



PRESS RELEASE

Nairobi County MPs Top List of Silent Legislators in 2015

Nairobi, 10 March 2016 – Twenty-Seven (27) Members of Parliament did not contribute to plenary discussions in the National Assembly at all in 2015, Mzalendo Trust can now reveal. With three MPs on the list, Nairobi County has the highest number of silent legislators. Although all the Senators spoke in 2015, the worst performers are Hosea Ochwangi – Nominated to present the youth and Nairobi Senator, Mike Sonko.

Five of the 27 legislators have actually never given their maiden speech in the house since they were elected in March 2013. They include: Alex Kosgey, Kipruto Moi, Oscar Sudi, Gonzi Rai and Tirus Ngahu. The findings reveal a continued trend that a third of MPs hardly contribute anything of substance to debate. In 2015, 118 MPs spoke less than 20 times in the National Assembly. Two thirds of the Senators had over 50 speech counts.

“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, budgeting, oversight and legislation. Although the number of speech counts in plenary discussions is not indicative of the quality of input, it could allude to low capacity to exercise their Parliamentarians roles. The high level of poverty and poor service delivery in the country does not warrant a legislator remaining silent in Parliament.” said Jessica Musila, Executive Director, Mzalendo Trust.

Chrisantus Wamalwa and Naomi Shaban emerged the most active contributors to debate in the National Assembly. On the other hand, Fatuma Dullo and Mutula Kilonzo Jr. were the leading contributors in the Senate. In our analysis, we also ranked the elected Parliamentarians according to their counties and Siaya, Kakamega and Homabay led the rest. The most active chairpersons were: Boni Khalwale and Samuel Chepkonga in the Senate and National Assembly respectively. The Parliamentarians debate report card is compiled by Mzalendo.com based on the official Hansard contributions published by Parliament after each sitting. The 2015 report card can be downloaded from this link [here](#).

Topics highly debated in 2015 include: Education, Health, Corruption, Devolution, Special Interests (Youth, Women & People with disabilities), Political Parties, Agriculture, Access to Justice, Security, Gender, Infrastructure, Land, Tax & Revenue, Culture, Sports, Human Rights, Marriage, Environment, Mining and Business.

Every MNA’s and Senator’s contribution to the Hansard is shown 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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