

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir for allowing me to comment on the issues of IDPs. This is a matter that disturbs the core of human beings and the ability to make a living.

I concur with my colleagues who have said that it is now becoming a business. There is a lot of unemployment in this country. So, people find it easy to move from rural to urban areas and when we fight politically, they claim they were displaced from their homes.

In Kibra, the people who are genuine IDPs are the--- I do not know the ethnic group. Those are the people who have been living there for more than 30 years.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Murkomen): The Nubians.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Senate Majority Leader. Those are the genuine IDPs.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. (Prof.) Kindiki): Order! You have received information unprocedurally. So, do not disclose the source of the information.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Senate Majority Leader should seek for an opportunity to give information on a point of information.

The people I know are genuine IDPs are the Nubians in Kibra. Anyone else who leaves his or her home and migrates to this beautiful Nairobi City to look for a job takes advantage of any skirmishes in this country.

This Petition is timely because it gives us an opportunity to identify who a genuine IDP is. If we talk about the Maasais from Baringo who were displaced from their home area, then we can justify that those are genuine IDPs because people were kicked out from their area in Makutano.

It is important for us to ensure that people in this country do not take any opportunity to make money. We should endeavour to help Kenyans and especially young people to have a future. That is why I keep on saying that the best thing for this House to do is to commit its time to fight for devolution. If we stop rural-urban migration and if we devolve more funds to rural areas, we will solve the problem.

In supporting this Petition, I encourage the committee that will be tasked to look at the matter to go and identify who the real IDPs are. They can do so by looking at the identification cards. If you were born in Olombogishi in Narok, you have no business claiming that you are an IDP.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. (Prof.) Kindiki): Order Senator, be brief and focused.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to welcome the young girls from Precious Blood High School, Riruta. I want to encourage them to take cue from what we are doing here, fighting for this country. Also, to learn that we, indeed can be their mentors. Do not let anyone tell you that you cannot be what you want to be in life. So, I encourage you to take this time to learn. You do not need to be born in wealthy families for you to be a millionaire in this country. If you really believe in what you are doing, you will achieve it.

Thank you.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to take this opportunity to plead with Kenyans out there. When I woke up this morning, I saw a picture posted on social media confirming all the passengers of the aircraft dead. That was disheartening because one of the occupants is someone that I know. Just like Sen. Wetangula has said, I feel pain and I wonder about the families of the missing persons. I am, therefore, pleading with Kenyans out there to think before posting things on social media. It is so heartless.

Secondly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to encourage the Government of Kenya to use any machinery they have to trace the missing plane. They should even use the military. I also plead with the people in the Aberdares to walk through the forest to see whether they can find the plane, because it is so disheartening.

With those few remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the Division of Revenue Bill (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No. 14 of 2018). I agree with my brother Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr., that it is time to push for a policy shift in this country.

A lot of these things being done by the national Government make it appear as if this House is not fighting for devolution. It is sad that it seems this Parliament does not implement a lot of things that are passed here, for example, the issue of conditional grants. We do not follow it up to see how that money is being utilised.

Madam Temporary Speaker, it is sad there are so many delays. We need to expedite and pass this amendment. It is not imperative to pass things which we cannot audit. It is time now Parliament enhanced its oversight role on these conditional grants. We have a lot of money allocated to support our agricultural sector to improve on value addition. It is very good on paper. However, we need to see its impact at the grassroots level. Is it really practical? I encourage the national Government, when thinking about these provisions, to consult county governments. They should not make any move before asking the county governments their opinion. Is what they want to do in the best interest of the people of Kenya?

It is very sad to learn that we are leasing equipment yet the way the agreements are drafted it is as if we are buying. When you lease equipment for medical use, it should not worry you whether it breaks down tomorrow or not. The person who has leased it to you should come, pick it and give you another one because we are paying for that service.

Madam Temporary Speaker, when we approve these conditional grants and send them to county governments, they are meant for a specific project. For example, we might say we want to use it to enhance support for agricultural services, urban planning or boost our polytechnics. However, if we do not follow through, how will we know it was used for the intended purpose? As we approve these amendments, it is important that this Senate now pushes for that policy change. We can even come up with new legislation that encourages public participation in the use of conditional grants. We are getting a lot of money.

I can see in these amendments, there is a lot of money being allocated to the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). A whopping Kshs4.5 billion is allocated to NHIF. What are we doing on the ground to sensitize the communities? Is it something which is good on paper only? We need to go out there and ensure everyone is registered with NHIF and access the services?

When we talk about the Water Tower Protection and Climate Change Mitigation Adaptation Programme, I am at a loss for words as to why the Mau Forest was not included. It is one of the most important water catchment areas we have in this country. When I see that this programme will only benefit Cherangany Hills and Mount Elgon, I wonder whether Mau Forest is considered as something that holds this country. We know that there are many rivers from Mau Forest that feed into Lake Victoria. We know that the Forest has been encroached by many people who are destroying it. Why can we not include it as part of forest ecosystem and protect it?

