

NEWS GENERAL

FINANCE BILL

MPs who voted 'yes' are sellouts, says Wambua

EMMANUEL WANJALA/ A week after President William Ruto declined to assent to the Finance Bill, 2024, rage is still in the air following MPs' decision to vote for the impugned piece of legislation.

The Bill received backing from 204 MPs at the second reading stage and 195 at the third reading to sail through to the presidential assent phase.

Passage of the Bill was greeted with widespread public outrage with protesters who were still out on the streets resorting to stoning MPs' vehicles.

Consecutive protests have led to destruction of property and loss of lives as public anger morphed into demands for better governance.

Speaking in the Senate on Wednesday, Kitui Senator Enoch Wambua termed the MPs who endorsed the Bill as "sellouts".

"If the National Assembly Mr Speaker had listened to the people, we would not be where we are today. That's the point I want to respectively differ with on his comment during the interview that perhaps the 204

members of the assembly who voted in support of the Finance Bill would be our future heroes," he said.

MPs are, however, constitutionally at liberty to vote whichever way they want on any matter before the House.

"Mr Speaker, those 204 members of the National Assembly who voted yes for this Bill are sellouts. They have failed this country, they have failed their constituents. They have reason to apologise to this country," Wambua added.

Some of the MPs have been at the receiving end of public rage and have had their property torched. Some have been beaten by the electorate.

In his address on June 26, Ruto said he was "grateful to all the members of the National Assembly who voted affirmatively for the Finance Bill, 2024". He repeated the sentiments during a media roundtable on Sunday at State House, saying the country will in future see sense in their actions and described them as true heroes of Kenya.

Ruto said MPs saw an opportunity to unchain the country from the debt trap and took it.

Salaries and Remuneration Commission chairperson Lyn Mengich /ENOS TECHE



WAGE BILL

Pressure: SRC freezes Sh22bn salaries increase

The pay increment was to take effect this month



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taxes. To quell possible explosion, President William Ruto on Wednesday moved to cool public anger promising to have the new rates reviewed.

The Salaries and Remuneration Commission on Wednesday bowed to public pressure squashing the entire Sh22 billion salary increment for all civil servants.

SRC chairperson Lyn Mengich said the decision has been necessitated by the prevailing financial constraints in the country.

The salary increment was to take effect this month.

"In view of the emerging fiscal constraints and the proposed budget cuts, and existing contractual commitments, and in further consultation with stakeholders, including and the National Treasury, SRC has reviewed the setting and advice of pay for the second phase of the implementation - 2021-25," Mengich said.

"Therefore, in consultation with the National Treasury, SRC hereby freezes the upward review of salaries for all state officers, and will review the advice for all other public officers, taking into account the current realities of the economy, and a reduced budget to ensure affordability and fiscal sustainability of the wage bill."

According to the commission, state officers, including MPs, account for Sh860 million of the Sh22 billion increment.

The rest was to cater to other cadres in the public service.

The move comes as a huge relief to overburdened taxpayers, who were to shoulder the ever-ballooning wage bill.

The move to award MPs and other state officers a pay increase triggered major storm at a time the country is stemming out of an anti-tax protest.

The 2023 Gazette Notice that was to take effect this month, would have seen taxpayers enhancing MPs fat pay by almost Sh1 billion. Kenyan MPs are considered among the highest paid lawmakers globally.

Kenyans, especially the young generation, have been on the streets to protest additional

In a statement, the head of state said he has written to the National Treasury, instructing them to review the gazette notice by the SRC increasing the salaries of state officers.

The President maintained that all arms of government must live within their means.

"In light of the withdrawal of the Finance Bill, 2024, and the fiscal constraints expected this financial year, this is a time, more than ever before, for all arms of government to live within their means," Ruto said.

Cabinet Secretary in charge of Public Service, Performance and Delivery Management, Moses Kuria, also issued a statement declining to implement the SRC directives.

"As the Cabinet Secretary responsible for Public Service, Performance and Delivery Management therefore, I decline to implement the gazette notice on increased salaries as applies to the Executive arm of the national government and urge the commission to de-gazette the implementation of the new salary structure, in its entirety, across all levels of government," Kuria said.

The CS urged the SRC and other institutions in the public sector to make sacrifices they expect Kenyans to make.

Opposition had earlier instructed all his troops in the bicameral Parliament to reject the proposed salary increase, citing the prevailing economic circumstances in the country.

Azimio la Umoja principal Kalonzo Musyoka said the increase is insensitive, especially at a time Kenyans are finding it hard to put food on the table.

The former Vice President also termed the move "diversionary".

"We note with concern the intention to divert the public attention from the real issues by purporting to adjust the salaries of senior state officer, Members of Parliament and members of county assembly when the economy is not doing well," Kalonzo said.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES

TENDER ADDENDUM

PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AT A FIXED FEE FOR SERVICE (FFS) IN PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES
TENDER NO: MOH/SDMS/HI/OT/001/2023-2024

PROVISION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ON LEASE IN PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES
TENDER NO: MOH/SDMS/HI/OT/002/2023-2024

Reference is made to the above tenders that appeared on the Star Newspaper on 19th and 20th June, 2024.

This is to further inform potential bidders that the tender requirements and scope have been revised substantially including some essential elements of the tendering document.

In view of the aforesaid, the tender opening/closing date has been extended to Friday the 12th July, 2024 at 11.00 a.m.

Interested Bidders are advised to confirm and obtain for themselves the complete revised bidding document as uploaded on the website www.health.go.ke and PPIP www.tenders.go.ke. **INTERESTED BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO DOWNLOAD THE NEW BIDDING DOCUMENT.**

The revision of the bidding document has taken into account all the previous provided addenda on the same including the now referenced changes.

Any inconvenience caused is highly regretted.

Harry Kimtai, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY