



# The SENATE

Safeguarding Devolution

Issue No. 0089

## Weekly

# Transfer of function: House solidifies process

**The lawmakers pass a law to further guide the transfer of functions between the two levels of Government in line with the spirit of the Constitution.**

The Senate has clarified and provided further guidance on the future transfer of functions between the two levels of Government.

The House was forced to intervene in the matter in an attempt to bring order into the chaos that have characterised the process whose implementation has been caught up in the rigmaroles of political intrigues and legal confusion, often leaving a bitter aftertaste in its wake.

On Thursday, the House unanimously adopted the amendments to the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, that seeks to clarify and solidify the process of the transfer.

The amendments, sponsored by Senator Tabitha Mutinda, clarifies the circumstances under which transfer of functions can be undertaken, the costing, financing of such transfer besides ensuring an orderly consideration of the County Finance Bills by the 47 County Assemblies.

The Bill, which originated from the National Assembly, amends Section 50 of the Act to clarify the effective dates of the debt threshold requirement for the Cabinet Secretary National Treasury to ensure compliance.

It also amends section 194 of the Act to provide for the framework for implementing of accrual accounting in Government and risk management by the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board which is meant to improve the accountings standards for better transparency and governance.

The amendments brought by Senator Mutinda, on behalf of the Committee on Finance and Budget, introduces a new Section 186 C in the Public Finance Management regime that will apply to



*Senator Tabitha Mutinda*

the transfer of functions as provided for under Article 187 of the Constitution and sections 24 to 28 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act.

Should the President sign the Bill into the law, then it means that an entity that

opts to transfer a function, shall continue to finance such a function as contained in its approved budgets.

The amendments are the latest addition to the legal regime that will guide the transfer of functions from one level

of Government to another, hence.

Senator Tabitha amendments seeks to expound Section 26 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act which provides the transfer, delegation of powers, functions or competencies.



*Members of the Committee on Finance and Budget in a past function.*

Section 26 of the Act provides for what is contained in the agreement for the transfer or delegation of functions.

However, there have been concern that the agreement does not go deep enough to defend the weaker entities (mainly county governments) where functions are transferred with questions on the costing and financing of such transferred functions/

In her amendments, the Senator says where there is need for additional financial resources for a transferred function, the parties shall consult and agree on the need for the additional financial resources.

“The transferring government shall

provide the additional financial resources,” says the amendment, adding that the process of approval and disbursement of the additional financial resources shall be provided for in the transfer agreement between the two levels of government.

The cost of the transferred functions shall be based on the costing framework provided in the national and county government budget manuals and shall form the basis for the additional financial resources for the transferred functions.

Where the transfer is from the county to national government, the additional financial resources for transferred functions shall be provided as a separate schedule in the budget estimates,

identifying allocations from the county government revenue and clearly specifying appropriations-in-aid, additional allocations and proceeds from loans and grants.

A transfer from national to county government shall be provided as a separate schedule in the budget estimates, identifying allocations from the national government revenue and clearly specifying appropriations-in-aid, additional allocations and proceeds from loans and grants.

“The allocations shall be included in the budget estimates of both the county and national government and shall be submitted to Parliament and the respective county assembly for approval.”

Another amendment concerns the management of assets and liabilities.

A transfer agreement between the two levels of government shall, in addition to the requirements under Section 26 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act, include a provision on acquisition, disposal and transfer of assets and liabilities.

Where assets are acquired and liabilities incurred in the duration of a transfer of a function to either level of government, the level of government receiving the functions shall keep, maintain and

update the register of assets and liabilities in accordance with the applicable law.

The level will also be required to take appropriate measures to ensure that at the end of the transfer period, the assets and liabilities are transferred to the transferring level of government. The process of transfer of assets and liabilities upon the expiry of the transfer period shall be in accordance with the transfer agreement or as will be prescribed in the Regulations made by the Cabinet Secretary.

The Committee also sponsored another amendment to the Act which demands that County Assemblies must consider and pass the County Finance Bills before June 30 of every year. The amendment further provides a detailed timeliness through which the Bills should be enacted. The County Executive Committee member for finance will be required to submit to the County Assembly the County Finance Bill on or before April 30 of every year.

The Bill should set out the revenue measures for the County Government together with a policy statement expounding on the proposed measures.

## Lawmakers seek answers on Sign language KCSE exclusion

The Senate is demanding an explanation from examination authorities over the exclusion of Kenya Sign Language (KSL) from the final grading of the 2025 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) for hearing candidates despite the subject being taught and examined.

Senator Catherine Mumma wants the Committee on Education to investigate the matter and submit answers to the House.

Learners sat for the examination and even had the subject reflected in their result slips but it was excluded from the final aggregate grade.

Senator Mumma asked the Committee to provide a detailed explanation of the legal and policy framework that led to the decision even as she called for clarification on the roles played by key education agencies.

The lawmaker specifically asked for information on the involvement of the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC), the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and the Ministry of Education in approving, examining and grading the subject.

She further wants to know why students were allowed to study and sit the subject throughout their secondary education without prior notice that it would not contribute to their final grade.



*Senator Karen Nyamu*

“The Committee must give reasons on why candidates were allowed to register for, seat, be examined in KSL over the four-year secondary school cycle without any prior notification that the subject will not be factored into their final aggregate grades,” she said, adding that the Committee should explain whether the decision violated the principles of procedural fairness and legitimate expectation.

The Senator is also demanding data on the number of students affected by the move, including those who may have narrowly missed university admission and that the committee should establish how many students’ grades would have improved if the subject had been counted.

In addition, the lawmaker called for measures to mitigate the academic and psychological effects of the decision on affected candidates.

“Measures being considered to address the academic, psychological and socio-economic impact of this decision on affected candidates including whether re-computation of results, remedial grading measures or special placement considerations are being explored,” she said.

She also asked for clarity on the future of Kenya Sign Language as a KCSE subject and whether it will continue being offered.

Supporting the Statement, Senator Karen Nyamu described the exclusion as unfair, saying the education policy



*Senator Catherine Mumma*

should be predictable. She called for a comprehensive explanation as to why the results did not reflect in the final grading.

“Education policy is supposed to be predictable and very transparent. Learners are not supposed to be finding out that after sitting for an examination, investing four years studying this subject will not count after all,” she said, noting that KSL is not just another as it represents inclusion of a community that has suffered exclusion historically, the PWDs.

“It is upon us to make sure that we are supporting the subject and being very clear so that we remedy this issue of exclusion of PWDs in accessing education.”

## Speaker orders IG to probe threats on Senator Dullo life



Senator Fatuma Dullo

Speaker Amason Kingi has directed the National Police Service to conduct investigations into the alleged threats to the life of a Senator.

Through a personal Statement, Senator Fatuma Dullo has told the House had claimed her life was in danger.

This is after unidentified gunmen opened fire at her public engagement days after she received a threatening message on social media.

“The matter raised by Senator Dullo is a serious one. Since it touches on the security of a Member of this House, I direct the Inspector-General of Police to investigate the matter and file a report with the Office of the Speaker in the next 14 days,” the Speaker ruled.

Several senators supported the call for investigations and warned against rising political intolerance and violence.

Senator John Kinyua welcomed the Speaker’s directive, saying insecurity facing one senator affects the entire House.

“Any insecurity facing one senator is insecurity for all of us,” he said while thanking the Speaker for the directive to the Inspector-General of Police.

Senator Richard Onyonka said the Senator had been facing persistent hostility while carrying out her oversight

role.

“Senator Dullo has been going through this for the last two years. It has been a case of sadness and pain,” he said, adding that leaders should not be targeted or insulted for performing their constitutional oversight duties.

Senator Enock Wambua also warned that the growing culture of intimidation of leaders was dangerous and must be stopped.

“At least Senator Dullo is here today to talk about what she has gone through. It could have been worse,” he said and urged the police to act decisively.

Senator Dullo told the House that the incident posed a serious threat not only to her life but also to her supporters and the safety of elected leaders in the country.

The senator recounted that on February 20, 2026, she received what she described as an explicit and credible threat through social media allegedly from an individual linked to a supporter of the Isiolo County Governor.

“We must stop Senator Fatuma Dullo from progressing in her politics,” the message stated. She immediately reported the matter to the relevant security agencies and requested investigations as well as enhanced protection, fearing that

the threat was politically motivated.

Three days later, the situation escalated when gunshots were fired during a public engagement in Kina Township, Garbatula Sub-County.

The incident occurred on February 23, 2026 after her convoy arrived for a public meeting and she was standing on top of her vehicle while her media team set up equipment.

“Approximately six gunshots were fired in rapid succession from a distance of less than 200 metres from where I was,” she recounted to the House.

The attackers were two individuals dressed in buibui riding on a motorcycle.

Despite the tense situation, Senator Dullo said she deliberately remained calm and proceeded with the engagement to avoid causing panic.

“In order to safeguard members of the public and avert further alarm and potential disorder, I exercised deliberate restraint and maintained my composure,” she said.

She later reported the incident at Kina Police Station where she raised concern over remarks made by the governor after the incident.

The governor had questioned her mental wellness and suggested that the shooting had been staged.

“These remarks are reckless, offensive and intended to discredit me and undermine the ongoing investigation,” Senator Dullo said.

The senator warned that the threats appeared to be part of a wider pattern of intimidation targeting individuals who criticise the county government.

“Since 2022, individuals who have criticised the county government and governor have been systematically threatened, attacked and maimed,” she told the Senate.

Senator Dullo argued that the threats and the subsequent shooting suggested a coordinated attempt to intimidate or harm her.

“The sequence of events strongly suggest a coordinated and politically motivated attempt to intimidate, harm or eliminate me,” she said.

Senator Dullo also warned that failure to act decisively would embolden those who use violence to silence political opponents.

“Today, it is me; tomorrow, it will be another senator, a Member of the National Assembly, a governor or any leader who dares to serve independently and speak without fear,” she said.

## Trade Committee inspects projects in Mombasa, Kilifi counties



Senator Issa Boy, the chairman of Trade Committee, Senator Esther Okenyuri and Senator Okiya Omtatah in Kilifi County.



Members of the Trade Committee, led by Senator Issa Boy, are taken around County Aggregation and Industrial Parks in Kilifi. Others in the picture are Senator Esther Okenyuri and Senator Okiya Omtatah.

The Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industry last week toured Kilifi and Mombasa counties where they conducted inspections of the County Aggregated Industrial Parks (CAIPs), assessed the progress of the projects and addressed challenges affecting their implementation.

In Kilifi County, the Committee paid a courtesy call on the Governor Gideon Mungaro where Senators discussed the status of the project and sought clarifi-

cation on key issues, including funding and project planning.

The Senators raised concerns over the absence of a feasibility study for the Kilifi project, noting that the National Government had indicated that Sh250 million had already been disbursed for the initiative. The Governor informed the Committee that the county had not yet received the funds, citing cash flow challenges as the main factor affecting progress and calling for additional sup-

port from the National Government to enable the project to resume.

In Mombasa County, the Committee inspected the CAIP project, which is currently at approximately 45 percent completion. The National Government has allocated Sh116 million for the project, while the County Government has contributed Sh50 million. The project faces several challenges, including gaps in the Bill of Quantities (BoQ) that did not capture key components such as wall

plastering across the 10-acre site, water provision, and access from the main tarmac road to the project gate.

The Committee noted that the issues may result in cost and time overruns and consequently requested for a feasibility study report to guide the project's planning and ensure its successful completion.

## Senator seeks clarity on Rironi-Mau Summit Road project

Senator Okiya Omtatah is raising concern over the proposed construction of the Rironi-Nakuru-Mau Summit corridor which he says is characterised by illegalities surrounding the procurement, restructuring and concessioning.

The Corridor is among the country's most critical transport arteries, linking Nairobi to Rift Valley and western region and it is central to the national economy, regional trade and public mobility.

The Senator says the recent revelations concerning the procurement, restructuring and concessioning of the project indicate that the original Public-Private Partnership (PPP) contract which was initially awarded as a single concession, was subsequently split between two foreign contractors in a process intended to avoid prolonged external scrutiny.

The legislator wants the Committee to the procurement and restructuring process of the Rironi-Nakuru-Mau Summit Toll Road Project, including compliance



Senators follow proceedings during the 2025 Senate Mashinani in Busia County.

with the Constitution, the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, the Access to Information Act and the Public Private Partnership Act.

He wants the Committee to inform the House whether the PPP Committee approved the restructuring or splitting of the concession, including concession documents, financial models, the key

terms and conditions of the restructured split contracts and documentary evidence of such approval, including the relevant minutes or resolutions. The status of environmental and social approvals following the restructuring, including whether any variation required fresh or updated approvals and compliance measures.

“The Committee should detail the proposed tolling framework, including public participation undertaken, proposed toll rates, exemptions, escalation or adjustment mechanisms and the concession duration,” he said, adding that measures to ensure transparency, accountability, value for money and strict adherence to the law in the current and future PPP infrastructure projects, including safeguards on contract restructuring and disclosure of material variations.

## Call for full implementation of two-thirds gender rule



Senator Wakwabubi

Senator Consolata Wakwabubi has rallied Parliamentarians, as the custodians of Kenya's constitutional promise of equality, to strengthen legal frameworks to ensure full implementation of the two-thirds gender principle.

She said this should be done through enacting enabling legislation and closing gaps that undermine women's unequal participation in governance, spearhead innovative legislative action by proposing gender-responsive laws in emerging sectors such as digital economy, climate change and green energy.

She also drummed up support for oversight and accountability measures that include exercising robust oversight over government ministries, agencies and counties to guarantee compliance with gender equality provisions and affirmative action policies and advocating for adequate budgetary allocation to programmes that empower women econom-

ically, socially and politically; ensuring value for money in gender-focused initiatives.

"Other initiatives for consideration are in the area of regional leadership, which can be achieved through positioning Kenya as a model in East Africa for implementing gender equality commitments as well as by requiring annual progress reports on gender equality from ministries and counties," she said when she made a personal Statement concerning the commemoration of 2026 International Women's Day.

The day is traditionally observed globally on March 8 every year. This year's theme as declared by the United Nations (UN) is rights, justice, action for all women and girls, complemented by the global campaign 'Give to Gain,' which calls for collective generosity and collaboration to advance gender equality.

"The International Women's Day is

not only symbolic but also a UN-recognised platform for assessing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5 on gender equality. It is also noteworthy that the 2026 theme aligns with Kenya's constitutional and policy frameworks on equality."

