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THE SENATE

Education

COMMITTEE CLERK AT THE TABLE Karate Mus

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DATE

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT (FIFTH SESSION)

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

EDUCATION

REPORT ON THE KENYAN SIGN LANGUAGE BILL, (SENATE BILLS NO. 5 OF 2021)

Clerk's Chambers, Parliament Buildings, P. O. Box 41842-00100, NAIROBI.

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26/07/2021



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

COG Council of Governors

EARC Education Assessment Research Centre

ECDE Early Childhood Development Education

KICD Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development

KISE Kenya Institute of Special Education

KNEC Kenya National Examination Council

KSL Kenya Sign Language

KSLIA Kenyan Sign Language Interpreters Association

MOE Ministry of Education

TSC Teachers Service Commission

UoN University of Nairobi

PREFACE

The Standing Committee on Education is established pursuant to standing order 218(3) and the Second Schedule of the Senate Standing Orders. The Committee is mandated to "consider all matters related to education and training."

Mandate of the Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of the Second Schedule of the Senate Standing Orders, the Standing Committee on Education is mandated to consider all matters relating to education and training.

- 1. Build capacity of Committee Members to undertake their roles in line with Article 96 of the Constitution;
 - 2. Develop and facilitate the development of legal frameworks, policies and guidelines in the Education Sector (including but not limited to Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and Tertiary education (youth polytechnic);
 - 3. Provide oversight for the Education Sector (Including not limited to ECDE and Youth polytechnics;
 - 4. Facilitate budgetary resources toward the Education Sector (ECDE and youth polytechnic); and
 - 5. Any matter that relates to education and training.

Membership of the Committee

	Sen. (Dr.) Alice C. Milgo, MP	- Chairperson
	Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, CBS, MP	- Vice-Chairperson
	Sen. Mwangi Githiomi, MP	- Member
4.	Sen. Fred Outa, MP	- Member
5.	Sen. (Prof.) Kithure Kindiki, EGH MP	- Member
	Sen. (Prof.) Malachy Ekal, MP	- Member
7.	Sen. Falhada Dekow, MP	- Member
8.	Sen. (Dr.) Gertrude Musuruve, MP	- Member
9.	Sen. Seneta Mary Yiane, MP	- Member

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Kenyan Sign Language Bill, (Senate Bills No. 5 of 2021) seeks to give effect to Article 7(3) (b) of the Constitution on the promotion and development of the use of Kenyan Sign language; give effect to Article 54(1) (d); provide for the inclusion of sign language in education curriculum to ensure that deaf learners are given the same opportunities as all other learners to be productive members of the society; and to provide the use of sign language in legal proceedings and public institutions.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Kenyan Sign Language Bill, (No. 5 of 2021), was read a First Time in the Senate on 11th May, 2021 and thereafter stood committed to the Senate Standing Committee on Education for consideration.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 118 and standing order 140 (5) of the Senate Standing Orders, the Standing Committee on Education invited interested members of the public to submit their representations on the Bill.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee held a virtual public hearing on Thursday 3rd June, 2021 and received both oral and written submissions from the Council of Governors (COG) and National Gender and Equality Commission, Kenya Sign Language Interpreters Association and the Kenya Association of Parents of the Deaf amongst other stakeholders.

On behalf of the Committee and on my own behalf, I wish to sincerely thank all the individuals, groups and organizations that responded to our call and made their well-researched and eloquent submissions both orally and in writing.

I assure them that the Committee has reviewed every single one of the submissions received and has taken into account their views in the preparation of this report.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

The Committee observed that the sign language is an idea of expressing concepts in a way that someone who cannot hear will understand. The sign language structure has a different syntax from English, sentences are shorter and faster. Nonetheless, sign language is unique and has some aspects that are not universal.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The stakeholders made several proposals for amendments to this Bill. As such, the Committee will be proposing amendments to the Bill in line with these observations and recommendations.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

As I conclude, I want to thank all the Members of the Committee for their insightful contributions during the consideration of this Bill and that culminated in this report.

The Committee also thanks the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Senate for the support extended to it in the execution of its mandate.

The Committee further wishes to record its appreciation for the services rendered by the staff of the Senate that enabled the production of this report.

Mr. Speaker, Sir

Pursuant to standing order 213(6), it is my pleasant duty, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Education, to present the Report of the Standing Committee on Education on the consideration of the Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, Senate Bills No. 4 of 2021.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker

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SEN. (Dr.) ALICE C MILGO, MP

CHAIRPERSON STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE KENYAN SIGN LANGUAGE BILL, SENATE BILLS NO.5 0F 2021

We, the undersigned Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Education, do hereby append our signature to adopt the Report on the Kenyan Sign Language Bill (Senate Bill, No 5 of 2021).

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Sen. (Dr.) Alice C Milgo, MP

- Chairperson

Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, CBS, MP

- Vice-Chairperson

Sen. Mwangi Githiomi, MP

- Member

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Sen. Fred Outa, MP

- Member

Sen. (Prof.) Kithure Kindiki, EGH, MP - Member

Sen. (Prof.) Imana Malachi Ekal, MP

- Member

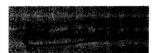
Sen. (Dr.) Gertrude Musuruve, MP

- Member

Chinal

Sen. Seneta Mary Yiane, MP

- Member



Sen. Falhada Dekow, MP

- Member

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1. THE KENYAN SIGN LANGUAGE BILL (SENATE BILLS NO. 5 OF 2021)

Background

The Kenyan Sign Language Bill (Senate Bills No. 5 of 2021) seeks to give effect to Article 7(3) (b) of the Constitution on the promotion and development of the use of Kenyan Sign language and provide for the inclusion of sign language in education curriculum and its use in legal proceedings and public institutions to ensure people with hearing challenges are given the same opportunities as all other Kenyans to be productive members of the society.

The Bill was read at the Senate for the First Time on 11th May, 2021 and thereafter stood committed to the Senate Standing Committee on Education for consideration and facilitation of public participation.

Objects of the Bill

The Kenyan Sign Language Bill seeks to provide for the use of sign language in learning and public institutions to ensure that deaf learners are given the same opportunities as all other learners to be productive members of the society. It seeks to protect the rights of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing to participate fully in society.

The Bill therefore seeks to provide a legal framework to, among others-

- a) ensure that persons who are deaf or hard of hearing integrate into society;
- b) protect and promote the right to justice and fair administration action with respect to persons who are deaf and hard of hearing;
 - c) promote access to quality education by learners who are deaf or hard of hearing;

. .

