

✓ Trade, tourism and Lake Basin agency benefit as MPs re-allocate Sh3.9 billion

BY EDWIN MUTAI

Trade, tourism and the Lake Basin Development Authority topped the list of beneficiaries as MPs made a last minute re-allocation of Sh3.9 billion in the 2016/17 Budget.

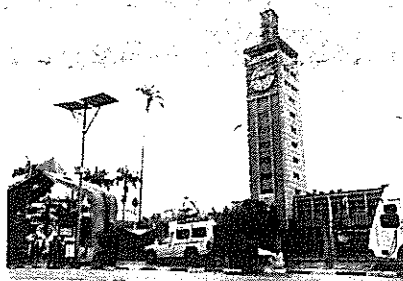
In the adjustments, the Budget and Appropriations Committee increased the budget of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment by Sh1.2 billion.

The committee split Sh100 million between Numerical Machining Complex and Kisumu Cotton Millers. The balance of Sh980 million was allocated to the Standards and Business Incubation.

The committee allocated the Tourism ministry Sh1.1 billion out of which Sh600 million will be used for onwards lending by the Tourism Finance Corporation. The Ronald Ngala Utalii College received Sh200 million for construction and civil works.

The trade development and promotion got Sh300 million which will go towards construction of access road to Meru National Park.

The Lake Basin Development Authority received Sh1.59 billion that will be used to settle a bank loan which was secured for the construction of a mall in Kisumu. This follows a threat from the Co-operative Bank



Parliament Buildings in Nairobi. FILE

to auction the agency's headquarters to recover the Sh2.5 billion the bank loaned the authority to build the mall.

The MPs also effected cuts on the Treasury budget by reducing its capital expenditure by Sh1.2 billion.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission lost Sh400 million meant for legal fees and printing, advertising and information supplies and services under voter education. The Ministry of Health lost Sh250 million for standards and regulations while State House affairs programme lost Sh25 million on its recurrent vote.

The Ministry of Agriculture budget was reduced by Sh350 million under the crop development management programme meant for fertiliser subsidy.

Vocational training school to open next year in Dandora

BY KIARIE NJOROGE

About 100 youth will be admitted to an upcoming vocational training school in Dandora to learn vehicle maintenance, fashion design and garment making technology to boost community-based businesses.

Construction of the Sh180 million school at Dandora Primary School has commenced with the first intake expected before June next year. The centre will target students who score a mean grade below D in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) and do not qualify for professional courses.

"In supporting the establishment of the centre, we hope to encourage the development of successful, community-operated businesses that have a genuinely positive local impact," Chang-Muk Choi of Kia Motors Corporation said.

"It is our hope that the centre will help alleviate unemployment, particularly among the young and provide a valuable service to people who rely on absolute vehicle reliability for their day-to-day livelihood."

Kia Motors is among firms funding the school alongside Korea International Cooperation Agency, Nairobi County government and Good Neighbours Kenya.