She noted that Kenya has made notable progress in promoting women's representation through affirmative action measures anchored in the Constitution including the two-thirds gender principle.

The great milestones include increased women representation in Parliament and county assemblies, women's leadership in the judiciary and gains in education and health indicators. "Affirmative action seats and the constitutional two-thirds gender principle are critical achievements that must be safeguarded," she said but admitted that challenges remain in full implementation and chal-

lenged Parliament has a critical role in sustaining and expanding the gains.

"There exist persistent gaps that include under-representation in elective positions, gender-based violence unequal access to economic opportunities and cultural barriers that hinder women participation. These challenges threaten to erode gains unless Parliament sustains the momentum."

She wants Parliament to build capacity and mentorship to be achieved through supporting initiatives that build leadership capacity among women and girls, mentorship programmes, training and civic education to sustain long-term participation, public awareness and advocacy through the use of parliamentary platforms to champion gender equality, challenge discriminatory practices and promote inclusive policies that reflect the spirit of rights, justice and action for all women and girls.

## Violence, exclusion deter women from public office



Senator Veronica Maina.

The Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA) says violence and exclusion are evident in the Kenyan political arena where women aspirants and leaders face intimidation, defamatory propaganda, cyber bullying, economic sabotage and threats intended to deter them from public office.

The Association says such practices undermine democratic integrity, distort electoral competition and contradict the constitutional promise of inclusive governance.

They warn that Sexism and political violence against women have no place in a constitutional democracy.

In a Statement, read to the House by Senator Veronica Maina, the chairperson, the Senators argue that the Constitution is unequivocal.

They cite Article 27 which guarantees equality and freedom from discrimination. Article 28 protects inherent human dignity. Article 29 guarantees freedom and security of persons and Article 81(b) entrenches the two-third gender principle in elective and appointive bodies.

“The persistent failure to operationalise the two-third gender principle in Parliament constitutes a continuing constitutional violation and a democratic deficit that demands immediate legislative resolution. Women’s participation in leadership is not discretionary, it is constitutionally mandatory,” said Senator Maina.

She was making a Statement on behalf of KEWOSA on the commemoration of International Women’s Day, 2026 and the urgent imperative for the renewed, structured and measured national action to safeguard the rights, dignity, security

and full participation of women and girls in Kenya.

The Association issued the Statement as a concerted effort to make sure that women are protected and that sexual and GBV are ended in this tenure.

The United Nations has designated the 2026 International Women’s Day theme as ‘The rights, justice, action for all women and girls.’

The theme is both aspirational and urgent. It calls upon the states to transcend declaratory commitments and to institutionalise equality through deliberate legislative reform, firm enforcement of existing laws, dismantling of structural and cultural barriers and the adoption of measurable interventions that secure substantive; not merely formal, but equality for every woman and girl.

“As the Chairperson of KEWOSA, I affirm that this theme resonates profoundly with our mandate to champion gender-responsive legislation, strengthen parliamentary oversight through a gender lens, advocate for the protection of women and girls from violence and discrimination and promote equitable representation in political and decision-making spheres.”

In execution of the mandate, KEWOSA convened on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 and resolved to undertake targeted and preventative interventions to address violence against women and girls, including convening a multistakeholder engagement, bringing together relevant government agencies, civil society, law enforcement and development partners to develop coordinated prevention and response strategies, including a school-based outreach programme to enhance

awareness on girls’ rights, prevention of sexual and physical violence and youth empowerment as well as urging county government to establish and adequately fund safe houses for survivors of gender-based violence and also importantly, issuing a public statement to elevate national awareness, reinforce accountability and mobilise collective action.

She admitted that the country continues to confront an alarming prevalence of gender-based violence across our counties, manifested through domestic abuse, sexual assault, economic deprivation, psychological harm, online harassment and most gravely, the rising incidents of femicide, the intentional killing of women and girls on account of their gender.

“These are not isolated occurrences but indicators of systemic weaknesses in prevention frameworks, early warning mechanism, survivor protection, investigative capacity, prosecutorial diligence and societal accountability,” she said.

She hailed the former Deputy Chief Justice Nancy Baraza who has advanced practical and reform-orientated measures to confront violence against women, including the establishment of specialized Gender Based Violence (GBV) courts, statutory recognition of femicide as a distinct criminal offence, mandatory gender-sensitive training for police officers, prosecutors and judicial officers, adoption of survivor-centred investigation and prosecution procedures, strict accountability for officers who mishandle complaints, expansion of safe shel-

ters and provision of accessible psychosocial and legal support services.

She told the House that the proposals constitute a coherent and actionable roadmap that warrants urgent implementation. Parliament must operationalise the two-third gender principle, strengthen the legal framework on GBV and femicide, and secure adequate ring-fenced funding for shelters, forensic services, legal aid and prevention programmes.

The National Police Service (NPS) must enhance rapid response mechanisms, strengthen GBV desks, and enforce professional accountability. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) and the Judiciary must prioritise and fast-track GBV and femicide cases to end impunity. County governments must invest in safe houses, public awareness, and women economic empowerment and society, including families, faith leaders, media and educational institutions must reject harmful norms, report violence and support survivors without stigma.

“Violence against women is not a private concern, but a national crisis,” she said, adding that equality is a constitutional guarantee and justice is a binding duty of the State.

“As we commemorate International Women’s Day on Sunday March 8, 2026, we must move beyond symbolism to measure reform, to effective enforcement and accountable leadership. The time for declarations has passed and the time for action is now.”



Senator Betty Montet and Senator Catherine Mumma during a KEWOSA meeting.



Senator Tabitha Mutinda and Senator Esther Okenyuri.

## Uphold integrity in admissions, Senator tells school heads



Senator Hamida Kibwana

Senator Hamida Kibwana has urged education institutions across the country to uphold integrity in their admission processes and respect the constitutional rights of every learner, warning that education must never be conditioned upon the surrender of con-

stitutional freedoms.

“The institutions should communicate their policies clearly and consistently. Where accommodation is not possible, that position should be made clear at the outset. Where accommodation is possible, it must be honoured in good faith,”

she said.

She made the comments when she delivered a personal Statement on the protection of freedom of worship in educational institutions.

Ms Samira Ali Ramadhan, a Grade 10 student at St. Mary’s Lwak Girls High School, has been compelled to halt her studies following a dispute over her right to wear the hijab in observance of her Islamic faith.

Her parents are said to have sought clarification at the point of admission on whether she would be permitted to wear the hijab and were assured by the school administration that this would be allowed.

However, when she reported to the school, that position changed and the student was informed that she could not wear it.

The Senator told the House the matter raises grave concerns: The question of integrity and a constitutional question.

“Educational institutions are entrusted not only with the responsibility of imparting academic excellence, but also with the duty of modeling moral leadership, where commitments made at ad-

mission are reversed after fees have been paid and a student has already settled in school. Public trust is undermined and serious concerns arise about transparency, fairness and accountability.”

Article 32 of the Constitution guarantees every person the right of freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion, including the right to manifest a religion through practice and observance.

“The Constitution is supreme. Institutional rules, traditions or administrative preferences cannot override constitutional protections,” she declared.