- d) promote access to public services by deaf persons; and
- e) promote literacy development of learners who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Provisions of the Bill

The Bill seeks to ensure that persons who are deaf or hard of hearing are able to participate in different spheres of society including in judicial proceedings, education and employment. In this respect, the Bill proposes to place upon both the national and county governments the duty to ensure accessibility of their services and the positive obligation to ensure non-discrimination and participation of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing in public activities.

The Bill requires the Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development (KICD) to develop, review and approve appropriate programmes, curricula and curriculum support materials for learners who are deaf and hard of hearing.

2. SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 118 of the Constitution and standing order 140 (5) of the Standing Orders of the Senate, the Senate Standing Committee on Education invited interested members of the public and stakeholders to submit their representations on the Bill. The representations were to be made either orally during a virtual Committee meeting or through submissions of written memoranda.

The invitations for submissions were made vide advertisements which appeared in the Daily Nation and the Standard on Thursday, 18th May, 2021. Subsequently, the Committee held a virtual public hearing on Thursday, 3rd June, 2021.

The Committee received both oral and written submissions from the members of public and different stakeholders. These included the Council of Governors (COG), the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Kenya Sign Language Interpreters Association and the Kenya Association of Parents of the Deaf.

The members of public and the stakeholders registered their comments and proposed amendments which were captured and presented in the matrix below.

MATRIX OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THE KENYA SIGN LANGUAGE BILL, 2021

No	CLAUSE	KEY	JUSTIFICATION	COMMENTS OF
	NUMBER	AMENDMENT/COMMENT	•	THE COMMITTEE
1.	2	Kenya Sign Language	Kenya Sign Language	The Committee
		Interpreters Association	Interpreters Association	rejected the proposal
2		1. Proposed amendment to the	1. Clarification on which	to delete the definition
		reference to cabinet	Cabinet Secretary and	of "Kenya signed
		secretary because the latter	Ministry should carry	English"
		parts of the bill refer to three	out which function	0
		specific ministries—	*	The Committee
		a. Ministry of Education	2.there is no language	adopted other
		dealing with issues of	referred to as signed	proposals made to this
		education .	English or Kiswahili for	clause
		b. Ministry of legal affairs		
		or specific reference to	language preferred and	e.
		the judiciary on issues		,
		of administration of	1	
		justice	is/shall remain to be	ž
		c. Ministry of culture and		
		heritage on issues of	(KSL)	
		language,		ti.
		interpretation and	3.Deaf Community means	
		translations	a socio-linguistical	
			cultural minority who	
		2. definition of "Kenya signed		

English"	should	be o	deleted
----------	--------	------	---------

- 3. Definition of the term 'Deaf Community' should be amended
- 4. Proposed amendment to the term 'Kenya Sign Language'
- use Kenyan Sign Language in their everyday communications and as a native/mother tongue, first or preferred language.
- 4. Kenyan Sign Language means a fully-fledged language that manual communication to convey meaning, as opposed to acoustically conveyed sound patterns. This can involve simultaneously combining hand shapes. orientation movement of the hands, arms or body, and facial expressions to fluidly express speaker's thoughts.

National Gender and Equality Commission

1. Proposed amendment to the term 'Cabinet Secretary'. "Cabinet The term Secretary" appears 16 times and it is used interchangeably between the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Cabinet Secretary Responsible for issues of disability.

The Commission proposes that the Cabinet Secretary responsible for issues of disability be the one in charge of implementing this Act.

We also propose establishment of an "Inter Agency Coordination Committee" comprising all the relevant players including the Council for Persons with Disability, the

National Gender and Equality Commission

1. The main problem faced bv the deaf community is not only on the training of sign b.ut language the barriers faced when interacting and integrating with the rest of the community in terms of communication. These barriers result in exclusion in employment, participation the in developmental activities of the society and also on miscarriage justice. Hearing of impairment is a disability and so the onus of ensuring the challenges are solved

		 	
	Ministry of Education, Ministry of ICT, Kenya Communications Authority and Public trainers of Sign	solely rests with the State Department of Social Protection which has to ensure	
	Language, County Governments and other non-state Actors.	that sign language interpretation services are offered in all places that offer services to	
	2. Proposed amendment to the term 'relevant public authority'. The interpretation should be	the public by coordinating all the relevant players	
	amended to read "include" but not "mean"."	2. The term "Means" is open and shut and in this proposed Bill it may be interpreted to	
	3. Proposed addition of term 'deaf culture' which shall mean the way deaf people interact. It includes a set of social beliefs, behaviours, art,	mean National and County Government only instead of all public entities including Departments and Agencies and non-	
	literary traditions, history, values and shared institutions of communities that are influenced by deafness and which use sign languages as the main means of	state actors who include the organizations of deaf persons and service providers.	
	communication.	3. The definition is as per the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Persons with	
		Disabilities in Africa which has been approved by the Cabinet for Ratification. Article 24(2)(c) of the Protocol obligates State parties	
		to recognize and promote the use of sign languages and deaf culture.	
2. 3	National Gender and Equality Commission 1. Proposed amendment to clause 3(d) by inserting the word "training" before the	National Gender and Equality Commission 1. There are very few institutions that train sign languages.	Proposed amendments adopted by the Committee

				terms of the provisions of the Constitution and also define and recognize the deaf community.	
				entrench the Kenya Sign Language as a language in	enuiges
			Commendable clause	Equality Commission This clause seeks to	adopted the proposed changes
7.	7		National Gender and Equality Commission	National Gender and	The Committee
4.	4	- ;	National C. 1		
				s 8	
		,	_ VII	norm of the Deaf community.	
			, 6	language away from the	
				introduce a specific	
			a v	provision of interpreters – it is therefore redundant to	
			,	official languages there is	
			section	understand national or	
	1		repeated consistently in this	the parties do not	
	9		and the same phrase to be	be used for proceedings in the courts of law, where	
			wording of 'PART II— KENYA SIGN LANGUAGE'	defines the languages to	
			Proposed amendment to the wording of 'PART II—	The judiciary already	changes
	Part		Interpreters Association	Interpreters Association	adopted the proposed
3.	Title	of	Kenya Sign Language	Kenya Sign Language	The Committee
				and enforcement of compliance.	
			compliance be inserted	regulation of a matter	
			a section on offences and	of enacting of a law is	
			3. The Commission proposes	3. The ultimate objective	
			deaf culture in Kenya.'		
			(h) Promote and recognize	other law.	
			Country.	Constitution or any	
			language as a language in the	other cultures that do not contravene the	
			and integration of sign		
			recognition, promotion	200	i i
			development,	suppry.	
			'(g) Ensure that there is compliance in the		; <u> </u>
			as follows—	the public the demand	1
			clause 3(g) and clause 3(h)		
			2. Proposed amendment to	services in all places	
1				interpreters and as we plan to roll the SL	

