



## Press Release – People’s Shujaa Awards 2019 Edition Winners Unveiled

**Nairobi, 11th December 2019**

Mzalendo Trust is pleased to announce the 2019 winners **People’s Shujaa Award**. Initiated in 2014, the People Shujaa’s Awards seek to honor **Members of Parliament** who champion public interest issues on the floor of the House at both the National Assembly and the Senate. Announced a day before Jamhuri Day, the Awards are meant to complement the National Honours the Presidency bestows on Kenyans for exemplary service to the country every year.

The 2019 People’s Shujaa Awards saw a total of six out of the nine awards go to women MPs recording the highest number of female winners since inception. The list of 24 nominees had a 50:50 gender ratio with a total of 17 being first timers in Parliament.

Since inception past winners and nominees have continued to leave a mark in their legislative roles. Sen Isaac Mwaura is currently sponsoring the Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2019 that seeks to make provisions for the registration of intersex people. Sen Agnes Zani has raised several motions and sponsored the Elections Laws (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2018 and the Natural Resource (Benefit Sharing) Bill, 2018. This year the two Senators were coincidentally nominated under the same categories they won under back in 2015; Education and Special Interests.

Nairobi Senator, Johnson Sakaja who was a co-recipient of the Security and Disaster Management award with Senator Mutula Kilonzo successfully filed a petition against the appointment of Former Othaya MP, Mary Wambui to the National Employment Authority. In addition to this, the two have co-sponsored the Determination of the Nature of Bills (Procedure) Bill 2018.

2015 Security Category Award recipient, Senator Fatuma Dullo made history by being among the first among three female senators to be elected and being the first female Senator from the North Eastern region. Another significant contribution by a past winner and 2019 nominee was by Kericho Senator Aaron Cheruiyot who sponsored the Tea Bill 2018 that was passed in the Senate and is currently in the National Assembly for consideration.

Previous winners also include Makueni Women Rep Hon Rose Mumo, Vihiga Senator George Khaniri, Nominated Senator Petronila Were, Ainabkoi MP Hon. William Chepkut, Governor Anyang Nyong’o, Ruaraka MP Tom Kajwang and Kiminini MP just to mention a few.

Through these awards, we hope to continue motivating MPs to keep pushing for progressive and impactful legislation and resultantly inspire the citizenry to adequately hold them to account in executing their constitutional mandate.

It is our belief that the recognition and citizen choices will continue to catalyze members of parliament to develop legislation that serves the larger public interest and good.

We are proud to reveal the names of Members of Parliament who were voted by citizens as People's Shujaa, 2019 edition.

**Category 1: People's Shujaa: Health – Sen. Judith Pareno**

The Nominated Senator moved a motion on the development of ICT and Teleconferencing Policy connecting County Health Facilities to National Referral Hospitals with a view to ensure seamless and efficient medical consultation between and among medical personnel and health facilities. The Motion was adopted without amendments.

**Category 2: People's Shujaa: Land – Hon. Caleb Kositany**

The Member of the National Assembly for Soy constituency moved a motion on the establishment of Policy Guidelines on acquisition of land for expansion of public schools. The Member observed that that land is one of the most important resources in Kenya from which the country generates goods and services, and a source of livelihood for many people. He also recognized that land is a scarce resource which is highly sought for various economic and commercial purposes leaving little or no space for establishment of social amenities, including learning institutions.

**Category 3: People's Shujaa: ICT Development & Infrastructure – Hon. George Theuri**

The Member of the National Assembly for Embakasi West raised a Question regarding the under-utilization of digital literacy learning programmes. He questioned whether the Cabinet Secretary was aware that several Information Communication and Technology (ICT) facilities availed to public schools through the Digital Literacy Learning Programme have not been utilised. He also sought to find out the status of the one-laptop-per child programme launched in 2013 to enhance ICT in teaching and learning in primary schools. Additionally, he asked what measures the Ministry has put in place to ensure that the programme is successfully implemented under the new education curriculum.

**Category 4: People's Shujaa: Food Security – Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar**

The Senator for Uasin Gishu County sought a Statement regarding the maize situation in the country. She sought information as to why Cabinet Secretaries and holders of relevant independent offices did not provide to the Senate, through the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, a report on how they planned to handle the resolutions that came from the ad hoc committee on the maize crisis.

**Category 5: People's Shujaa: Environment – Sen. Mary Seneta**

The Nominated Senator sought a Statement from the Standing Committee on Lands, Environment and Natural Resources on the management of water resources in Kajiado County. The Senator sought an explanation of the policies, legal and institutional framework governing the water supply and demand in the country and an explanation of the role of county governments in the management of water resources in their respective counties.

**Category 6: People's Shujaa: Social Welfare – Sen. Beatrice Kwamboka**

The Nominated Senator sponsored The Care and Protection of Child Parents Bill, 2019. The Bill proposes to provide a framework for the return to school, of girls who fall pregnant while in school; the fair treatment of girls who are pregnant and in school and drop out of school and in this case, the girls should not face discrimination by being forced to attend different programs or schools from those

of their peers; provide academic support, parenting and life skills classes and strategies to prevent future unplanned pregnancies; and to help pregnant and parenting students to gain access to affordable child care, and revise school policies and practices to remove barriers that hinder the attainment of education by all children.

### **Category 7: People's Shujaa: Devolution – Sen. Ledama Olekina**

The Narok Senator sponsored the County Oversight and Accountability Bill. The Bill proposes to provide a framework for effective oversight of the county government by the Senate. It also seeks to provide for a mechanism on how oversight over the county budgets can be carried out. It gives effect to the constitutional provisions on oversight, public participation and participatory democracy as outlined in Article 96, 174 and 201 of the Constitution respectively.

### **Category 8: People's Shujaa: Special Interests – Sen. Naomi Waqo Jilo**

The Nominated Senator moved a Motion on the Realization of Gender Equity in Elective and Appointive Positions in Kenya. The Motion was adopted without amendments. As a result, the Senate resolved that Parliament was to fast track the enactment of the law that shall give effect to the one third gender rule; and that pursuant to Article 81 of the Constitution both the National and County governments observe the principle of equality, and empowers the female gender by increasing the appointive position to at least 50 per cent.

### **Category 9: People's Shujaa: Education – Sen. Getrude Musuruve**

The Nominated Senator for Persons with Disabilities sought a Statement regarding the delay by the Ministry of Education in disbursement of funds to public schools. She sought to find out the reasons for the inordinate delays by the Ministry for Free Primary and Secondary education and to enumerate the number of public schools that had received the funds vis-à-vis the total number of public schools.

### **About Mzalendo Trust**

[Mzalendo](#) ('Patriot' in Swahili) is a Kenyan non-partisan Parliamentary Monitoring Organization started in 2005 and whose mission is to *'Keep an Eye on the Kenyan Parliament.'* Through information sharing, research and networking, we promote greater public voice and enhance public participation in politics by providing relevant information about the National Assembly and Senate's activities. Our vision is to *see informed, empowered and engaged citizens* transforming society by holding their leaders to account.

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