She said Ms Ramadhan’s case is not merely about one student. “It goes to the heart of whether young people in Kenya can access education without being compelled to suppress their identity. It concerns whether parents can rely on representations made by school authorities. It also concerns whether our institutions reflect the pluralistic, inclusive and diverse society and visions under our Constitution.”

## Senators decry counties FLLOCA expenditures

Senator Beatrice Ogola has decried the high duplication in the expenditure accounts of the devolved units, even as she called for the separation of expenditure related to the climate-led action called Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLOCA) funded by the World Bank, to the county governments.

The lawmaker told the House that there is duplication of activities in most counties related to the usage of the funds allocated to the initiative. “You find the same activities presented for FLLOCA are the same activities that the county government is presenting to their environmental departments,” she complained, calling on the Committee to address the use of the funds.

“It must be clear and the counties must separate the activities they are using from the funds that have been given by the World Bank,” she argued, adding that from the Committee on Lands of the Senate, it was noted that things are not very clear.

“There is no clarity in the activities that the counties are taking. Mankind survives on the environment. From the environment, clothing, shelter, medicine for our use and many other things. It is



Senator David Wakoli

important that we take care of this environment.”

She was responding to the request for Statement by Senator David Wakoli who wants an explanation on the status of implementation of FLOCCA in Bungoma County in particular, the accountability arrangement for funds dispersed and the implementation of ward-level climate action interventions under the programme.

In the Statement, the Senator wants the Committee Finance and Budget to investigate and report to the House the total amount of FLLOCA funds disbursed to Bungoma County since the es-



Senator Beatrice Ogola

establishment of the programme, the dates of disbursement, the accounts, funds flow arrangements and how the funds are managed and controlled at the county level, including the responsible offices and the internal controls.

He also wants the specific climate action projects being implemented in each ward, how procurement for each project was conducted and the approved budget. Timelines and current implementation status for each project, whether there are clear reporting mechanisms to track disbursements, expenditures and results, including the availability of project records and public disclosure to stakehold-

ers and the extent to which projects align with community priorities, including sustainable agriculture, water resource management, afforestation, and renewable energy, and the measure of impacts on climate resilience and livelihoods in Bungoma County.

He also wants the Committee to probe into the extent of community involvement in the identification, planning and monitoring of projects, if the process is inclusive for women, youth and marginalised groups and the monitoring and evaluation framework in place to ensure accountability, value for money and sustainability.

## Concern over layoff in sugar factories

The House has expressed concern with the ongoing layoff of staff in the sugar factories, saying the process is not as transparent as it was envisioned.

Debating a Statement requested by Senator Tom Ojienda, senators said it is unfortunate that the people have been laid off and many of them do not understand the criteria that was used for them to go home.

The Senator said the layoffs have adversely affected hundreds of employees and their dependents and have had a significant impact on the economy of Kisumu County and the wider sugar belt region.

In light of the company's previous state ownership and strategic role in the local economy, concerns have arisen regarding compliance with labour laws, protection of workers' rights and mitigation of socioeconomic consequences.

"What is being done is that the recruitment agency is not the company management. When they ask, they are told to go and check the company that is in charge of the process. They are avoiding responsibility," he said, as he called on the Government to do its part of the bargain.

"Pay the arrears of farmers, statutory deductions and retirement benefits for



Senator Tom Ojienda and Senator Samson Cherarkey

those who are in the public sector," said Senator Samson Cherarkey.

In his Statement, Senator Ojienda wants the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare to investigate and report to the House the number of employees affected, disaggregated by employment status and cadre, and the criteria applied in identifying those declared redundant, including the legal and administrative basis for the decision.

He further wants an explanation on the State's obligations in respect of outstanding salary arrears, pension contri-

butions, gratuities, statutory remittances and all other accrued employee benefits arising from the layoffs at Muhoroni Sugar Company, the fiscal implications of the layoffs, including any direct or contingent liabilities of the National Treasury and any obligations that remain unfunded or pending settlement.

He also wants the Committee to explain the socio-economic interventions put in place by the Ministry to cushion affected employees, their dependents and wide-scale growing community in Muhoroni and Kisumu County, the over-

sight and accountability measures undertaken to ensure transparency, adherence to law and compliance with constitutional and labour standards throughout the layoff process at Muhoroni Sugar Company.

Senator Samson Cherarkey said the challenges of the sugar belt are bigger and demanded that the House develop with pragmatic solutions. "Labour rights of the affected as provided under Article 41 must be respected. Let their severance and pension deductions be remitted."

## Concern over illegal logging and environmental destruction in Kirisia Forest

The Senate is investing into alleged illegal logging, murrum extraction and commercial water harvesting inside Kirisia Forest in Samburu County.

This follows concerns that the activities are degrading a critical water catchment serving Maralal Town and surrounding areas.

Senator Lemaletian wants the Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources to investigate the matter and clarify reports that unscrupulous individuals may be exploiting the forest for individual profit.

"Kirisia Forest is a critical water catchment area serving Maralal Town and its environs," she said, while seeking the Statement in the House.

She warned that continued environmental degradation could jeopardise water supply and ecological stability in the region.

Senator Lemaletian said there are credible reports of logging, large-scale extraction of murrum and the harvesting and sale of water from a public dam located within the forest.

The activities raise questions over their legality and whether public offi-



Senator Hezema Lemaletian

cials might be involved. "Reports of logging, murrum extraction and the harvesting and sale of water from a public dam within the forest have raised concerns as to the illegality of these activities, possible involvement of public officials

and compliance with environmental and conservation laws," she said.

The senator also questioned whether perpetrators could be exploiting the lifting of the presidential logging moratorium to justify activities that fall outside

sustainable forest management.

Minority Leader Stewart Madzayo supported the statement, describing the alleged exploitation of the forest as alarming.

"It is unfortunate to see that in Kirisia Forest someone is cutting trees, extracting murrum for business and even selling water from the river within the forest," he said.

And added: "The saddest thing is that this person appears to be doing it without fear of the police or the government that is supposed to regulate such activities."

He warned that the activities were already affecting residents, particularly those in Maralal, who depend on the forest for water.

"It is worrying to see Maralal Town lacking water and sanitation because of one or two people carrying out such businesses," he said.

The committee is expected to establish whether permits or licences were issued for the activities and whether any Kenya Forest Service officers or other public officials were involved.

## Senate values role of Parliamentary journalists – Clerk Nyegenye



Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye speaks during the training of Parliamentary journalists.

Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye has hailed parliamentary journalists saying the Senate recognises and deeply values the contribution they have made to the work of the institution of Parliament.

Mr Nyegenye, who is also the Secretary of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), said the institution appreciates the journalists for the objectivity, fairness, and professionalism with which they have reported on the affairs of the Senate.

“You have amplified our stories. You have taken our complex committee reports, our legislative bills, and our defence of devolution, and distilled them into information that the ordinary citizen can consume and understand. You have carried the deliberations of this august House to the sitting rooms, marketplaces, and mobile phones of millions of

Kenyans who may never set foot within these chambers. You have been the bridge between Parliament and the People, and in doing so, you have fulfilled a sacred democratic function,” he said.

The Clerk spoke on Friday, March 6, during a training retreat of the Senate Board of Management and the members of the Kenya Parliamentary Journalists Association (KPJA) in Naivasha, Nakuru County.

The theme of the training was: Strengthening Parliamentary Understanding for Informed Media Reporting in the Public Interest.

The journalists were taken through topics like processing of legislative business and the utilisation of different legislative tools, the roles of Senate Committees, types and their centrality in a Presidential System of Governance.

They were also trained on how the



A section of Parliamentary journalists who participated in the training.

national budget is made and how to report it accurately and demystifying public finance concepts and emerging fiscal risks.

Mr Nyegenye admitted that while the relationship between the legislature and the Fourth Estate is naturally designed to have its moments of tension, media coverage has, on most occasions, been fair, constructive, and favourable to the Senate, citing cases where the media has critiqued the institution when necessary, but also celebrated the Senate’s triumphs in protecting the interests of the counties.

“I am under no illusion that ours is always the easiest institution to cover; parliamentary procedure can be complex, legislative language can be dense, and political dynamics can be fluid. But that balanced approach is what strengthens our democracy,” he observed.

The Clerk said the relationship be-

tween the Senate and the KPJA is not transactional. “It is deeply symbiotic and mutually beneficial,” he said, adding that the media is the critical bridge between the representatives of the people and the people themselves.

“Without your watchful eyes, sharp pens, and broadcasting lenses, the robust debates, the rigorous oversight, and the legislative milestones of the Senate would remain confined within the walls of the chamber, known only to those who were present.”

KPJA President Moses Odhiambo welcomed the engagement between the two institutions, saying it would help journalists interpret parliamentary proceedings for the public while promoting responsible and objective reporting.

### This Week in History - On March 10, 2020

## House debates Lifestyle Audit Bill, 2019



Senator Beth Mugo said:

“This Bill is timely because it is important for Kenya and Kenyans. We know about the fight against corruption. This Bill goes a long way in supporting the fight against corruption. We read in the press all the time about billions of shillings being embezzled. Of course, the money is used by some people for personal reasons. It could be because of their lifestyle. We know that they drive big cars and live in mansions. They also have other things to show off that they are in another level. Some of them have not even worked for years to amass their wealth. Most of them have worked for few years because you can tell how old they are. If we want the fight against corruption to materialize and take effect, we must support this Bill. This House should come out clearly to support the war against corruption and question the lifestyles of people who cannot explain how they amassed wealth unless they have embezzled public money. The only way to find out is agreeing to the lifestyle audit.”



Senator Sam Ongeri said:

“One of the most important elements in Kenya today is fighting corruption. This Bill talks about lifestyle audit. It brings to focus and consolidates all other efforts that have been put in place through various Acts to fight corruption. Looking through this Bill, when it eventually becomes an Act of Parliament, alongside The Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, The Public Officer Ethics Act, The Leadership and Integrity Act, The Public Service, Values and Principles Act, The Bribery Act, The Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, The Public Finance Management Act, The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, will help to consolidate the fight against corruption in a manner that will bring benefit to this nation. It goes without question that corruption has totally destabilised this nation. People have acquired wealth through unprocedural and unethical manner that is not in conformity with the set out standards of how a public or State officer should behave in a given manner. Therefore, the Bill comes at an opportune moment for us to consolidate all the pieces of legislation that have been put into force in order to fight corruption.”



Senator Okong'o Omogeni said:

“This is a very good Bill. We are trying to be in line with the best international practices. In the United Kingdom (UK), for example, there is a law known as ‘Unexplained Wealth Orders,’ whereby the country tries to ensure that those who illicitly benefit from public resources never enjoy the fruits of that wealth. I, therefore, want to go on record as fully supporting this initiative because it is meant to save money that is supposed to be used for development. Devolution was a good idea and it was meant to change the lives of the people that we represent. Under Article 96, we are here to represent the interests of the people who reside in the counties and their governments. I have no doubt that if this Bill sees the light of the day; it will go a long way in discouraging people who have been privileged to serve in public service from stealing from the people who put them in those offices.”



Senator Abshiro Halake said:

“The list of the number of pieces of legislation that ought to fight corruption is endless. Senators have listed the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, The Public Officer Ethics Act, The Leadership and Integrity Act, The Public Service Values and Principles Act, The Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, The Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, The Public Procurement and Assets Disposal Act, and so on. It is not for lack of legislation that our country is embroiled in this mess of corruption. The sponsor of this Bill has decided to complement some of these laws that have so far not worked for lack of implementation or enforcement. She is providing yet another piece of legislation that will perhaps offer another avenue that will encourage us to be a bit more careful. This is really a welcome initiative in this House and for the country. I am sure that Senator Farhiya will be remembered for having the guts to try and do something about the non-enforcement of the laws that already exist that abound.”

## Senators back Culture Bill, want enhanced counties role



Senator Okong'o Omogeni



Senator Ledama ole Kina



Senator Dan Maanzo

Senators have thrown their weight behind the Culture Bill, 2024 calling for stronger provisions to protect Kenya's diverse cultural heritage and for the county governments and communities to play a central role in the implementation of the proposed law.

The Bill seeks to give effect to Article 11 of the Constitution which recognises culture as the foundation of the Kenyan nation and the cumulative civilisation of its people.

"This particular legal proposal should have been done as early as 2010 when the new Constitution came into force," said Senator Dan Maanzo, noting the Constitution places culture at the heart of the country's identity.

The Bill outlines several mechanisms for safeguarding cultural heritage which include documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion and transmission of cultural practices.

"Kenya is a vibrant, diverse tapestry formed from about 46 gazetted communities," he said, adding that the proposed law would help preserve the traditions and heritage of the country's many ethnic groups.

According to Senator Maanzo, the legislation would also support the creation of a cultural database and strengthen cooperation between the national and

county governments in promoting cultural heritage.

He urged lawmakers to ensure the Bill is thoroughly scrutinised before enactment.

"Let us embrace the Culture Bill and bring on board legal minds to dissect it, propose relevant amendments and ensure it is well vetted before assent," he said.

Senator Okong'o Omogeni strongly supported the Bill, saying culture remains a key pillar of national unity and identity. "Our Constitution was deliberate in Article 11. The drafters recognised that culture is the foundation of our nation," said Senator Omogeni, noting that cultural ties often transcend ethnic boundaries and help foster cohesion among communities.

"We connect through culture. When you relate through culture, people feel a deeper connection," he said.

He recounted shared cultural traditions among communities in different parts of the country.

He further noted that traditional cultural systems had historically played a role in resolving disputes within communities.

"In Kisii we had a place called Ritongo where elders would gather to resolve disputes. Our culture helped settle mat-

ters such as family disagreements and succession issues," he said.

Senator Omogeni warned that many cultural practices were gradually disappearing and urged lawmakers to support the Bill to ensure traditions are preserved for future generations.

"If we do not preserve these things, our children will never know about them," he said.

Senator Ledama Olekina expressed concern that the proposed law gives excessive powers to the Cabinet Secretary at the expense of local communities and traditional leadership structures.

"I support this Bill which is important for us to define what culture is all about," Senator Olekina said. He however argued that elders and communities should have greater authority in determining how cultural heritage is preserved and utilised.

"Who understands beliefs more than the elders of our society?" he posed even as he warned that decisions on cultural matters should not be left solely to government officials.

The senator also proposed clearer provisions on benefit sharing and royalties arising from the commercial use of cultural heritage.

Senator Enoch Wambua raised concerns that the Bill assigns limited re-

sponsibilities to county governments despite culture being largely a devolved function.

