



MILESTONE **BADGE**

www.milestonebadge.co.ke

KENYAN LEADERS' DEVELOPMENT RECORD

REPORT NO. 011

**What Okiya
Omtatah
has done
as Busia
Senator
since 2022**



OKIYA OMTATAH PROFILE

Hon. Andrew Okiya Omtatah Okoiti
Senator for Busia County



Hon. Andrew Okiya Omtatah Okoiti is the current Senator for Busia County, having been elected to the Senate in the 2022 General Election. He is serving his first term in the Senate and is a member of the National Reconstruction Alliance (NRA) party.

Before entering elective politics, Omtatah was known for his work as a human rights activist and public-interest litigant. His activities included bringing cases before Kenyan courts on matters relating to constitutionalism, governance, public institutions and the protection of public interests. Court records identify him as a petitioner and human rights defender in a number of public-interest proceedings.

Omtatah's education includes a diploma from Kenya Polytechnic, where he studied between 1988 and 1990. His earlier education included studies at Tudunyo College and secondary education at St. Peter's Secondary School. The Parliament of Kenya also lists him as an Honorary Fellow in Writing of the University of Iowa in the United States.

His professional career began outside elective politics. He worked as a loss adjuster at Kenya National Assurance between 1991 and 1995 and had been self-employed since

1996. His public profile subsequently became closely associated with human rights advocacy and public-interest litigation.

Omtatah has been involved in a range of court cases concerning public administration, constitutional provisions and the use or protection of public resources.

He entered elective politics by contesting the Busia senatorial seat in the 2017 General Election. He was subsequently elected Senator for Busia County in the 2022 General Election, beginning his current parliamentary career in September 2022.

In the 13th Parliament, Omtatah has served on several Senate committees, including the Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Standing Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and Regional Integration, and the Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism.

His parliamentary work has included raising matters through Senate statements, committee proceedings and debates. Subjects associated with his interventions include governance, public accountability, healthcare, education, agriculture, devolution and trade.

Parliamentary records also document

his participation in committee inquiries and oversight activities involving public institutions and development projects.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Trade, Industrialisation and Tourism, Omtatah has participated in engagements with industry stakeholders and inspections of economic and industrial facilities.

His Senate record also includes interventions on matters affecting Busia County. In addition to his county-related work, Omtatah has raised issues concerning national institutions and policies, reflecting the Senate's wider legislative and oversight mandate.

In Senate proceedings, he has described himself as a Senator from Busia serving in the national Parliament rather than as a representative confined to county matters.

Omtatah's career therefore spans professional employment, human rights advocacy, public-interest litigation and elective public service.

Since his election to the Senate in 2022, his work has combined representation of the people of Busia County with participation in national legislative, oversight and committee processes.

Okiya Omtatah's fight to provide jobs for Kenyan youth

Report ID: MB-2026-10-00103-A1 |
Milestone Badge

Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah's contribution to Kenya's jobs and employment takes a different path from conventional job-creation programmes.

Rather than running direct employment schemes, the senator, who is also a public-interest litigator, has focused on the rules governing access to jobs, particularly in the public sector.

Hon. Omtatah's approach is anchored on constitutional compliance, merit, transparency and equal opportunity. Through court petitions, public advocacy and interventions on behalf of unemployed Kenyans, the Busia Senator has challenged recruitment practices that he argues can lock qualified citizens out of employment.

His contribution to job creation is therefore largely about opening access to existing opportunities, promoting fair hiring processes and protecting job seekers, while highlighting structural problems that continue to keep young Kenyans out of employment.

Challenging unfair recruitment

One of Hon. Omtatah's most significant areas of intervention has been public-sector recruitment.

He has taken institutions to court over appointments and recruitment processes, arguing that public bodies must comply with the Constitution and relevant labour laws.

A notable example involved the recruitment of a Chief Executive Officer and General Manager at the Northern Water Works Development Agency. In a 2021 judgment, the Employment and Labour Relations Court found that the recruitment exercise had failed

to meet the requirements of the Mwongozo guidelines and ordered that the process begin afresh, with greater disclosure and public participation at the shortlisting stage.

The case illustrates the principle that has characterised much of Hon. Omtatah's work: public jobs should

be accessible through transparent and competitive processes rather than being reserved for people with connections within government institutions.

For young graduates without political or family networks in government, open recruitment can make the difference between having

an opportunity to compete and being excluded before a vacancy is even known to them.

Opening public jobs to wider competition

Hon. Omtatah has also challenged recruitment practices that give preference to internal candidates at the expense of qualified Kenyans outside an institution.

His petitions have invoked constitutional protections on equality and non-discrimination as well as provisions of employment law. His argument is that public institutions should give qualified Kenyans a fair opportunity to compete for vacancies through open and transparent recruitment.

