



PRESS RELEASE

12 MPs did not Contribute to Debate in 2014; although a Marked Improvement was noted

Nairobi, 15th February 2015 – Analysis of data based on parliamentary debate in 2014 has revealed that twelve Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) did not contribute to plenary discussions at all. Of these silent members 9 represent constituencies, two are women representatives and one is a nominated representative. In fact, three of the 12 legislators have actually never given their maiden speech in the house since they were elected. This is a dismal report given participation to debate is one of the key metrics in ensuring an MP fulfils his overall responsibility of representation, oversight and legislation.

Generally, there was a marked improvement in Parliamentarians performance compared to the 2013 report. Over 150 MNAs gave between 20 and 100 contributions to debate in the house unlike in 2013 where over a third of them spoke less than 10 times each. About 50 % of the Senators spoke over 100 times, a great improvement from the 2013 record where 30% were active. The Parliamentarians debate report card is compiled by Mzalendo.com based on the official Hansard contributions published by Parliament after each sitting. The 2014 report card can be downloaded from this link [here](#).

“We believe this information is of great public interest as Parliamentarians are custodians of peoples’ sovereign power. It therefore follows they should be open to scrutiny and accountable to the country for their time in the House,” says Mzalendo’s Executive Director Jessica Musila.

Hon. John Mbadi was the most active contributor to debate in the National Assembly and Hon. Amina Abdalla was the leading woman legislator for a second year running. In the Senate, Senators Moses Wetangula and Beatrice Elachi emerged as the best debaters based on the numbers tallied. Others who ranked highly were Honourables: Samuel Chepkonga, Asman Kamama, Millie Odhiambo and Florence Kajuju. Senators who performed well included Bonny Khalwale, Billow Kerrow, Janet Ongera and Judith Sijeny.

Every MNA’s and Senator’s contribution to the Hansard shows under their profile on www.mzalendo.com. Mzalendo’s site managers hope Kenyans will visit their MNAs and Senators records to see their overall performance over the period, identify the issues they contributed to and also assess the quality of the contributions put forward.

Mzalendo site seeks to promote greater public voice and enhance public participation in politics by providing relevant information about the National Assembly and Senate’s activities.

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