‘Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. First, I want to thank the Senator for bringing the Motion. Indeed, this Motion will ensure that we disburse funds to the counties. The Schedule will for the time inform the counties and guide the Senators regarding how the National Treasury will disburse monies every month. Whenever there is a delay in disbursement of monies to any county, the respective Senator will be able to follow up. Having said that, it is worrying that while we are disbursing all these monies to the counties, we do not see a lot of impact. I want to challenge the Chairman of the Commission on Revenue Allocation, Mr. Cheserem, that when we will be reviewing the sharing formula, we should not use per capita but percentage. When we use ‘per capita’ some counties are assumed to be doing well yet that is not true on the ground. If the formula is based on percentage, we will review the allocation to many other counties. Mr. Speaker, Sir, when devolution started we had a lot of teething problems in terms of procurement and supplies. A number of suppliers have not been paid up to date. I would recommend that that we should have a meeting with the Auditor General, the Controller of Budget, the National Treasury and the procurement team before we go for the elections. This is because procurement
in the counties was not done right. In some cases the Controller of Budget has receipts showing that procurement was done, but that is not the case on the ground. We also need to agree on how the suppliers will be paid. The schedule that was sent by the Treasury shows that we have Kshs32 billion still lying at the Treasury. The Treasury, therefore, needs to explain why this is the case. Were the counties unable to get their monies by the close of the last financial year because of the challenges of procurement? I know that the Committee that deals with allocation to counties has done a good job in terms of assessing what the counties have done and questioning the utilization and mismanagement of the resources allocated. However, it is also important for us, as a House, to move beyond that conversation. Besides interrogation we need to help the counties to grow in terms of getting better systems and structures. If there are cases, during interrogation by the Committees, where some people have to face the law, let it happen. This is because we need to ensure that the counties grow. Now that we are heading towards the general elections, this House needs to ensure that the projects undertaken by the county governments, especially the governors, are within a reasonable cost. I will give an example of a certain county in this country where a standard classroom was built at a cost of Kshs6 million. That is immoral and this House must question that expenditure and the leader behind it. The rate given by Public Works is Kshs1.2 million. The Senate needs to ensure that those who build classrooms beyond the acceptable rates are surcharged. It may be an unpopular decision, but most Kenyans will appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Senate has done a tremendous job. It has stood firm to ensure that an equitable share from the national level goes to the counties. It is time to reflect on the best way forward in dealing with matters in the counties. If we cannot communicate with the Governor there are many other structures in the county that we can deal with. Those are the structures that
are working. This will ensure that when you go to Turkana, for example, you will feel proud of the billions of shillings that the Senate has sent there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am also grateful for the ratio that we have brought in on the figures in medical care. In the newspapers today, it is now clear what one is supposed to pay in a private or public hospital. I think the Senate should even go further so that we create a clear procurement structure. We can come up with a Bill that will put standards that you cannot go beyond. I hope that this financial year, Senators will get the money that we requested for oversight to enable us have a conversation with the people in order for them to understand. For the last four years, the Senate has sent Kshs39 billion to counties. We should be able to tell our constituents and citizens in general that we allocated that money, have a conversation with them and find out whether the monies that we allocated them from the national Government and the local revenue from the county has helped in expansion, improvement or access to affordable healthcare. For example, if your county is receiving Kshs7 billion and you have seven constituencies, if you are a good governor, you will allocate Kshs1 billion to current expenditure. The rest of the money can be shared among the constituencies in a manner that every constituency can feel that their governor is working for them. There are some counties where we would like to see a lot of development in progress but we are worried. In the disbursement sheet, there is a county whose balance is only Kshs10 million. I do not know if it will be for salaries. You cannot even tell what that money can do. On the other hand, you will find a county with Kshs3 billion. The question is: Is it that you have collected enough local revenue and so you are saving your money or what is happening? Those are some of the things that each Member of this House should interrogate when you look at your disbursement sheet. If you find your county with Kshs1 billion, it should worry you so much. You do not need to question much because you will assume it is money meant to pay
suppliers. It could also mean that all debts have been cleared and, therefore, the money is a surplus. However, if your county is in debt with suppliers and there are billions in the bank, then there must be a challenge in management. As I finalize, I thank the Committee on Finance, Commerce and Budget for pushing for different proposals. I hope this House will appreciate the same proposals. We have also asked the Treasury to assist us by giving us a quarterly report after every monthly disbursement to counties. The report will show the times that the money was disbursed so that counties do not complain of delays of disbursement of resources. If that is tabled in this House every month, then we can interrogate more and better. There will also be more transparency and the mwananchi will also be able interrogate what is there. With those few remarks, I beg to support.’

DATE: 5th August

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Godliver Nanjira Omondi

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: Approval of the County Government’s Cash Disbursement Schedule for FY 2016/2017

‘Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity. I support this Motion because I, as a Senator representing Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), it touches on matters disability. As I support, I remind county governments that we are now coming to the end of the Eleventh Parliament but nothing tangible is coming out of county governments in terms of programmes for PWDs. I may be required to seek legal advice on discrimination among PWDs in budget allocation. As we sit here and discuss issues of allocation of money to counties, it is not coming out clearly how devolution is delivering quality services to the people. This is simply because the people who are interested or given the authority by Government to hold public funds
have just refused to do what is right and give quality services. They are creating a big gap between the poor and the rich. As we discuss this Motion, let county governments be reminded that it is all about Kenyans and service delivery. It is not about, we, leaders. Today let me go on record that I, as a Senator representing PWDs, represents 47 counties, as we speak, there is an outcry from PWDs that there is total discrimination in terms of allocation and service delivery by counties. My fellow leaders in county assemblies are sending PWDs to me as a Senator, that I am their representative, knowing very well that I do not have any budgetary allocation to give services to the people that I represent. We have disabled people who are representatives of PWDs in these counties. I am supposed to hold them accountable on what they have done within those counties. It is unfortunate that I cannot do so. It is because county assemblies have refused to allocate resources to them that will help to also run projects for PWD. Let me remind county governments and governors that it is high time that they think about disability, budget allocation, programmes and service delivery. I wonder why somebody should be referred to as Senator knowing very well that a Senator does not have any budget allocation. That is running away from the role that we have been given under the Constitution. It is time to hold the leaders in the county governments accountable for the raw deal that they are giving Kenyans. We must not run away from our oversight role that is provided for in the Constitution. Carrying out the oversight role is not witch-hunting. However, in this country oversight is seen as witch-hunt. That is why we do not appreciate one another. At the end of the day, we need to complement each other for us to achieve devolution. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I end my contribution to this Motion, it will be proper if this money is allocated to groups and persons with disabilities to cover what they have lost in the previous years. I want to remind Kenyans that they have a right to petition the Senate on issues pertaining to service delivery by the leaders they elected. I will be happy if
we will get the quorum to enable us to vote and pass this Motion today, so that funds can go to the county governments. I want to remind the Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) and governors that as we vote and allocate them the money, they should not tell us that they can get money without us. We have left everything else so as to be here today to discuss issues that are important to this country that touch on matters of development and lives of Kenyans. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those remarks, I support.’

DATE: 18th August 2016

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Sen. Janet Ong’era

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: the Reproductive healthcare Bill

‘On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Chairman, Sir. I also want to support what my colleagues have said. First, some good work has been done this afternoon despite the fact that some Members took off. Maybe in future we should close the Bar completely, so that we finish the work whether or not we are in the Committee of the Whole. I know it may require amending our Standing Orders, but that is what we may need to do in future for us to transact business.’

DATE: 24th August

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Sen. Janet Ongera

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: Manner of voting of the constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill and whether the Bill requires a Referendum

‘On a point of order Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. That is the same point I wanted to raise that Sen. Khaniri has raised; that we are not so sure that we have the threshold because the bell has not been rung. We do not know whether there are others Senators waiting in the lounge. This is a
very important amendment. As you know, this amendment affects the constitutional requirement of having one-third of either gender in the Houses. So, let us treat it with the importance that it deserves. I plead with you.