-	T =	N. di 1	Notional Candon and	
5.	5	National Gender and	National Gender and	
		Equality Commission	Equality Commission	
		Commendable clause	This clause seeks to	
			entrench the Kenya Sign	
			Language as a language in	
			terms of the provisions of	
			the Constitution and also	
			define and recognize the	
			deaf community.	771 0 111
6.	6	National Gender and	National Gender and	The Committee
		Equality Commission	Equality Commission	adopted the proposed
0		Proposed redefinition of the	The law needs to be clear	amendments
		term 'presiding officer' or in	on who the responsibility	
		the alternative the most suited	rests on to ensure that sign	
1		officer who bears the greatest	language services are	
		responsibility.	procured and are also	
			accurate.	
			Is it the accounting	
			officer, the judge or	
		1		
			magistrate or the	
			recruiting panel in the	
			case of a permanent	
			employee?	
			Clause $6(1)$ is	* ,,
		,	commendable because it	, , , , ,
			allows any of the	
			enumerated parties to	
			communicate in their first	
			language without	
			discrimination.	
		F	3 S	
			Clause 6 (2) places the	
		5	onus on the presiding	
			officer to ensure that the	
			interpreter is competent.	
			However, there is a need	
			to be clear on whose	
			responsibility it is to get a	
			competent interpreter and	
		E.	for that matter to also be	
			clear on who is a	
			presiding officer.	
			prosiding officer.	
			The presiding officer may	
			not be able to make a	
			determination of the	
			accuracy of the	
		*	interpretation either way.	
			However, the preferable	
			option is to ensure that at	
			least one competent sign	
			language interpreter is	
Ц	.1	<u> </u>	migues interpreter is	L

				
			employed in a permanent	
	 	THE COURT OF THE C	position per station.	
7.	7	Mwangi Harrison Thiong'o	Mwangi Harrison	The Committee
		Proposed amendments to	Thiong'o	adopted the proposed
		enhance educational support for deaf learners	1. Provide free or highly	amendments from Mr
		dear learners	subsidized Hard	Thiong'o and NGEC
			copies of reading materials written in	
			normal English	
			language and of their	
			own choice to Deaf	a a
			and Hard of Hearing	
		·	especially those in	
			white collar	
			professions. This will	
			help them improve	
			their writing in normal	
	Ì		English syntax.	
		National Gender and	National Gender and	
		Equality Commission	Equality Commission	
		Proposed amendment to clause	Sign language interpreters	3 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2
		7(b) by inserting the words	need to be proficient in	
		'sign language interpreters and'	both languages i.e.	
		immediately after the word	English and Sign so that	
		''that'	none of the users of the	
	İ		two languages is	
			shortchanged through	
			wrong or in- coherent	
<u> </u>			interpretation.	
8.	8	Kenya Sign Language	Kenya Sign Language	The proposals made
		Interpreters Association	Interpreters Association	by the Council of
		Proposed amendment to clause	Clause 8 presumes that	Governors was
Ì		8.22. 1	only curriculum for	accepted
		· · · <u>· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · </u>	primary and secondary	
		4.0	schools need to be	
		* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	developed – it leaves out tertiary and higher	
			tertiary and higher education entities that	
		p = 0.00	develop their own	
	ļ	# · *	curriculum.	
		Council of Governors	Council of Governors	
		Proposed amendment to clause	Six months may be too	
		8(2 to read as follows—	short to develop the action	
٠.	y	'The Cabinet Secretary	plan as it includes	
		responsible for matters	possible commitments by	ii Para
	i	relating to persons with	the County Governments.	7
		disabilities shall, in	Further, a needs	
		consultation with the	assessment has to be	
		most representative	conducted to identify what	
		registered association for	the County Governments	

proposed national heritage should be the ministry where matters language is domiciled not any other ministry, KSL shouldn't			1 1 1	T. T	T
Persons with Disabilities and the Council of Governors, develop a Kenya Sign Language Action Plan within a year upon the commencement of this Act' P. Senya Sign Language Interpreters Association Proposed amendment to clause 9 Interpreters Association Proposed amendment to clause 9 Interpreters Association Clause 9 Interpreters Itike other professions need to be standardized by this body and not the ministry of social services and labor. National Gender and Equality Commission Astonal Gender and Equality Commission Development of national system of standards, accreditation and procedures is a multidisciplinary function and may need the inter-Agency Coordination Committee to work on the same. The two parties proposed i.e. the Ministry in charge of matters of disability and members of the deaf community may not handle the task by themselves. 10. 10			The state of the s	-	
9. 9 Kenya Sign Language Interpreters Association Proposed amendment to clause 9 National Gender and Equality Commission The Commission proposes to expand the accreditation ream to include members of the Interpreters in Committee. National Gender and Equality Commission The Commission proposes to expand the accreditation team to include members of the Interpreters in Committee. National Gender and Equality Commission The Commission proposes to expand the accreditation team to include members of the Interpreters in Committee. National Gender and Equality Commission The Commission proposes to expand the accreditation team to include members of the Interpreters in Committee. National Gender and Equality Commission The Commission proposes to expand the accreditation ream to include members of the Interpreters is a multi-disciplinary function and may need the inter-Agency Coordination Committee to work on the same. The two parties proposed i.e. the Ministry in charge of matters of disability and members of the deaf community may not handle the task by themselves. 10. 10 Kenya Sign Language of matters of disability and members of the deaf community may not handle the task by themselves. Kenya Sign Language interpreters Association the ministry where matters language is domiciled not any other ministry. Association laterpreters Association laterpret			<i>y</i>	_	
9. 9 Kenya Sign Language Action Plan within a year upon the commencement of this Act' 9. 19 Kenya Sign Language Interpreters Association Proposed amendment to clause 9 is in conflict with the mandate of Kenya National Accreditation Agency that is mandated with the provision of licensing criteria for professions – Interpreting like other professions incertor in the provision of licensing criteria for professions – Interpreting like other professions – Interpreting like other professions incertor in the provision of licensing criteria for professions – Interpreting like other professions in the provision of licensing criteria for professions – Interpreting like other professions in the provision of licensing criteria for professions – Interpreting like other professions in the provision of licensing criteria for professions – Interpreting like other professions in the provision of licensing criteria for professions – Interpreting like other professions in the provision of licensing criteria for professions – Interpreting like other professions in the provision of licensing criteria for professions – Interpreting like other professions – Interpreting like other professions in the provision of licensing criteria for professions – Interpreting like other professions – In			3	sign languages	
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matters language is domiciled not any other ministry, KSL shouldn't			proposed		0 0
domiciled not any other ministry, KSL shouldn't				-	
ministry, KSL shouldn't					Association
9 20 ²⁰ 0					
be the exception. It should				be the exception. It should	
be explicit that the					

