



The Clerk of the Senate
Parliament Buildings
P.O. BOX 41842-00100
NAIROBI
Email: csenate@parliament.go.ke

RE: PETITION TO THE SENATE CONCERNING HISTORICAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE ABASUBA COMMUNITY OF WESTERN KENYA

We, the undersigned,

Citizens of the Republic of Kenya, and members of the Abasuba Community of western Kenya;

*Mr. Mungu
Kinyo review
and Facilitator
as appropriate
D. Chama
6/6/18*

DRAW the attention of the Senate to the following:

1. That, Article 11 of the Constitution recognizes culture as the foundation of the nation and as the cumulative civilization of the Kenyan people and nation;
2. That, the said Article further obligates the State to promote all forms of national and cultural expression through literature, the arts, traditional celebrations, science, communication, information, mass media, publications, libraries and other cultural heritage;
3. That, Article 44(1) of the Constitution grants to every Kenyan the right to use the language, and to participate in the cultural life, of the person's choice.
4. That, The Abasuba community has faced serious historical injustice and violation of human rights as a community and has gradually disappeared due to introduction of Luo language as medium of instruction in Basuba schools both in pre-primary and primary;
5. That, according to a Press Release by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development in April 2018, the indigenous language to be taught in Suba primary schools as from 1st January 2019 will be dholuo. This will not be accepted as it will kill our language (Basuba) completely;
6. That, by way of a Gazette Notice in 1994 which also created Suba District, the Basuba was recognized as one of the Kenyan tribes. The Notice further directed the then Kenya Institute of Education to publish learning books in Suba language. This is yet to be implemented to date;

*Mr. Chama
Please deal
05/06/18*

*DLPS
Please deal
[Signature]*


7. **That**, according to the **UNESCO Red Book Of Languages In Danger reports**, the Basuba comprise one of 13 Kenyan tribes in danger of disappearing or becoming extinct due to a dominant neighbour, in this case the Luo ethnic group;
8. **That**, the Press Release of April 2018 by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development is likely to accelerate the disappearance of the Basuba language and the Suba way of life.
9. **That**, we have made the best efforts to have these matters addressed by the relevant authorities all of which have failed to give a satisfactory response; and
10. **That**, none of these issues raised in this Petition is pending in any court of Law, Constitutional or any other legal body.

REASONS WHEREFORE, your humble petitioners pray that the Senate investigates this matter and makes appropriate recommendations thereon, with a view to -

- a) ensuring that the rights of Abasuba and other endangered communities are protected by ensuring that the Kenyan government have an affirmative action towards protecting human language in danger of disappearing;
- b) allocating funds and instructing Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development directs authors and publishers of pre-primary and primary learning materials to publish learning materials in Suba language for learners in Suba primary schools, so as to protect the language from extinction; and
- c) comes up with a bill hereafter to be known as **Endangered Languages Bill** that will protect, promote and ensure that the thirteen Kenyan endangered languages are free from endangerment.

Dated this 5th day of June2018.

| No | NAME | ADDRESS | I.D. No. | SIGNATURE |
|----|---|--------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| 1. | WENDETTI R. JAGWASSI (CHAIRMAN - GPS) | 1373-00100 NBI | 626055 | [Signature] |
| 2. | GODFREY JELAH SEC. GPS - GPS | 4222(-00100 GPS - NRB | 23813960 | [Signature] |
| 3. | JOSEPH OPANGA | | 4011148 | [Signature] |

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|----|---------------|--------------------|----------|---|
| 4. | GEORGE WAGAKA | 22005-00400 NRB | 20072235 |  |
| 5. | | | | |
| 6. | | | | |

Counter signed by Senator Samson Cherarkey, Senator for Nandi County.

Sen. Samson Cherarkey, MP,
Senator for Nandi County

Chairperson, Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights