



RIGHT OF REPLY

MPs Scorecard: Sen. Sonko Stick to the Facts

Nairobi, 15 March 2016 – On Thursday 10th March 2015, Mzalendo Trust released the 2015 Parliamentarians scorecard. As expected, lazy Members of Parliament (MPs) received it in bad taste and some have peddled lies against Mzalendo. The initiative was primarily started by patriotic citizens who want to see Kenya emerge as a haven of good governance. From the onset, Mzalendo is non-partisan with a single aim of monitoring and opening up Parliamentary information to the public.

Senator “Sonko”, who was among the worst performing senators in 2015 sensationally claimed that, Mzalendo has been paid to tarnish his name. Sonko claims that he has been busy doing projects. While Mzalendo appreciates Sonkos philanthropy, The Constitution expects him to represent Kenyans in Parliament amply and come up with policies that deal with problems that have make his philanthropic acts inevitable.

When Mzalendo ranked Sonko and Mr. Hosea Ochwangi as worst senators in terms of performance, we never said that Sonko never spoke. We only compared him with his peers in the Senate. Again, by Sonko misconstruing our report shows his laziness and penchant for drama.

In 2015, Sen. Sonko only spoke four times in the Senate. In all the four times there is nothing substantial that he said, in his four “speeches” one of them was a point of order and the second one was welcoming MCAs in the Senate. But we spotlight with interest his contribution on 3rd March 2015. On this date, the Senate committee on Security tabled an answer from a question asked by Senator Kembi Gitura on a possible land grabbing of plot no NRB/BLOCK50/599, in Loresho. Senator Sonko stood to seek further clarifications from the committee. From this, a conscious person would ask, how come a Senator from Murang'a is more in touch with issues in Nairobi than the areas Senator? Why the aloofness? If Sonko was active on issues that really matter he wouldn't have been unaware of such an issue.

Just to clear the air, the MPs report we released was above board as it is directly sourced from the Hansard compiled by Parliament. The technology we use to tally Parliamentarians appearances on the Hansard automatically links the entries with each MPs profile. The website also has a searchable Hansard which makes it easier to document both qualitative and quantitative contributions of an MP.

Finally, it is important for Kenyans to know that the primary job of an MP as per article 94 is to legislate, budget, oversight and represent his people and this can only be done in Parliament. By implementing projects MPs usurp the Executive and Counties duties. In any case if Members of the National Assembly are so keen to implement CDF projects that are worth only 2% of the National Budget, who will oversight the 98%!

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