharing functions. Expressing firm disagreement with the ruling, he described the current climate as one where the Senate "still comes against many winds."

"Working for the Senate should be a calling; it is almost a vocation. I exhort you to be vigilant and remain very firm

in our pursuit to defend devolution."

Despite ongoing resource constraints, the Clerk remained undeterred, urging the staff to dance their own tunes. He reaffirmed the Senate Board of Management's commitment to good governance, stating that while they may occasionally stumble, it would never be for a want of trying.

The Clerk called for a spirit of "one mind" as the Senate transitions into the Fifth Session (2026) and beyond. He defined the institutional benchmark of success not by the volume of paperwork, but by fidelity to the Constitution, passion, and integrity.

In his final rallying cry, he invoked a timeless principle of solidarity: "All for one, and one for all. The Senate is strong. Let us do this."

Seneta Ojienda ataka majibu kuhusu Uwanja wa Ndege wa Kisumu

Seneta Tom Ojienda ameibua hoja kadhaa muhimu bungeni akiitaka serikali kuchukua hatua za uwazi na uwajibikaji kuhusu changamoto zinazogusa ustawi wa wananchi wa Kaunti ya Kisumu.

Hoja hizo zinahusu urejeshwaji wa ardhi ya kilimo iliyoharibika, hali ya usalama kufuatia ongezeko la uhalifu wa magenge na utendaji na maendeleo ya Uwanja wa Kimataifa wa Ndege wa Kisumu, ambao ameulezea kuwa nguzo muhimu ya uchumi wa eneo la magharibi ya Kenya.

Akizungumza Bungeni, Seneta Ojienda alisema kuwa hali ya uharibifu wa ardhi ya kilimo imekuwa changamoto inayotishia uzalishaji wa chakula na maisha ya wakulima wengi katika Kaunti hiyo. Alisema kuwa mabadiliko ya tabianchi, mmomonyoko wa udongo na matumizi yasiyo endelevu ya ardhi yamechangia kupungua kwa rutuba ya mashamba, jambo linalohitaji hatua za haraka na mipango ya muda mrefu ya urejeshaji.

Alisisitiza umuhimu wa Kamati ya Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi kutoa maelezo ya kina kuhusu ukubwa wa uharibifu



Seneta Tom Ojienda.

huo, mikakati ya serikali ya kuurekebisha, rasilimali zilizotengwa na muda wa utekelezaji wa miradi husika ili kuhakikisha wakulima wanalindwa na uzalishaji unaimarishwa.

“Ni wajibu wa serikali kuhakikisha ardhi ya kilimo inalindwa na kurejeshwa kwa manufaa ya vizazi vya sasa na vijavyo. Tunahitaji maelezo ya wazi kuhusu hatua zinazochukuliwa, fedha zilizotengwa na mikakati ya kuhakikisha kilimo kinabaki kuwa endelevu licha ya changamoto za kimazingira,” alisema Seneta Ojienda.

Kwa Kamati ya Usalama wa Taifa,

Ulinzi na Mahusiano ya Kigeni, Seneta huyo aliitaka kueleza hatua zinazochukuliwa kukabiliana na vitendo vya uhalifu wa magenge vinavyoripotiwa kuathiri baadhi ya maeneo ya Kisumu. Alisema kuwa matukio ya uporaji na vurugu yamezua hofu miongoni mwa wakazi na kuathiri shughuli za kijamii na kiuchumi, hivyo ni muhimu serikali kutoa taarifa kamili kuhusu operesheni za kiusalama zinazoendelea.

Aliitaka Kamati hiyo kufafanua upeo wa operesheni hizo, mafanikio yaliyopatikana na mikakati ya muda mrefu ya kuzuia kurejea kwa uhalifu. Aidha, alisisitiza haja ya kueleza mifumo ya msaada kwa jamii zilizoathirika, ikiwemo ulinzi, njia za kuripoti matukio na mipango ya kuwasaidia vijana waliokuwa wanajihusisha na magenge kurejea katika maisha ya kawaida.

“Usalama wa wananchi ni msingi wa maendeleo yoyote ya kijamii na kiuchumi. Tunahitaji ufafanuzi wa kina kuhusu hatua zinazochukuliwa kulinda wakazi na kuhakikisha jamii zinapata msaada na ulinzi unaostahili,” aliongeza.

