

# PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

## THE SENATE

### THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

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

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

#### PRAYER

**The Speaker** (Hon. Lusaka): Kindly proceed, Sen. Olekina.

**Sen. Olekina:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am one of the people who believe that we have failed Kenyans by allowing the Executive to control Parliament. We no longer have a Parliament in this country, and the country is run by one Executive. What the Executive wants, it is their way or the highway. We have failed Kenyans; shame on us! We had an opportunity to defend this Constitution. When the founders of this Constitution thought of a Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), it was because they wanted to ensure that there is a competent body that advises on the division of revenue.

Why is it that when the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) says something, it is taken as the Gospel truth. However, when the CRA comes up with a recommendation after looking at how the economy is doing, it is trashed. It is about time that we rethink on our roles, as Members of Parliament (MPs). It is wrong to have a National Assembly which, when they are told by the Executive to go to the left, they all go to the left without asking.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the reason I never appended my signature to this Report; I did not believe in it. I indicated that I would not sign it, because I do not believe in it. I stand firm and believe that when we have a CRA---

*(Loud consultations)*

Kindly proceed, Sen. Olekina.

**Sen. Olekina:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is important to be correct on anything that goes on record. The Senate Majority Leader rose on a point of order and stated clearly that---

**Sen. Olekina:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Senate Majority Leader made certain allegations, and it is always good to be on record to correct them. Yes, indeed, I tweeted; and I said that we did our best, but I guess our best was not good enough. I said whether we like it or not, county governments will receive Kshs 316.5 billion. I never

said that we surrendered. I want to express my position, because I do not believe that there is any reason why we should laud the Executive or the National Assembly when what they are doing is wrong. It is not sound in law.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I attended that Mediation Committee meeting. We discussed the issues and no Member of the Committee from the National Assembly gave facts. All they were saying was that there is no money. The Kenyans who elected us brought us here need to understand that when we are here, we are doing what they sent us to do. That is to represent them in this House, despite various challenges. There is a Kiswahili saying, “*Kidole kimoja hakivunji chawa.*” That does not mean that whether I agreed or disagreed, I always get my way.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue of division of revenue is very important. I agree with my colleagues who have walked out that it is imperative for Kenyans to know that the Senate is fighting for devolution. If we do not express ourselves on this Bill, then we will not need to be in this House tomorrow. This is because, first of all, we will be gagged and not allowed to express ourselves. It is, therefore, important for Kenyans to know that when we sat in that Committee, we said that it is wrong and dangerous for this country to have one Appropriation Act.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we came up with a lot of suggestions. I did not say that we totally failed. There are two issues here; first, it dawned on us that we, as Members of Parliament and even the Executive, were enjoying ourselves, but the counties were suffering.

*(Sen. Olekina’s spoke off record)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Lusaka): Order! You have run out of time. You are not on record, Sen. Olekina.