DATE: 24th August

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Sen. Beth Mugo

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: Manner of voting of the constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill and whether the Bill requires a Referendum

‘Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir that is what I am trying to say. We need to challenge the Whips that when we reschedule - I hope you will make that ruling – everybody and not just the Nominated Senators - is bound to come and honor the Constitution and the people of Kenya who gave us this Constitution’

DATE: 24th August

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Sen. Naisula Lesuuda

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: Adoption of report of the joint Parliamentary select committee on matters relating to the IEBC

‘Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Report and to congratulate the team that worked on it. It is quite a detailed one. Within the five minutes, it is important to echo what many of my colleagues have said. In Kenya, we are not short of laws and good laws for that matter. It is the implementation that continues to drag us back and put us in positions that we have found ourselves in as a country and we are not proud of it.’
DATE: 24th August

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Sen. Godliver Nanjira Omondi

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: Adoption of report of the joint parliamentary committee on matters relating to the IEBC

‘Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I join my colleagues in supporting the Motion on the alteration of the Senate Calendar. As we proceed on recess, I would like to pass the message that the Bill on the one-third gender rule is for either gender. A time will come when more women will be elected and this Bill will support more men to be in Parliament. We need God’s intervention to deal with the issue of corruption in this country. This is because it is the common mwananchi who is suffering in the process. It is the high time that everybody goes back to God. At the end of the day, everything that we have is provided for by God. I say this with a heavy heart. There is corruption even in sports and the sportsmen and women are suffering. I support the Motion.

DATE: 24th August

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Sen. Janet Ongera

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: Manner of voting of the constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill and whether the Bill requires a Referendum (SPECIAL SITTING 2)

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of having one-third of either gender in the Houses. So, let us treat it with the importance that it deserves. I plead with you.’

DATE: 24th August

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Sen. Naisula Lesuuda

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: Manner of voting of the constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill and whether the Bill requires a Referendum (Special sitting 2)

‘Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to echo what Sen. Mutula Kilonzo Jnr. has said, that probably most Members, especially the Nominated Senators, were not aware that they would cast their vote on this matter. I propose that we do not ring the Bell, but rather assign another day when we will do proper mobilization to vote on this Bill.’

DATE: 24th August

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Sen. Beth Mugo

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: Manner of voting of the constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill and whether the Bill requires a Referendum (Special sitting 2)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir that is what I am trying to say. We need to challenge the Whips that when we reschedule - I hope you will make that ruling – everybody and not just the Nominated Senators - is bound to come and honor the Constitution and the people of Kenya who gave us this Constitution
DATE: 24th August

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Sen. Naisula Lesuuda

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: The constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill (Special sitting 2)

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‘Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out two things; we know the process and recommendations, if passed, then the commissioners will leave office. Now that they have to vacate office, not all of them had any allegations whatsoever of any incompetence but it is one thankless job. It is important to note and appreciate the commissioners; that they took their time, appeared before the Committee and gave their views rather than dragging. They had an option. They could have gone to court and the law was on their side. It is important that we commend them for the work that they have done and for appearing before the Committee. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important to note that all these things that we have are good; issues to do with voter registration, voter education, issues of nomination and registration of candidates and everything. It is the implementation and the timeframe that we are going before the next general elections that will be key to ensuring we have a process that will be accepted by Kenyans. We do not want it to be fair but it has to be seen that the process of elections is fair. I want us to think about it and to bear in mind what the President and the Opposition Leader, Hon. Raila said
during the memorial service of the first President of this country. The two vowed that there will be no bloodshed in our country because of elections. This is something that we have to continuously remember as we ensure that the elections are free and fair for us to have one country which we should jealously guard. I agree with my colleagues that the implementation will be key. We know how nomination processes have been in our country. If those who are already inside the political parties have that fear, what of those who are outside? Will they not seek political office? The leadership of my party, Jubilee, has said they will invite IEBC to help them oversee their nominations for fairness purposes. I also want to ask our colleagues in CORD to invite the IEBC to help with their nomination process in order to avoid the men in black messing up the whole process. I do support.’

DATE: 24th August

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: Godliver Nanjira Omondi

CONTRIBUTION SHE MADE: Adoption of report of the joint Parliamentary select committee on matters relating to the IEBC (Special sitting 2)

‘Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I join my colleagues in supporting the Motion on the alteration of the Senate Calendar. As we proceed on recess, I would like to pass the message that the Bill on the one-third gender rule is for either gender. A time will come when more women will be elected and this Bill will support more men to be in Parliament. We need God’s intervention to deal with the issue of corruption in this country. This is because it is the common mwananchi who is suffering in the process. It is the high time that everybody goes back to God. At the end of the day, everything that we have is provided for by God. I say this with a heavy heart. There is corruption even in sports and the sportsmen and women are suffering.’