Katika ombi jingine, Seneta Ojienda aliitaka Kamati ya Barabara, Makazi na

Uchukuzi kutathmini maendeleo ya kimkakati na utendaji wa Uwanja wa Ndege wa Kimataifa wa Kisumu, akieleza kuwa miundombinu hiyo ni kiungo muhimu cha biashara, utalii na uwekezaji katika eneo la magharibi ya nchi. Alisema kuwa licha ya ukarabati uliofanywa katika miaka ya hivi karibuni, bado kuna haja ya uwazi kuhusu hali ya miradi inayoendelea na mchango wake kwa uchumi wa eneo hilo.

Aliiomba Kamati hiyo kueleza maendeleo ya upanuzi wa barabara ya kupaa na kutua ndege, uboreshaji wa vifaa vya mizigo, uhifadhi wa bidhaa zinazoharibika haraka na maboresho ya kituo cha abiria, pamoja na changamoto zinazoweza kuchelewesha utekelezaji wake. Aidha, alitaka tathmini ya utendaji wa uwanja huo ikiwemo ufanisi wa kushughulikia ndege, viwango vya usalama na mwitikio wa mashirika ya ndege kutumia huduma zake.

“Ni muhimu kufahamu mchango halisi wa uwanja huu katika kukuza biashara, ajira na utalii. Tunahitaji tathmini ya kina ili kuhakikisha uwekezaji katika miundombinu hii unawanufaisha wananchi na kuchochea ukuaji wa uchumi wa eneo,” alisema Seneta huyo.

Seneta Mwenda ateta kuhusu hali ya Gredi ya 10

Seneta Mwenda Gataya ameitaka serikali kutoa taarifa ya kina na kuchukua hatua za dharura kushughulikia changamoto zinazoikumba sekta ya elimu kufuatia mpito wa wanafunzi wa Gredi ya 10. Kupitia ombi rasmi kwa Kamati ya Elimu, Seneta huyo alieleza wasiwasi wake kuhusu idadi ya wanafunzi ambao hawajaripoti katika shule za sekondari ya juu kutokana na vikwazo vya kifedha na kiutawala.

Seneta Mwenda alisema kuwa mpito huo umebainisha mapungufu kadhaa, yakiwemo gharama kubwa za kujiunga na shule, ukosefu wa walimu na miundombinu isiyokidhi mahitaji ya wanafunzi. Alieleza kuwa hali hiyo ni mbaya zaidi katika maeneo ya vijijini na maeneo kame na nusu kame (ASALs), ambako shule nyingi hazina madarasa ya kutosha, maabara, wala vifaa vinavyohitajika chini ya mtaala wa umilisi (CBC).

“Ni jukumu la serikali kuhakikisha kwamba kila mwanafunzi anayejiunga na Gredi ya 10 anapata mazingira bora ya kujifunza bila kubaguliwa kwa misingi ya hali ya kiuchumi au eneo



Seneta Mwenda Gataya na Seneta Edwin Sifuna wakati wa kikao cha Kamati ya CPAC.

anapotoka. Tunataka kufahamu hatua zinazochukuliwa kuwasaidia wale ambao hawajaripoti shuleni kutokana na changamoto za kifedha,” alisema Seneta Mwenda.

Aidha, alitaka ufafanuzi kuhusu mgao wa bajeti kwa shule za sekondari ya juu katika mwaka wa fedha wa 2025/2026 na iwapo kuna mpango wa kuongeza ruzuku kwa kila mwanafunzi ili kupunguza mzigo kwa wazazi. Alisisiti-

za kuwa gharama za juu za masomo na vifaa vinaweza kuhatarisha utekelezaji mzuri wa CBC na kusababisha baadhi ya wanafunzi kukatiza masomo yao.

Seneta huyo pia alihoji mikakati iliyowekwa kuhakikisha mpito huo unafanyika kwa utaratibu na bila misukosuko. Alitaka kujua iwapo kuna mpango wa kuwaajiri walimu zaidi ili kupunguza uhaba uliopo na muda unaotarajiwa kutatua changamoto hiyo. Vilevile, alisisitiza umuhimu wa kuboresha miundombinu ya shule hasa katika maeneo yaliyotengwa.

Kiongozi huyo alionya kuwa endapo hatua za haraka hazitachukuliwa, taifa linaweza kushuhudia ongezeko la wanafunzi wanaoacha shule, jambo litakalodhoofisha maendeleo ya kijamii na kiuchumi. Kamati ya Seneti ya Elimu sasa imeagizwa kulichunguza suala hilo na kuwasilisha ripoti bungeni ndani ya muda uliowekwa ili hatua stahiki zichukuliwe.



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