

# PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

## THE SENATE

## THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

*The House met at the Senate Chamber,  
Parliament Buildings, at 2.30 p.m.*

*[The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka) in the Chair]*

PRAYER

PAPERS LAID

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**The Speaker** (Hon. Lusaka): Sen. Olekina Ledama.

**Sen. Olekina:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am concerned about the period of time that it takes for a Petition to be processed by this House. I want to speak to my brother, the Chairperson of the Committee on Health. We have serious issues and currently, the issue is not only limited to Isiolo County. So, with all the amount of work, if it is a challenge, we can have a further discussion on how we are going to deal with this issue of health. I remember last time, this entire House converted itself into a Committee on Health to look at the issue of the medical leasing equipment. I think that it is now time, from where you sit, you become very strict on timelines.

Last Session, I was very disappointed because I brought in a request that was dealing with the issues of barley farmers in Narok. Until today, I have never received any response to that matter.

It would help this country if you take your position there and we stick to the Standing Orders; the time given for a Report to be given in this House should be adhered to. Your colleague in the other House threw out other Petitions when the time lapsed. So, this issue of wasting so much time is not going to be useful. If the Committee is getting issues of raising the quorum, then I think the Standing Orders are very clear, that our Committees are not just set out there so that you can become a Committee member; it is for you to work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think in future, you should not allow that extension of another seven days. I am completely against that because we need to deliver on our mandate. The issue of extending time is going to make people there suffer. Currently, the nurses are on strike. We have issues of universal healthcare, how is it going to help us?

I hope that the Committee on Health will actually use the seven day extension and make sure that they give us a Report, which can help us deliver justice for the people of Isiolo County.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Lusaka): Sen (Eng.) Ephraim Maina.

**Sen. Olekina:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. On behalf of the people of Narok County, I would like to welcome the Speaker and the Ambassador, who is a great friend of mine, to Kenya. I hope that with due time, we can interact well. I love the agricultural sector in Serbia and I am sure that we can learn a lot. Narok is a great County and please make a point of visiting Maasai Mara for you to see how beautiful a country, a culture and a people we have.

Kenya is a great country and out of all the counties that you can visit, please visit Narok County. When I was a young journalist, 18 years old, I was taught by a Serbian guy called Pedja Stanisic. He taught me editing. I would like to extend the same invitation. They should go and visit the Maasai Mara where they will enjoy the great wildlife migration.

I support your statement.

**Sen. Olekina:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you look at the Order Paper for today, after having been amended by the Senate Business Committee (SBC), you will see that we have two very important legislations. The first one is on energy and the other one is on petroleum. These are very important Bills that we will deal with.

I do not mean that what the distinguished Senator for Bungoma requested is not important. However, I remember very well that during that time, when the distinguished Senator for Bungoma requested that statement, I rose and stated clearly that we were dealing with the issue of that transmission line. We had the Cabinet Secretary for Energy appear before our Committee and we received the information.

I would like to repeat what I said so that the distinguished Senator understands. I said that we were seized of the matter, we had received information and we did not want to bring half-baked information to this House.

The distinguished Senator represents the people of this country and he has to get full information. However, if the distinguished Senator wants half-baked information, I can commit to consult with my Chair and present the information that we have tomorrow.

**Sen. Olekina:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me correct my dear brother, the distinguished Senator for Migori County. I do have authority because the Speaker called out the Chairperson, who was not there. He then called out the Vice Chairperson, who was also not there. The Speaker then asked for any Member of the Committee and, of course, I said yes; I then stood up and responded clearly. I will not take back my words. What I said – for me to make it very clear for the distinguished Senator for Kitui County to get it – it is not that I stood here and just emitted gas; I stood here and gave facts.

I am glad that we are finally bringing this House to a House of debate, and I am willing to take this issue head on because when you have facts, facts are very stubborn. I indicated clearly---

**The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Murkomen):** This man is wasting time!

**Sen. Olekina:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, protect me from the Senate Majority Leader. You need to speak though the Speaker; you cannot just say, “this man is wasting time.”

*(Laughter)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stood here and I will stand here again and say it. Let me break it down for my dear brother here and for the whole House to understand---

**The Speaker** (Hon. Lusaka): Order! Order!

**Sen. Olekina:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we worked on the report. We met---

*(Loud consultations)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Pareno): We have another intervention by Sen. Olekina.

**Sen. Olekina:** Madam Temporary Speaker, I have listened to my colleagues' debate on this and I am just wondering about all those county government employees who were seconded to the county governments.

*(Sen. Halake raised her hand)*

**Sen. Olekina:** Madam Temporary Speaker, I am on the Floor.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Pareno): He is on a point of order. Let him conclude it.

**Sen. Olekina:** Madam Temporary Speaker, I have listened to the debate and the direction it is taking. Whether the Bill originated from here, we canvassed it at the SBC, where I sit, and agreed to proceed with it. Now, I am a little baffled as to why we are now arguing and asking what happened to the Bill that was introduced in this House. I think it is about time that we conclude debate on this Bill.

The truth is that, we have two interested parties here. They agreed but one attempted to renege. You will forgive me for saying this, but it is the truth. There are lots of special interests here. With all these forces going around, it is time that this House pronounces itself and we conclude this Bill. Let the county government workers prepare their way to retirement.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Pareno): Sen. Olekina.

**Sen. Olekina:** Madam Temporary Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am of the view that it will serve us right and give us an opportunity to determine the matters that we are debating here at SBC if we allow this debate to go on and be concluded at the Second Reading as we had earlier on agreed so that we can now look at Sen. Sakaja's Bill and then from that point, look at both Bills and agree on the way forward.

I am only saying that because I do not think it will help us when we are the House which is supposed to protect the interest of counties. Although most county government employees are working, they do not know if they will get pension in future after retirement.

I want to support the sentiments of both the Senate Minority Leader and Sen. Sakaja, that, instead of postponing the debate on this Bill, we might as well conclude and let it pass the Second Reading. We can then sit down at the Senate Business Committee and agree on the next move. This is because it still has to be read a Third Time. There, we

will let wisdom dictate the future of this Bill from the National Assembly and the future of the Bill which was being introduced by Sen. Sakaja.

Kindly allow me one more minute. I remember that Sen. Sakaja was very passionate about his Bill proceeding but it was stopped all of a sudden. Since this is where we are, it will be better to put some wisdom on the fights between the two Houses. I would be happy if the National Assembly passed my Bills. I have a lot of Bills here but I think that the only way to do our job properly is by concluding the Second Reading.