			domicile ministry is	
			ministry of culture and	
			heritage and not ministry	
			of education.	
		National Gender and	National Gender and	
		Equality Commission	Equality Commission	
		Proposed amendment to clause	There is reference to two	
		10(1) by substituting section 8	Cabinet Secretaries i.e. of	
		with "subsection 9" and	Education and matters of	
		inserting after the word	disabilities in the Bill and	į
		"Secretary" the following	so mention to the term	
		words—	must be very clear and	
-		"for matters related to persons	assigned to a specific	
		with disabilities".	Ministry.	
		With disabilities .	At the same time there is a	
		Clauses 14 and 16 reference to	need to agree on which	
ļ		Cabinet Secretary to be	Cabinet Secretary is best	
		amended to refer to the	suited to implement this	
İ		"Secretary for matters related to	law.	
İ		persons with disabilities"	The main problem as	
		1 * 1	stated above is not in the	
		a grand	training of sign language	
			but rather the quality of	
			services to persons who	
ĺ		, ,	use sign language as their	
			first and only language.	
9			The Commission is of the	
			opinion that the Ministry	
			in charge of issues of	
			disability should be in	
			charge of implementation	
			of the Act.	
11.	16	Mwangi Harrison Thiong'o	Mwangi Harrison	The Committee
11.	10	Proposed amendment to clause	Thiong'o	adopted the proposed
		16	Provide Free or highly	amendments from Mr
			subsidized hearing aids	Thiong'o and rejected
			and hearing aid batteries	other proposals
			and other ancillary	
			services to Hard of	
			Hearing people. The costs	
			of these assistive devices	0
			are very high and many	
			people who suffer hearing	
			impairments cannot afford	
			them, the effect is that the	
			speech and language	
			deteriorate over a course	49
			of time. The assistive	
			devices are important	, '-
1			especially for learners in	

	1		-44:1	
			educational institutions,	
			employees in their workplaces and other	
			social settings	
			social settings	
		National Gender and	National Gender and	1
		Equality Commission	Equality Commission	
		The Commission proposes that		
		the functions be separated and	mandates and	
		responsibility of each level of		
	}	Government to be enumerated	The second control of the second control of	
		clearly as done in Clause 7 -	which need to be	
		Ministry of Education and	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	
		Clause 8.	lap and or neglect of	
			mandates for lack of	
		The Commission further	clarity.	
		proposes the inclusion of	1	
		obligations of the "Inter-		
	,	Agency Coordination		
		Committee" which has been		
		proposed in the interpretations.		
12.	17	Council of Governors	Council of Governors	The Committee
		Proposed amendment to clause	Inclusion of Vocational	accepted the proposals
		17(2) of the Bill to read as	Training Centres is key as	made by the Council
		follows	stand-alone institutions	of Governors
		'Kenyan sign language	since the Act mandates	
		shall be offered as a	both the National and	
		discipline of study at technical and vocational	County Governments.	
		training institutions and	E 19	
		centres, public colleges		
		and public universities.'		
13.	18	Kenya Sign Language	Kenya Sign Language	The Committee
	,	Interpreters Association	Interpreters Association	rejected the proposed
		Amendment to clause 18	the interpreters, deaf	amendments made by
			community through their	the KSLA
			associations should be the	,
			key stakeholders involved	
			in the action plan	,
		*	development in collaboration with the	
			council of governors,	
			national council for	
		*	persons with disabilities	
14.	Proposed	Kenya Association of Parents	Kenya Association of	All additional
	additional	of the Deaf	Parents of the Deaf	proposed clauses were
.	clause	Creation of an institute for the	The creation of a public	rejected by the
		hearing impaired whose	funded institute is a major	Committee
		mandate should include the	engagement and there are	

		Tau	1 0 0 1	T
		following—	many other facets of the	
		(a) Early assessment and	disability of hearing loss	
		rehabilitation of	that need to be considered	
		deafness	in addition to quality	
		(b) Provision of quality	interpretation services.	
		sign language training	interpretation services.	
1		and interpretation		
	i	(c) Provision of quality		
		education and		
		healthcare for hearing		
1		impaired persons		
		(d) Community, social and		
		economic integration		
		for the Deaf		
15.	Proposed	National Gender and	National Gender and	All additional
13.	additional		Equality Commission	proposed clauses were
		Equality Commission		
	clause	The Ministry of Health will	Persons with hearing	rejected by the
		ensure that all health facilities	impairment face a lot of	Committee
		have sign language	language barriers while	
		interpretation services through	seeking treatment in	
		the training of its employees at	health facilities in cases	ļ
		all levels	where they are not	
			accompanied by an aide	
			or facilities that do not	
		4 " 1	have interpretation	
			services. In summary the	
		, f (4)	system is discriminatory	
		. *	and they do not quality	
	1916	*	treatment due to the	× 4 ×
	·		Barriers.	
	č		In some cases, due to the	e, e, e, e
			inability to communicate	
			they are chased out of the	
ŀ		* " "	facility without being	
			attended to.	
16.	Proposed	National Gender and	National Gender and	All additional
	additional	Equality Commission	Equality Commission	proposed clauses were
	clause	The State Department of	The current public	rejected by the
		Transport to ensure all public	transport system is highly	Committee
		transport systems including	discriminative to deaf	
		buses, trains and air have either	persons right from the	
		a screen reader or monitor for		
			stations/ports stretching	
		the deaf and hard of hearing.	into the bus/aero	
			plane/train.	
			They are unable to follow	
1 1			any announcements being	
			made and without	
			interpretation it's	
			frustrating for them	
			especially when they	9
	3		don't have an aide.	
	<u> </u>		don thave an alde.	