"The Bill talks almost very casually about the role of county governments in preservation of culture but goes very heavy on the role of the Cabinet Secretary and the national Government," Senator Wambua said, adding that counties should be at the centre of cultural preservation efforts since most cultural heritage sites and traditions are rooted within local communities.

Senator Wambua also noted that culture should be promoted as a source of economic opportunity, particularly through tourism and creative industries.

Senator Tabitha Mutinda told the House that Kenya's diverse cultural heritage could become a powerful economic driver if properly harnessed adding that the country's many communities collectively form a unique national identity.

She cited examples of cultural artefacts and historical sites that could generate revenue if properly developed and promoted.

"As a Kamba community, we pride ourselves in our artefacts such as carvings. Cultural products and traditions could contribute significantly to the economy."

## Farewell to Justice Okello, Court of Appeal judge

The corridors of Parliament were filled with a palpable blend of pride, nostalgia, and celebration on Thursday, March 5, as colleagues gathered to celebrate the distinguished career of Dr Johnson Okello, the former staff who has since transitioned to the Judiciary as judge of the Appellate Court.

The event was organised by the Senate Board of Management (SBOM, an entity that brings together all the top officers who serve as directors in the Senate Service, including the Clerk and the two deputy clerks. Dr Okello was a member of the Board.

Dr. Okello served as the Director of Legal Services in the Senate for over 12 years before he transitioned to the Judiciary early this. It was a day to celebrate because such transitions – from the Legislature to the Judiciary, by such a legal mind is a rare, if not a prestigious feat.

Described by his peers as a man of many firsts, Dr Okello is a man of robust legacy, having served across all three arms of government, Executive, Legislature, and now Judiciary. This unique achievement underscores a multifaceted expertise that has seen him rise from a Deputy Director to the Director of Legal Services over a 12-year tenure.

Addressing Parliamentary Officers during the party, the Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye counselled the staff to view the whole world as their oyster, if they are to emulate Dr Okello's achievements.

Mr Nyegenye, who is also the Secretary to the Parliamentary Service Commission, relived how Dr Okello's success has opened the eyes of the public and Parliamentarians to the high caliber professionals nurtured within the precincts of Parliament, urging them to reject the short-sighted views that confine careers to rigid silos.

"Dr Okello's ascension to the Court of Appeal opens the eyes of our clients that the people who serve in Parliament are professionals who have the capacity to become anything else. We shouldn't be confined in the pond called Parliament while there is a whole ocean out there," Clerk Nyegenye submitted.

The Clerk of the National Assembly Samuel Njoroge emphasised that the judiciary is gaining one of the country's finest state officers. "I am jealous that the Judiciary is going to have one of the best advocates, one of the best state officers that this country has," stated Mr Njoroge, acknowledging the Senate's



Clerk of Senate Jeremiah, who is also the Secretary of PSC, honours Justice Johnson Okello during the party.



The Secretary of Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) welcomes Justice Okello with a dance before the start of farewell party.



Top Parliamentary leaders, led by Mr Jeremiah Nyegenye, (centre), the Secretary of the Parliamentary Service Commission, join Justice Okello in a jig during the party.

pride in donating such formidable talent to the bench.

He reminded the judge of the spiritual weight of his new station, citing Psalms 89:14: "Righteousness and justice are a foundation of leadership. May you always dispense justice, continue doing what you do best".

Thursday evening was further enriched by personal anecdotes illustrating Dr Okello's character and professional rigour. Director General of Parliamentary Joint Services Clement Nyandiere recalled the judge as a man of extreme patience and meticulous detail.

He reminisced about Dr. Okello's leadership in the Examination Council of the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST). He upheld so high

standards that he was jokingly accused of turning the institution into an "exam council". Beyond technical skill, Mr. Nyandiere credited the judge with being a vital bridge-builder during times of friction between the two Houses of Parliament.

Justice Okello remained characteristically humble during the event. He attributed his success to the collaborative environment of Parliament and the guidance of the two Clerks and the Director General.

"This journey was made very easy because of the people I was working with," he noted, dedicating the victory to the entire institution.

Proving his readiness for the bench, Justice Okello revealed he has already

hit the ground running at the Court of Appeal. "I have given 12 rulings after a few weeks," he shared, reassuring his former colleagues with a confident declaration of "Mbele Iko Sawa".

He pledged to remain a very powerful ambassador for the legislature, maintaining the high standards he cultivated during his years of service.

As Dr Okello transitions, the farewell ceremony served not merely as a goodbye but as a poignant reflection on a journey marked by relentless growth, cross-institutional collaboration, and unwavering integrity.

While the Senate loses a brilliant legal director, the Kenyan people gain a Judge whose foundation is built on the rigorous, multifaceted experience of Parliamentary service.

## Tributes to late Johana Ng'eno, Emurua Dikirr MP



Senator Margret Kamar



Senator Betty Montet



Senator Enock Wambua



Senator Lenku ole Kanar



Senator Moses Kajwang



Senator Aaron Cheruiyot

The House has eulogised the late Johana Ng'eno as a brave leader who fiercely defended the interests of his constituents even as they pitched for delivery efforts to be instituted to make the Kenyans skies safe for all.

Mr Ng'eno, the MP for Emurua Dikirr in Narok County, died on Saturday, February 28, 2026, in a helicopter crash in the Chepkiep area of Mosop Constituency in Nandi County.

The accident claimed his life and that of five other persons who were in the same helicopter.

During the debate on his death, Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot challenged Senators to push hard and understand circumstances under which planes have crashed in Kenya in the last couple of years. "Given the frequency with which we have seen air accidents in this country, perhaps it is time that, as a Parliament, we sought to understand the issue from authorities and agencies that check the quality of the aircrafts that people use in this country," he said as he described the late Ng'eno as the Nelson Mandela of Emurua Dikirr.

He said the focus of the House should be on the maintenance regime that is done on the aircraft.

"In the last few years, there have been such accidents where many Kenyans have lost their lives. Unfortunately, on many occasions, we never get the final report of actually what happened. Is it

something that we need to change? It is about time that we took keen interest in that particular space, so that we do not lose any other Kenyan to accidents that would easily have been avoided?"

Senator Enock Wambua regretted that air accidents, especially involving helicopters are becoming far too common, citing the case of former Vice President George Saitoti and the Chief of Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Ogola.

"We never get to find out exactly what happened, and do not see the final report as to exactly what caused these accidents," he said, challenging the lawmakers to insist on knowing the problem.

"Is this something to do with the maintenance of the aircrafts? Is it something to do with the training and refresher courses for the pilots, or is it just leaders insisting on things to be done their way? This way, we will not lose people and leaders through helicopter crashes, every now and then."

Senator Kathuri Murungi said it is time the country develops a policy that no aircraft can leave when the weather is not favourable.

"I would like to say that the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority should come up with a policy on the way we should handle our aviation industry, because as it is now, I do not think we are on the right track," he said as he eulogised the late MP.

Senator Ledama ole Kina described

the late MP as a man whose courage, agility and dedication to the service of the people of Narok County is highly commendable."

Senator Veronica Maina said the late Ngeno was a leader who embodied boldness, courage and fearless leadership who made his opinions and views known, but in a respectable way, though he may have appeared confused or as over defending or over-fighting." Describing the late Ngeno as a lovely person, Senator Osotsi said the late spoke his mind, regardless of which political divide he was in.