Madam Temporary Speaker, the only way that we are going to achieve any progress in this country, may it be improving on the levels on skills in our polytechnics, is when we involve the public. We have about 11 Level Five hospitals in this country. I see there is a lot of money which is being allocated for leasing of medical equipment. This Parliament ought to ask itself whether that money is enough to support those hospitals.

It is imperative that the national Government works in collaboration with the county governments to collect systemic data. This will tell us whether the money being allocated for conditional grants in terms of leasing of medical equipment or being sent to polytechnics is being used for the intended purpose.

I tend to believe that although these grants are conditional, the conditions of managing them are a little bit ambiguous. It is, therefore, important for us now to have a conversation with the office of the Auditor-General so that any audit reports that come to this House for us to consider, include these conditional grants.

I have worked with many donor agencies. When they give you money, they follow through. They want to see those audit reports for them to get value for their money. They visit grounds to ascertain whether or not their money was used for the intended purpose.

In a nutshell, getting feedback is very important. As we make these amendments, the discussion that we ought to be having now is how we are going to ensure that this money is properly utilized. It is a lot of money.

I am happy that there is more money now going into the county governments. When I see that the allocation has now moved to about Kshs376 billion, I am happy. However, I will not be happy if we cannot account for this money and if we cannot say that in Narok County, for example, a certain number of polytechnics were given these grants and a certain number of students benefited. I will not be happy to see that there is a lot of money being allocated to agriculture and yet in Narok County we are still selling wheat to people in Mombasa or Kisumu for value-addition. I hope that the national Government will work closely with county governments in these conditional grants to ensure that if it is value-addition, we do not sell wheat in its raw form from Narok to Nairobi. I want to see people from Nairobi coming to Narok County to buy wheat flour and creating more jobs there. This is when we are going to stop rural-urban migration.

Madam Temporary Speaker, although I support, I feel that we are just made to rubberstamp. This is done from a different place. We are brought and told: "We now have all these other conditional grants, now approve them." I do not think that is fair at all. I do not think it is right. The only way that we can defend and oversight what we are approving is if we are involved from the initial stages.

The Constitution talks a lot about public participation. The people of Narok County should be involved in the decision of whether or not the hospitals in Narok County should lease equipment. This is because if you sign a memorandum with the Government and you refuse to take the equipment, you will still pay for them. I know in the last Government, the former Governor---

Madam Temporary Speaker, I am disturbed by the Senator for Kericho County. I have to say this. I am now looking at him talking on phone. I am getting concerned on whether to listen to his conversation on phone or to focus on my presentation. You should find him out of order.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Pareno): I do not know whether the Member is raising a point of order.

Sen. Olekina: No, Madam Temporary Speaker. When you are speaking, thinking and so passionate about something, and the person you are looking at is on phone, it completely throws you off balance.

(Sen. Cheruiyot spoke off record)

Madam Temporary Speaker, we are not allowed to use phones in the House.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Pareno): If you are speaking on phone then you are out of order. However, I did not see him on phone.

Please, proceed.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker, for protecting me. It is important. I cannot reiterate that we push for a policy shift. I do not want the people of Narok, Kericho or Bomet counties to continue shouldering the burden of paying for leasing of medical equipment, yet they did not consider whether it is value for money. All these contracts which are being signed, I dare say that these are huge corruption scandals just waiting to happen.

When we talk about devolution, let us fight for and support it. These grants are good. They will help build our polytechnics. However, if we cannot follow through to ensure that the money which was sent for building that polytechnic was used for the intended purpose, then we are not doing anything.

Finally, I want to focus on this issue of the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme. This is the point that I was raising before I was interrupted. It is sad that in all counties that farmers work tirelessly, the agricultural support programs that we used to have many years ago are no longer effective. I hope that with this amendment, this money will be used to send more technical officers to the ground.

I hope the money will be used to bring these farmers together into corporations or cooperatives and help them come up with their own warehouses, help these farmers to add more value and create more jobs. We have so many opportunities but because of this

disconnect between the need and the policy, we can never solve the problems of unemployment in this country.

Madam Temporary Speaker, although I support these amendments, I would urge this House and also the Committee on Finance and Budget to demand for more documents. We want to see these contracts between the national Government and the suppliers of this medical equipment. We want to see these memoranda between the county governments and the national Government. We also want to go down, visit and ensure that those equipment which are being leased to us are of use to us. This is because if you take equipment which is designed for a Level Five hospital to a Level Four hospital, they may not be of any use. We may not have adequate skills to operate that equipment.

Although I support these amendments, I would want to encourage that the Committee on Finance and Budget looks at the HANSARD and finds out the comments that we are making so that we do not burden the taxpayers with paying for things which they do not use.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.