



**THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - FOURTH SESSION**  
**KENYA WOMEN SENATORS' ASSOCIATION**

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**Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the CA 750 Strategy Implementation Action Plan**

**Villa Rosa Kempinski, Nairobi**  
**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**

***Theme: “Accelerating Women’s Political Leadership: From 115 to 750 MCAs in 2027”***

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***Honourable Colleagues,***

***Esteemed Guests,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

It is my great honour to stand before you today on behalf of the Chairperson of the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA) — an association dedicated to advancing the visibility, influence, and effectiveness of women in political leadership across our great nation;

Allow me, at the outset, to sincerely acknowledge the support and partnership of our collaborators and conveners—the County Assembly Forum, Echo Network Africa, the Democracy Trust Fund, Hanns Seidel Foundation, UN Women, the Council of Governors and the Office of the Registrar of Parties;

Your unwavering commitment to gender-responsive governance and inclusive political development has made forums like this one possible, and your work continues to empower women leaders at all levels;

We gather today at a moment of both reflection and ambition;



With just 115 women Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) currently serving, we have set a bold but necessary target—to increase that number to 750 women MCAs by the year 2027;

This is not a mere numerical goal but a national priority;

Because when women lead—governance becomes more inclusive, policy priorities become more people-centered, and democracy grows. The inclusion of women in political leadership is not charity—it is justice;

Yet despite the constitutional gains we have made, many women in politics still face many systemic barriers including: a patriarchal culture that undermines women's potential; electoral violence and gender-based harassment; unfair and opaque party nomination processes; chronic underfunding of women's campaigns; media bias and lack of visibility; and, perhaps most disappointingly, limited solidarity across political divides;

But we are not without solutions: As KEWOSA, we are committed to working collaboratively to dismantle the barriers and challenges that women in politics face;

We stand ready to work in close collaboration with the Women Caucuses in County Assemblies, with political parties, civil society, the private sector, and development partners to drive this agenda forward;

We envision:

- a) Joint mentorship and capacity-building programs for aspiring women leaders at the grassroots level.
- b) Joint support mechanisms to reduce the economic and social barriers to women's political participation.
- c) Strategic engagements with political parties to secure more women on the ballot—not just as nominees, but as contenders and winners.
- d) And most importantly, a nationwide movement that normalizes and celebrates women's leadership in every space.

The Constitution is clear: Article 81(b) upholds the not-more-than-two-thirds gender principle. Article 27 guarantees equal treatment. Yet, as we know too well, implementation remains our greatest challenge—and our greatest opportunity. We must now go further than commitments. We must act;



We must invest in young women's leadership journeys long before elections are announced;

We must reform party nomination practices to reflect fairness and merit;

We must build coalitions that last—across institutions, counties, and generations;

And we must never lose sight of the vision: a Kenya where women in politics are not the exception—they are the norm;

Let us be inspired by our neighbours: Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda—countries where women are not only present, but leading. Let us be bold enough to believe that Kenya can—and must—do better;

This is not the work of one association or one institution. It is the work of all of us—because the full realization of women's leadership is not a women's issue, it is a national imperative;

As KEWOSA, we are committed to walking hand-in-hand with all like-minded actors to ensure that no woman walks this journey alone. We must be deliberate, we must be strategic, and we must be unrelenting.

From 115 to 750: it is possible. It is necessary. And it begins with us.

Let us rise, lead, and transform Kenya together.

**Asanteni sana. Mungu awabariki.**

**SEN. BETTY MONTET, M.P.**  
**ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON, KEWOSA**