Whether he was on the Government side or opposition, he was fearless. He could speak his mind and he could protect his people on any issue, even if his bosses had an alternative idea.

Senator Lenku ole Kanar said the late MP was a courageous person who talked to almost everybody; a person who empowered his people and spoke his mind in every situation that he was in because of his people while Senator Eddy Oketch was a reminder that sometimes we can be obsessed by the idea of power and positions and personal merit, but it is also important to leave a mark in other people's hearts from our services.

Senator Moses Kajwang challenged Parliament not to pass laws that reflect personal good, but for the good of children and posterity, a fit inheritance for the next generation.

Senator Esther Okenyuri said Kenya had lost a compassionate and straightforward leader; a legislator many would really want to emulate. "He would defend the interests of his people without looking at the side of the political divide he belonged to," she said.

Senator Betty Montet said the late MP died a warrior who always fought for his people adding that Kenyans who came to know about him did so because of the way he fought for his people.

"He wore the crown of where he came from with a lot of pride. We have always been made to believe and think that embracing our culture and our traditions makes us tribal and a people who fan ethnicity," said Senator John Methu in his eulogy.

Senator Margret Kamar said he was kind-hearted, warm, welcoming and full of humour and a rising star.

Senator Consolata Wakwabubi hailed the late as a great land rights advocate, a champion of development, a unifier and a cultural champion.

Senator Tobiko said Hon Ngeno defended his people and his position with passion and stood for what was right and that the fact that it did not matter who was at the helm of the nation, he would fight for what was just and what he believed was a right for his people.

## Maseneta Murango na Kavindu wataka ufafanuzi kuhusu miradi ya maendeleo



Seneta Agnes Muthama



Seneta Kamau Murango

Maseneta wameendelea kuibua masuala muhimu katika Bunge wakitaka Serikali kuu kutoa maelezo ya kina kuhusu utekelezaji wa miradi ya maendeleo na hali ya miundombinu katika Kaunti mbalimbali nchini Kenya.

Seneta James Murango, ameomba ufafanuzi kuhusu mradi wa ujenzi wa kiwanda cha kusindika nyanya kinachopendekezwa kujengwa katika eneo la Kangai, Kaunti ya Kirinyaga.

Seneta Murango akiwasilisha ombi la Kauli kwenye Kamati ya

Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi alisema kuwa Kaunti ya Kirinyaga hasa maeneo ya Mwea na Kangai ni miongoni mwa maeneo yanayozalisha nyanya kwa wingi nchini Kenya. Hata hivyo, wakulima wamekuwa wakikabiliwa na changamoto nyingi zikiwemo kuyumba kwa bei ya nyanya na ukosefu wa miundombinu ya kuongeza thamani ya mazao yao.

Alieleza kuwa kuanzishwa kwa kiwanda cha kusindika nyanya kutasaidia kupunguza upotevu wa mazao baada ya mavuno, kuimarisha bei ya mazao ya wakulima na pia kufungua nafasi mpya za ajira kwa vijana na

wakazi wa eneo hilo.

“Ni muhimu tufahamu hatua zilizo pigwa hadi sasa katika utekelezaji wa mradi huu, lini ujenzi wake unatarajiwa kuanza na kukamilika na kama upembuzi yakinifu ulifanyika pamoja na matokeo yake,” alisema Seneta Murango.

Aidha, alitaka Serikali kueleza kiasi cha fedha kilichotengwa kwa ajili ya mradi huo na vyanzo vya fedha hizo, ikiwemo iwapo kuna ufadhili kutoka kwa taasisi za maendeleo za kimataifa kama Benki ya Dunia au mashirika mengine ya maendeleo.

Murango pia alisisitiza umuhimu wa kuwepo kwa mikakati madhubuti ya kuhakikisha mradi huo unatekelezwa kikamilifu na kuwa na manufaa ya moja kwa moja kwa wakulima wa nyanya katika eneo la Kangai na maeneo jirani.

Kwingineko, Seneta Agnes Kavindu ametaka maelezo kutoka kwa Kamati ya Barabara, Uchukuzi na Makazi kuhusu hali ya mtandao wa barabara za mijini katika Kaunti ya Machakos.

Kavindu akiwasilisha ombi la Kau-

li mbele ya Seneti, alisema kuwa barabara ya Kivanguli ni mojawapo ya barabara muhimu inayounganisha maeneo ya Kathome na Mua na inahudumia idadi kubwa ya wakazi. Hata hivyo, barabara hiyo imekuwa katika hali mbaya kwa muda mrefu licha ya umuhimu wake kwa wakazi na biashara katika eneo hilo.

Aliongeza kuwa hali hiyo si kwenye barabara hiyo pekee, kwani barabara nyingine nyingi za mijini katika Kaunti ya Machakos zilizoko chini ya usimamizi wa Mamlaka ya Barabara za Mijini nchini Kenya (KURA) pia ziko katika hali duni.

“Tunataka tathmini ya hali ya sasa ya barabara zote za mijini katika Kaunti ya Machakos zilizo chini ya KURA na mipango ya ukarabati na muda uliowekwa wa kuanza na kukamilisha kazi hizo,” alisema Seneta Kavindu.

Maseneta hao walisema kuwa ni muhimu kwa Serikali kutoa taarifa wazi kuhusu miradi ya maendeleo na miundombinu ili kuhakikisha uwajibikaji na kuhakikisha wananchi wanapata manufaa kamili kutokana na rasilimali za umma.

## Wakenya milioni 3.3 wakabiliwa na janga la njaa



Kikao cha Kamati ya Usalama

Takriban Wakenya milioni 3.3 katika Kaunti 23 za Maeneo Kame na Nusu Kame (ASAL) wanakabiliwa na upungufu mkali wa chakula, Kamati ya Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Mahusiano ya Kigeni imeelezwa.

Ikijitokeza mbele ya Kamati hiyo, Mamlaka ya Kitaifa ya Kudhibiti Ukame nchini Kenya (NDMA), kwa ushirikiano na Idara ya Utabiri wa Hali ya Hewa nchini ilionya kuwa idadi hiyo inatarajiwa kuongezeka hadi kufikia takriban watu milioni 3.68 kufikia Juni 2026 ikiwa ni ongezeko kubwa ndani ya kipindi cha miezi minne pekee.

Katika taarifa iliyowasilishwa na Mwenyekiti wake, Shallow Abdullahi Yahya, NDMA ilizitaja Kaunti za

Mandera, Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa, Tana River, Samburu na Kwale kuwa ndizo zilizoathirika zaidi huku familia nyingi zikishindwa kukidhi mahitaji ya msingi ya chakula bila msaada wa nje.

Kaunti nyingine 14 zimeripotiwa kuwa katika hali ya msongo wa chakula, ambapo familia zinatimiza mahitaji ya chini ya chakula kwa kupunguza matumizi katika mahitaji mengine muhimu, kuuza mali au kutumia mbinu zisizo endelevu za kujikimu.

Kuhusu lishe, Mamlaka hiyo ilitoa wito wa kuimarishwa kwa haraka kwa hatua za dharura, ikifichua kuwa watoto 810,871 wenye umri wa kati ya miezi sita na 59 na wanawake wajawazito na wanaonyo-



Seneta Fatuma Dullo, Mwenyekiti, Kamati ya Usalama.

nyesha 116,796, wanakabiliwa na utapiamlo mkali na wanahitaji matibabu ya haraka na msaada wa lishe.

NDMA iliwaeleza Maseneta kuwa Serikali imeimarisha mifumo ya uratibu wa kukabiliana na ukame katika ngazi ya kitaifa na Kaunti ili kuhakikisha mwitikio ulioratibiwa, wenye uwajibikaji na unaohusisha sekta mbalimbali. Ilibainisha kuwa jumla ya shilingi milioni 233.5 zimetumika au zimeelekezwa katika hatua mbalimbali, zikiwemo usambazaji wa maji kwa malori, ruzuku ya mafuta, ukarabati wa miundombinu ya kimkakati, utoaji wa magari ya kuhifadhia maji na chakula cha mifugo.

Kwa upande wake, Idara ya Utabiri wa Hali ya Hewa, kupitia Kaimu

Mkurugenzi Edward Muriuki, ili-pendekeza kuharakishwa kwa mipango ya kupunguza mifugo, kuimarisha visima vya maji, kupanua msaada wa chakula cha dharura na kuboresha mifumo ya tahadhari ya mapema kwenye maeneo husika.

Hatua za muda mrefu zilizopendekezwa ni pamoja na kuongeza vituo vya kisasa vya kupima hali ya hewa katika Kaunti za ASAL, kuimarisha uratibu wa taasisi mbalimbali ili kuzuia migogoro inayochochewa na ukame na kuihamasisha jamii kuhusu matumizi sahihi ya utabiri wa hali ya hewa.

Idara hiyo pia iliomba kuungwa mkono katika kuanzisha mtandao wa rada kwa ajili ya ufuatiliaji wa papo kwa papo wa matukio makali ya hali ya hewa na kuwahimiza Maseneta kuunga mkono Mswada wa Sheria ya Utabiri wa Hali ya Hewa.

Mwenyekiti wa Kamati hiyo, Seneta Dullo, Seneta Tom Ojien-da, Seneta Julius Murgor na Seneta Lelegwe Ltumbesi walitoa wito wa kuwasilishwa kwa takwimu kwa wakati unaofaa na kuahidi kuunga mkono juhudi za kukabiliana na janga hilo la ukosefu wa chakula.



1. Parliamentary officers serenade Dr Johnson Okello, the outgoing director of Legal services during the farewell party in his honour.
2. Deputy Clerk Eunice Gichangi confers with Justice Okello, the outgoing Director of Legal Services in the Parliamentary Service.
3. Justice Okello and a Parliamentary officer.
4. Parliamentary staff during the farewell party.
5. Justice Okello displays the award given to him by the Directorate of Legal Services as his farewell gift.
6. Justice Okello and Josephine Kusinyi (left) and Elizabeth Muhia, both are the Deputy Directors, Legal Services, Senate Services.
7. Justice Okello with his former colleagues at the directorate of legal services.

## Senators support women inclusion in politics

Senators are pushing for the implementation of the inclusion of more women in politics arguing that Kenyans are tired of waiting for implementation of the Two Thirds Gender Rule.

Contributing to the Statements delivered by Women Senators to commemorate the International Women's Day, the lawmakers observed that the celebration of the 70th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) is about to take will be held in March 2026, at the UN Headquarters in New York. It will focus on strengthening access to justice for women and girls. As the premier UN forum on gender equality, it will also review women's participation in public life and address structural barriers, alongside side events discussing critical equality issues

"Even as we celebrate, we must ask ourselves: what is the status of women in Kenya?" asked Senator Margret Kamar, even as insisted there are areas the country must examine.

"Taking a report from Kenya to the CSW70 in New York is one story. The other story is the actual status of women in Kenya."

A few months ago, the Cabinet Secretary for Health said they will pay attention to the issue of mortality of children and mothers at birth.

"Deaths of women at the point of giving birth have risen. What happened? We pushed away the traditional birth attendants and shifted to hospitals, but we have not hired the right number of nurses to take care of that. We must ask ourselves about the status of women in their own rights because the Bill of Rights gives us many privileges.

Citing the 10-point agenda signed between President William Ruto and the late Raila Odinga, Senator Edwin Sifuna said the document acknowledged the issue of women in leadership and the Two Thirds Gender Rule for too long.

"We must now establish a framework to ensure its implementation. We want action in accordance with the theme of this year's celebration," he said.

Senator Mohamed Faki admitted that women are still facing many challenges both in economic and social spaces. "Most women walk for long distances to collect firewood. Young girls are denied education opportunities so that they can face their future with confidence. Women face these challenges despite a constitution that grants men and women equal



Senator Mohamed Faki



Senator John Kinyua



Senator Edwin Sifuna and Senator Moses Kajwang



Senator William Kisang

rights," he said.

He challenged Senators, through KEWOSA, to tour their counties in the remaining period of this term, even if their counties have no women Senators, to see what they can do to reduce the challenges women are going through. Gender Based Violence, remains a big problem."

Senator William Kisang hailed Kenyan women saying they are doing a great job. "If you educate a woman or a girl child, then you are educating the whole nation. We support them and want them to go for elective positions," he said even as he observed that they should not be asking for two-thirds in elective positions.

"The population of women in this country is over 50 per cent. I do not know why they do not elect themselves when we go for elective positions after every five years. They need to style up and sensitise the women for them to choose women leaders."

Senator Catherine Mumma challenged the Ministry of Interior and National Administration to consider GBV as a safety and security issue, lay out enough strategies to protect women in politics and children who are defiled at very high rates.

"You must have seen in the media a story of a nine-month-old child defiled in Busia and a nine-year-old child im-

pregnated in Homa Bay. We have many other children being defiled all over the country. This is not acceptable. It is demonic. It is an internal security issue. We are calling on the Office of the President and the Ministry of Interior and National Administration to treat this as a matter of urgency and deal with it."

Senator John Kinyua hailed KEWOSA for supporting women empowerment but urged them to do more.

He said many girl-children have failed to attend school due to lack of fees but he has not seen KEWOSA stepping in to assist.



## A PUBLICATION OF THE SENATE

© Copyright 2023

**Email:** [Senate.weekly@parliament.go.ke](mailto:Senate.weekly@parliament.go.ke)

**Editor:** Ibrahim Oruko

**Team Leader:** Lucianne Limo

### Writers

- Otiato Andayi
- Njeri Manga
- Josphat Ngeno
- Derick Luvega
- Stanley Gikore
- Nandemu Barasa

- Juliet Masinde
- Violet Nalianya
- Lemeteki Lorinyu
- Kevin Lomenen

**Hansard:** Erick Kipkoech

### Photographers:

- James Kimiti Nyambura
- Job Owaga
- Russells Kipngetich
- Alex Fondo

### Designed by:

KENYA LITERATURE BUREAU

Publishers and Printers

Belle-Vue Area, KLB Road, Off Popo Road

P. O. Box 30022-00100, GPO Nairobi,

Telephone: +254 (20) 3541196/7,

Mobile: +254 711 318 188/ +254 732 344 599

Email: [info@klb.co.ke](mailto:info@klb.co.ke)

Website: [www.klb.co.ke](http://www.klb.co.ke)