17.	Proposed	National Gender and	National Gender and	All additional
-/•	additional	Equality Commission	Equality Commission	proposed clauses were
	clause	providers shall make their		rejected by the
		services accessible to the deaf,	to have access to	Committee
		hard of hearing, and deafblind	telecommunication	Committee
		community through the	services and so the	
		establishment and provision of		
		relay services, including text		
		relay, video relay, captioned	accessible formats.	
	5	telephone relay, and		
		communication facilitators for		
10	D 1	the deaf or deafblind.		
18.	Proposed	National Gender and	National Gender and	All additional
	additional	Equality Commission	Equality Commission	proposed clauses were
	clause	Communications Authority of	This ensures that this	rejected by the
		Kenya as a regulator shall	special group of persons	Committee
		ensure television stations	are able to enjoy all the	g
		provide closed captioning and a	important programs being	
		Kenyan Sign Language inset	aired and participate	
		covering at least one third of	where necessary without	
		the size of the television screen,	feeling left out and	
		in all newscasts, educational	discriminated.	
		and national programs, for the		
		purpose of ensuring equality,		
		dignity and respect in terms of		
	Ì	the promotion and broadcasting		
		of such programs.	4	

3. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following observations based on deliberations of the Bill and stakeholder input during public hearing and analysis of written submissions-

- 1) Deaf Community means a socio-linguistical cultural minority who use Kenyan Sign Language in their everyday communications and as a native/mother tongue, first or preferred language;
- 2) Kenyan Sign Language means a fully-fledged language that uses manual communication to convey meaning, as opposed to acoustically conveyed sound patterns. This can involve simultaneously combining hand shapes, orientation and movement of the hands, arms or body, and facial expressions to fluidly express a speaker's thoughts;
- 3) The Deaf Community faces barriers when interacting and integrating with the rest of the community in terms of communication. These barriers result in exclusion in employment, participation in the developmental activities of the society and also on miscarriage of justice;
- 4) There are very few institutions that train sign language interpreters and as such the roll out of Sign Language Interpretation services in all places that offer services may face challenges related to the public the demand that is not corresponding with the supply.

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26th July 2021

The Clerk of the Senate Parliament Buildings NAIROBI

COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENTS TO THE KENYA SIGN LANGUAGE BILL, 2021, SENATE BILL No. 5 of 2021

NOTICE is given that Sen. (Dr.) Alice Milgo, Chairperson, Standing Committee of Education intends to move the following amendments to the Kenya Sign Language Bill, Senate Bills No. 5 of 2021, at the Committee Stage—

CLAUSE 3

THAT clause 3 of the Bill be amended—

- (a) in sub-clause (d) by inserting the word "training" before the word "recognition"; and
- (b) by inserting the following new sub-clauses immediately after sub-clause (g) as follows-
 - (g) ensure that there is compliance in the development, recognition, promotion and integration of sign language as a language in the Country; and
 - (h) promote and recognize deaf culture in Kenya

PART II

THAT the title of the part be amended to read as follows- "KENYAN SIGN LANGUAGE"

CLAUSE 6

THAT clause 6 of the Bill be amended—

- (a) in sub-clause (2) by deleting the words "presiding officer" and substituting therefor with the words "judicial officer"; and
- (b) in sub-clause (3) by deleting the words "presiding officer" and substituting therefor with the words "judicial officer".

CLAUSE 7

THAT clause 7 of the Bill be amended by inserting the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph (i)

(h) ensure the provision of reading materials written in both English and Kiswahili for the educational support of the members of the Deaf Community

CLAUSE 8

THAT clause 8 of the Bill be amended by deleting sub-clause (2) and substituting therefor with the following new sub-clause:

(2) The Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters relating to persons with disabilities shall, in consultation with the most representative registered association for the deaf persons, National Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Council of Governors, develop a Kenya Sign Language Action Plan within a year upon the commencement of this Act.

CLAUSE 9

THAT clause 9 of the Bill be amended in sub-clause (1) by deleting and substituting therefor with the following new sub-clause—

(1) The Cabinet Secretary for matters relating to education shall in consultation with the Kenya National Accreditation Agency and members of the deaf community, develop a national system of standards, accreditation and procedures for Kenya sign language interpretation.

CLAUSE 10

THAT clause 10 of the Bill be amended—

- (a) in sub-clause (1) by inserting the words "responsible for culture and national heritage" immediately after the word 'Ministry'; and
- (b) in sub-clause (2) by inserting the words "responsible for culture and national heritage" immediately after the words "Cabinet Secretary".

CLAUSE 11

THAT clause 11 of the Bill be amended—

- (a) in sub-clause (1) by inserting the words "responsible for matters relating to culture and heritage" immediately after the words "Cabinet Secretary"; and
- (b) in sub-clause (2) by inserting the words "responsible for matters relating to culture and heritage" immediately after the word "Cabinet Secretary".

CLAUSE 16

THAT clause 16 be amended in sub-clause (1) by inserting a new paragraph immediately after (d) as follows—

(e) ensure the subsidization of hearing aids and other ancillary services to the deaf community

CLAUSE 17

THAT clause 17 of the Bill is amended by deleting sub-clause (2) and substituting therefor with the following sub-clause—

(2) Kenyan sign language shall be offered as a discipline of study at technical and vocational training institutions and centres, public colleges and public universities

CLAUSE 2

THAT clause 2 of the Bill be amended—

(a) by deleting the definition of the word "deaf community" and substituting therefor the following new definition-

"deaf community" means a socio-linguistical cultural minority who use Kenyan Sign Language in their everyday communications and as a native/mother tongue, first or preferred language;

(b) by inserting the following new definition-

"deaf culture" means the way deaf people interact and includes a set of social beliefs, behaviours, art, literary traditions, history, values and shared institutions of communities that are influenced by deafness;

(c) by deleting the definition of the word "relevant public authority" and substituting therefor the following new definition-

"relevant public authority" includes any entity established by the Constitution, an Act of Parliament or any other law;

(d) by deleting the definition of the word "Cabinet Secretary";

The second secon

Sen. (Dr.) Alice Milgo Chairperson, Standing Committee on Education.

(038)

MINUTES OF THE 38th SITTING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION HELD ON FRIDAY, 18th JUNE, 2021 ON ZOOM ONLINE MEETING PLATFORM AT 0900HRS. PRESENT

1.	Hon. Sen.	(Dr.) Alice Milgo,	MP -	Chairperson
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2. Hon. Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, CBS, MP - Vice Chairperson

3. Hon. Sen. Fred Outa, MP - Member

4. Hon. Sen. Mary Y. Seneta, MP - Member

5. Hon. Sen. Iman Falhada Dekow, MP - Member

6. Hon. Sen. (Dr.) Gertrude Musuruve, MP - Member

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

7. Hon. Sen. Mwangi Githiomi, MP - Member

8. Hon. Sen. (Prof.) Kithure Kindiki, EGH, MP - Member

9. Hon. Sen. (Prof.) Imana Malachy Ekal, MP - Member

SENATE SECRETARIAT

1. Mary J. Chesire - Deputy Director, Committee Services

2. Humphrey Ringera - Research Officer/Clerk

3. Malcom Ngugi - Legal Counsel

4. Winnie Atieno - Audio Officer

MIN. NO./SEN/EDU/231/2021

PRELIMINARIES

The meeting was called to order at 0908hrs. and the proceedings were opened with a word of prayer said by Sen. Mary Seneta, MP.

MIN. NO./SEN/EDU/232/2021

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of the meeting was adopted having been proposed by Sen. Mary Seneta, MP and seconded by Sen. Fred Outa, MP as follows:

- 1. Preliminaries
- 2. Adoption of agenda
- 3. Consideration of the **Public Submissions** on the following Bills
 - a. Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, Senate Bill No. 4 of 2021;
 - b. Kenyan Sign Language Bill, Senate Bill No 5 of 2021; and
 - c. The County Vocational Education and Training Bill, Senate Bills No. 6 of 2021.
- 4. Any other business
- 5. Adjournment/Date of the next meeting

MIN. NO./SEN/EDU/233/2021 CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

1. The Committee was informed that at the sitting of the Senate held on Tuesday, 11th May, 2021, three Senate Bills were introduced in the Senate by way of First Reading and thereafter stood committed

- to the Committees for consideration. These Bills are, Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, Senate Bill No. 4 of 2021; the Kenyan Sign Language Bill, Senate Bill No 5 of 2021; and the County Vocational Education and Training Bill, Senate Bills No. 6 of 2021;
- 2. The Committee was informed that the Kenyan Sign Language Bill was first published in 2019 and read a first time in the Senate on 11th September, 2019, while the Basic Education (Amendment) Bill was first published in 2020 and read a first time in the Senate on 17th September, 2020. The two Bills were thereafter committed to the Senate Standing Committee on Education for consideration after respective first reading;
- 3. The Committee was further informed that some of the stakeholder proposals and submissions on various clauses of the Kenyan Sign Language Bill had been adopted and incorporated in the Committee report and Committee stage amendments carried out in 2020 during the consideration of the Bill at the Committee of the Whole House;
- 4. However, on 29th October, 2020, the High Court in Nairobi ruled that several Senate Bills that were under consideration at various stages had been processed without concurrence in terms of Article 110 (3) of the Constitution. Consequently, the Kenyan Sign Language Bill and the Basic Education (Amendment) Bill were among many Senate Bills that were republished and have since commenced consideration again from the first reading.

1) Basic Education (Amendment) Bill, Senate Bill No. 4 of 2021

- 5. The Committee was informed that submissions on the Bill had received from the Council of Governors and the National Gender and Equality Commission.
- 6. The Secretariat presented a public participation matrix for the Bill and the Committee rejected proposal by the Council of Governors.
- 7. However, the Committee observed that the proposal by the National Gender and Equality Commission that the 'proposed amendment to consider learners who may be lactose intolerant' should be considered and that the government should provide an alternative for learners with special needs which cannot take dairy products especially children with autism and intolerance to casein.

2) Kenyan Sign Language Bill, Senate Bill No 5 of 2021;

8. The Secretariat presented a public participation matrix for the Kenyan Sign Language Bill, 2021 and the Committee **resolved** to **adop**t the proposal to

- a. clause 2, by Kenyan Sign Language Interpreters Association and the National Gender and Equality Commission;
- b. clause 3, by the National Gender and Equality Commission
- c. Title of the Part (PART II), by the Kenya Sign Language Interpreters Association;
- d. clause 6, by the National Gender and Equality Commission;
- e. clause 7, by Mwangi Harrison Thiong'o;
- f. clause 9, by National Gender and Equality Commission;
- g. clause 10, by Kenya Sign Language Interpreters Association;
- h. clause 17, by the Council of Governors
- 9. the Committee further **resolved** to **reject** all other proposed amendments to the Bill.

MIN. NO./SEN/EDU/234/2021 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee observed that the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) had proposed several additional amendments to the Basic Education Act, No. 14 of 2013 which can be considered for processing through the legislative process by the Committee or individual members.

MIN.NO./SEN/EDU/235/2021 ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1035 hrs.

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SIGNED..

......DATE...09/07/2021.....

(CHAIRPERSON: SEN. (DR.) ALICE MILGO CHEPKORIR, M.P.)

(046)

MINUTES OF THE 46th SITTING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION HELD ON FRIDAY, 23rd JULY, 2021 ON ZOOM ONLINE MEETING PLATFORM AT 0900HRS.

PRESENT

1. Hon. Sen. (Dr.) Alice Milgo, MP - Chairperson

2. Hon. Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, CBS, MP - Vice Chairperson

3. Hon. Sen. Mwangi Githiomi, MP

- Member

- Member

4. Hon. Sen. Mary Y. Seneta, MP - Member 5. Hon. Sen. Iman Falhada Dekow, MP - Member

6. Hon. Sen. (Dr.) Gertrude Musuruve, MP

- Member

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

7. Hon. Sen. Fred Outa, MP - Member

8. Hon. Sen. (Prof.) Kithure Kindiki, EGH, MP - Member

9. Hon. Sen. (Prof.) Imana Malachy Ekal, MP - Member

SENATE SECRETARIAT

1. Mary Chesire - Deputy Director, Committee Services

2. Humphrey Ringera - Research Officer/Clerk

3. Malcom Ngugi - Legal Counsel4. Winnie Atieno - Audio Officer

MIN. NO./SEN/EDU/277/2021

PRELIMINARIES

The meeting was called to order at 09: 09 AM and the proceedings were opened with a word of prayer said by the Chairperson Sen. (Dr.) Alice Milgo, MP.

MIN. NO./SEN/EDU/278/2021

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of the meeting was adopted having been proposed by Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, CBS, MP and seconded by Sen. Falhada Dekow, MP as follows:

- 1. Preliminaries
- 2. Adoption of agenda
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Committee meetings
- 4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meetings
- 5. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Committee Reports
- 6. Any other business
- 7. Adjournment/Date of the next meeting

MIN. NO./SEN/EDU/279/2021

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. The Minutes of the 43rd Committee meeting held on Thursday, 8th July, 2021 were confirmed as the true records of the proceedings after being proposed by Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, CBS, MP and seconded by Sen. (Dr.) Gertrude Musuruve, MP; and

2. The Minutes of the 44th Committee meeting held on Friday, 9th July, 2021 were confirmed as the true records of the proceedings after being proposed by Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, CBS, MP and seconded by Sen. (Dr.) Gertrude Musuruve, MP.

MIN. NO./SEN/EDU/280/2021 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous Committee meetings.

MIN. NO./SEN/EDU/281/2021

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. The Kenyan Sign Language Bill, 2021

- **a.** The Secretariat presented a draft report on the Kenyan Sign Language (Senate Bills No. 5 of) 2021 for the Committee consideration and adoption;
- **b.** The Committee considered the draft report and observed the following
 - i. The definition of Kenya Signed English should not be deleted;
 - ii. Part II should read KENYAN SIGN LANGUAGE;
 - iii. Clause 7 (b) proposed by National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) should be adopted;
- c. The Committee unanimously adopted the Kenyan Sign Language Bill, 2021 report with amendments;
- **d.** The report was proposed by Sen. (Dr.) Gertrude Musuruve, MP and seconded by Sen. Falhada Dekow, MP

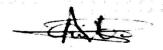
MIN. NO./SEN/EDU/282/2021 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i The Committee should deliberate the proposed county visits and come up with a list of preferable counties and possible dates for the visit in advance to allow sufficient time for planning; and
- ii The Committee should consider conducting some meetings physically based on the nature of business to the transacted.

MIN.NO./SEN/EDU/283/2021

ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1027 hrs.



SIGNED....

.....DATE...25/07/2021...

(CHAIRPERSON: SEN. (DR.) ALICE MILGO CHEPKORIR, M.P.)

MATRIX OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THE KENYA SIGN LANGUAGE BILL, 2021

	1.	19
	•	No.
	2	CLAUSE NUMBER
	Interpretation	MARGINAL NOTE
1. Proposed amendment to the reference to cabinet secretary because the latter parts of the bill refers to three specific ministries— a. Ministry of Education dealing with issues of education b. Ministry of legal affairs or specific reference to the judiciary on issues of administration of justice c. Ministry of culture and heritage on issues of language, interpretation and translations 2. definition of "Kenya signed English" should be deleted 3. Definition of the term 'Deaf Community' should be amended 4. Proposed amendment to the term 'Kenya Sign Language'	Kenya Sign Language Interpreters	KEY AMENDMENT/COMMENT
1. Clarification on which Cabinet Secretary and Ministry should carry out which function 2. there is no language referred to as signed English or Kiswahili for that matter – the language preferred and used by the Deaf communities in Kenya is/shall remain to be Kenyan Sign Language (KSL) 3. Deaf Community means a sociolinguistical cultural minority who use Kenyan Sign Language in their everyday communications and as a native/mother tongue, first or preferred language. 4. Kenyan Sign Language means a fully-fledged language that uses manual communication to convey meaning, as opposed to acoustically conveyed sound patterns. This can involve simultaneously combining hand shapes, orientation and movement of the hands, arms or body, and facial expressions to fluidly express a speaker's thoughts.	Kenya Sign Language Interpreters	JUSTIFICATION
signed English" 2. The Committee accepted the other proposals made to it	1. Committee rejected the proposal to	COMMENTS OF THE

1. Proposed amendment to the term "clabinet Secretary". The term "Cabinet Secretary" I. The main problem faced by the deaf appears 16 times and it issued interchangeably between the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Cabinet Secretary Responsible for issues of disability. The Commission proposes that the Cabinet Secretary Responsible for issues of disability. The Commission proposes that the Cabinet Secretary Responsible for issues of disability. The Commission proposes that the Cabinet Secretary Responsible for issues of disability. The Commission proposes that the Cabinet Secretary Responsible for issues of disability. The Commission proposes that the Cabinet Secretary Responsible for issues of disability. The Commission proposes that the Cabinet Secretary Responsible for issues of communication. The Commission proposes that the Cabinet Secretary Responsible for issues of disability. The communication. These barriers result in exclusion in the communication. The commission proposes that the Cabinet Sign language but the barriers result in exclusion in the Occupancy of interpretation structions with the State including the Council for Persons with Disability, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of ICT, Kenya Communications Authority and Public trainers of Sign Language, County Governments and other non-state Actors. 2. The term "Means" is open and shut and in this proposed Bill it may be interpreted to mean National and County Government only instead of all public entities interpretation should be amended to read including Departments and Agencies and onn-state actors who include the organizations of deaf persons and service are officed in all non-state actors who include the organizations of Human and People's behaviours, art, literary traditions, history, values and shred institutions of approved by the Cabinet for Ratification.				
Commiss 1. The n commusign la interacthe commuThese emplodevelo and a Hearin the on solved Departhas tinterproplaces coordinates only include non-organi provid 3. The de Rights Disabi	3. Proposed addition of term 'deaf culture' which shall mean the way deaf people interact. It includes a set of social beliefs, behaviours, art, literary traditions, history, values and shared institutions of communities that are influenced by deafness.	2. Proposed amendment to the term 'relevant public authority'. The interpretation should be amended to read "include" but not "mean"."	responsible for issues be the one in charge ng this Act. pose establishment of an "I Coordination Committ all the relevant play he Council for Persons versions of Educat ICT, Kenya Communicati and Public trainers of Scounty Governments and octors.	1. Proposed amendment to the term 'Cabinet Secretary'. The term "Cabinet Secretary" appears 16 times and it isused interchangeably between the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Cabinet Secretary Responsible for issues of disability.
in the case of the				Commission 1. The main problem faced by the deaf community is not only on the training of sign language but the barriers faced when interacting and integrating with the rest of the community in terms of communication. These barriers result in exclusion in

3. Title of SIGN Part SIGN LANGUAGE	2. 3 Objects	
Kenya Sign Language Interpreters Association Proposed amendment to the wording of 'PART II—KENYA SIGN LANGUAGE' and the same phrase to be repeated consistently in this section	National Gender and Equality Commission 1. Proposed amendment to clause 3(d) by inserting the word "training" before the word "recognition". 2. Proposed amendment to clause 3(g) and clause 3(h) as follows— '(g) Ensure that there is compliance in the development, recognition, promotion and integration of sign language as a language in the Country. (h) Promote and recognize deaf culture in Kenya.' 3. The Commission proposes a section on offences and compliance be inserted	and which use sign languages as the main means of communication.
Association The judiciary already defines the languages to be used for proceedings in the courts of law, where the parties do not understand national or official languages there is provision of interpreters – it is therefore redundant to introduce a specific language away from the norm of the Deaf community.	Commission 1. There are very few institutions that train sign languages, interpreters and as we plan to roll the SLI services in all places that offer services to the public the demand must correspond to the supply. 2. Deaf culture needs to be recognized just like other cultures that do not contravene the Constitution or any other law. 3. The ultimate objective of enacting of a law is regulation of a matter and enforcement of compliance.	Article 24(2)(c) of the Protocol obligates State parties to recognize and promote the use of sign languages and deaf culture.
The Committee adopted the proposed changes	Proposed amendments adopted by the Committee	

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	'n	4.
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Use o in legs	Duty o authorities	Recog
Use of sign languagin legal proceedings	of rities	Recognition
Use of sign language in legal proceedings	public	
		CN
National Gender and Equality Commission Proposed redefinition of the term 'presiding officer' or in the alternative the most suited officer who bears the greatest responsibility.	National Gender and Equality Commission Commendable clause	National Gender and Commendable clause
Gender redefin the o bears	Gender able cla	Gender able cla
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National Gender and Equality Commission Proposed redefinition of the term 'presiding officer' or in the alternative the most suited officer who bears the greatest responsibility.	nission	National Gender and Equality Commission Commendable clause
National Commiss The law responsib language accurate. Is it the magistrat of a perm Clause 6 allows a communi discrimin Clause 6 officer to competer clear on competer also be cl	National Commis This clau Languag provisior define an	National Commis This clau Language provisior define an
Commission The law need responsibility language servi accurate. Is it the accomagistrate or the of a permanent Clause 6(1) if allows any of communicate if discrimination. Clause 6 (2) plo officer to end competent. Ho clear on whose competent interals also be clear or or competent interals of the compete	National Commission Chis clause se This clause as Language as provisions of	National Commission This clause so Language as Provisions of
Commission The law needs to be clear on who the responsibility rests on to ensure that sign language services are procured and are also accurate. Is it the accounting officer, the judge or magistrate or the recruiting panel in the case of a permanent employee? Clause 6(1) is commendable because it allows any of the enumerated parties to communicate in their first language without discrimination. Clause 6 (2) places the onus on the presiding officer to ensure that the interpreter is competent. However, there is a need to be clear on whose responsibility it is to get a competent interpreter and for that matter to also be clear on who is a presiding officer.	National Gender and Equality Commission This clause seeks to entrench the Kenya Sign Language as a language in terms of the provisions of the Constitution and also define and recognize the deaf community.	National Gender and Equality Commission This clause seeks to entrench the Kenya Sign Language as a language in terms of the provisions of the Constitution and also define and recognize the deaf community.
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The Commit amendments	į	The Corchanges
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The Committee adopted the proposed amendments		The Committee adopted the proposed changes
<u> </u>		<u>g</u>

oy the Kenya Sign Language Interpreters Association	Association the ministry of culture and national heritage should be the ministry where matters	Association Amendment to clause 10 proposed	language interpreters		
mittee rejected the	Kenya Sign Language Interpreters	Kenya Sign Language Interpreters	Registration of sign	10	10.
	Of the deaf community may not handle the task by themselves.				
	The two parties proposed i.e. the Ministry in charge of matters of disability and members				
	work on the same.				
	inter-Agency Coordination Committee to				
	standards, accreditation and procedures is a	Inter Agency Coordination Committee.			
	Development of national system of	accreditation team to include members of the		-	
	ion	The Commission proposes to expand the			
	National Gender and Equality	National Gender and Equality Commission		***	
	services and labor.				
	this body and not the ministry of social				
	other professions need to be standardized by				
	mandaled with the provision of itemsting like				
	Kenya National Accreditation Agency that is				
	Clause 9 is in conflict with the mandate of	Proposed amendment to clause 9	procedures		
were accepted by the Committee	Association	Association	accreditation and		
The proposals made by the NGEC	Kenya Sign Language Interpreters	Kenya Sign Language Interpreters	Standards,	9	9.
		upon the commencement of this Act'			
		Governors, develop a Kenya Sign	z.		
		Disabilities and the Council of			
	mainstreaming sign languages	iation for the deaf	-		
	Governments have already done in terms of	most representative registered			

15.					
15	14	5	3	ا	
Code of conduct	Inspection of register	registration	nterprete	3	
					National Gender and Equality Commission Proposed amendment to clause 10(1) by substituting section 8 with "subsection 9" and inserting after the word "Secretary" the following words— "for matters related to persons with disabilities". Clauses 14 and 16 reference to Cabinet Secretary to be amended to refer to the "Secretary for matters related to persons with disabilities"
					National Gender and Equality Commission There is reference to two Cabinet Secretaries i.e. of Education and matters of disabilities in the Bill and so mention to the term must be very clear and assigned to a specific Ministry. At the same time there is a need to agree on which Cabinet Secretary is best suited to implement this law. The main problem as stated above is not in the training of sign language but rather the quality of services to persons who use sign language as their first and only language. The Commission is of the opinion that the Ministry in charge of issues of disability should be in charge of implementation of the Act.

		Amendment to clause 18	,		
amendments made by the KSLA			sign language	27	
The Committee rejected the proposed	Kenya Sign Language Interpreters	Kenya Sign Language Interpreters	Action plan for Kenya	18	18.
		universities.		0	
		centres, public colleges and public			
		vocational training institutions and			
	Governments.	a discipline of study at technical and			
	mandates both the National and County	'Kenyan sign language shall be offered as			
	key as standalone institutions since the Act	Bill to read as follows			
made by the Council of Governors	Inclusion of Vocational Training Centres is	Proposed amendment to clause 17(2) of the	sign language		
The Committee accepted the proposals	Council of Governors	Council of Governors	Promotion of Kenya	17	17.
		proposed in the interpretations.			
		Coordination Committee" which has been			
		inclusion of obligations of the "Inter-Agency	n		
		The Commission further proposes the			
	clarity.				
	lap and or neglect of mandates for lack of			-	
	which need to be enumerated to avoid over-	in Clause 7 – Ministry of Education and Clause			
	responsibilities which they are accountable	Government to be enumerated clearly as done	444		
	Each entity has distinct mandates and	be separated and responsibility of each level of			
	Commission	The Commission proposes that the functions		*	
	National Gender and Equality	National Gender and Equality Commission			
	Condon and	Notional Condor and Fauglity Commission			
	=				
	important especially for learners in				
	a course of time. The assistive devices are				
	that the speech and language deteriorate over				
	impairments cannot afford them, the effect is				
	high and many people who suffer hearing				
ė	The costs of these assistive devices are very		a.		<u></u>
	ancillary services to Hard of Hearing people.				
rejected other proposals	aids and hearing aid batteries and other				
amendments from Mr Thiong'o and	Provide Free or highly subsidized hearing	Proposed amendment to clause 16	workplace		
The Committee adopted the proposed	Mwangi Harrison Thiong'o	Mwangi Harrison Thiong'o	Sign language at the	16	16.