The issue is significant in a country where thousands of young people enter the labour market every year amid intense competition for formal employment.

The senator's interventions are therefore not necessarily about creating a new position. Instead, they seek to ensure that when a public job exists, it is genuinely open to qualified applicants.

His wider legal record includes challenges to appointments and recruitment processes where he has alleged violations of constitutional or statutory requirements.

Advocating merit-based recruitment

Hon. Omtatah has also challenged situations in which he alleges that job requirements or recruitment guidelines are altered to favour particular candidates.

His position is that qualifications and experience should not be selectively lowered to accommodate individuals who might otherwise fail to meet the requirements.

For young professionals, such practices can undermine years of investment in education and professional training. A transparent recruitment process, by contrast, allows candidates to compete on their qualifications rather than connections. By challenging disputed recruitment practices, Hon. Omtatah has sought to reinforce merit as a basis for public



Hon. Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah

Continued from page 3 →

employment.

The effect is indirect but important: rather than creating a new job, such interventions seek to make an existing job accessible to a wider pool of qualified Kenyans.

Giving jobless graduates a voice

Hon. Omtatah's employment advocacy has also extended beyond the courtroom.

He has used his public platform to highlight the experiences of unemployed and underemployed young Kenyans. One example is demonstrated in how he shared of a letter from a university graduate in Busia who had reportedly spent 10 years looking for a job.

The case highlighted the difficulties faced by educated young people who leave university with qualifications but struggle to find employment.

Hon. Omtatah has also encouraged job seekers to broaden their search beyond large corporations and consider

smaller organisations and entry-level opportunities as they build experience.

His message reflects a wider reality of Kenya's labour market: formal jobs are limited, competition is high and many graduates spend years searching for opportunities related to their qualifications.

Protecting youth from risky job offers

Hon. Omtatah has also raised concerns about Kenyans recruited for jobs abroad under circumstances that could expose them to exploitation.

In 2026, he challenged the government over reports of Kenyans recruited to Russia through employment opportunities who subsequently ended up in the Russia-Ukraine war.

In March, he demanded answers over the recruitment of Kenyans through the Kazi Majuu programme and questioned whether the employment initiative had been

used to facilitate recruitment into the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

His intervention highlights another aspect of employment: securing a job should not expose workers to deception, abuse or unacceptable risks.

For young Kenyans facing prolonged unemployment, offers of lucrative jobs abroad can be difficult to resist. Hon. Omtatah has therefore pressed the government to protect citizens seeking employment opportunities outside the country.

Employment as a constitutional issue

At the centre of Hon. Omtatah's approach is the view that employment and economic opportunity are linked to constitutional rights and governance.

His legal actions have invoked principles including equality, non-discrimination, public participation, accountability and

fair administrative action.

This takes the employment debate beyond the number of jobs created each year. It also raises questions about who gets access to available jobs, how recruitment is conducted and whether public institutions are accountable for their decisions.

The Northern Water Works case illustrates this approach. The court ordered the recruitment process to be restarted after finding shortcomings in the procedure.

Such decisions do not create thousands of new jobs but their significance is that they can strengthen the rules governing competition for existing positions.

Through litigation and public advocacy, Hon. Omtatah has made fair access to employment a central part of his public-interest work. His role has largely been to challenge barriers, strengthen accountability and give job seekers a voice in a labour market where opportunities remain scarce.



Hon. Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah



**GRENKET
ENERGY**

Your flow, uninterrupted

**Powering Kenya Today,
Sustaining Tomorrow.**

Reliable electricity. Clean energy.
A greener, more resilient Kenya.

We deliver innovative and sustainable
electricity and renewable energy solutions
for homes, businesses and communities
across Kenya.

Our Services



Solar Energy Solutions

Solar for homes, businesses and
large-scale projects. Clean, affordable
and reliable power.



Wind Energy Solutions

Harnessing Kenya's natural resources
for a cleaner, greener future.



Grid & Electrical Infrastructure

Design, construction and maintenance
of reliable power systems.



Energy Storage & Smart Solutions

Efficient, flexible and future-ready
energy systems.



Sustainable Energy Projects

Supporting Kenya's transition to
low-carbon and climate-resilient energy.



WHY CHOOSE US?



Clean, renewable and
sustainable energy solutions



Reliable, safe and high-quality
infrastructure



Empowering communities
and creating jobs



A cleaner environment
for future generations



**Reliable Power.
Renewable Energy.
A Brighter Kenya.**

SOLAR / WIND / HYDRO / GRID / ENERGY STORAGE

GET IN TOUCH

020 78736626

info@grenket.com

Nairobi, Kenya

www.grenket.com

Clean Energy. A Sustainable Kenya.

Report ID: MB-2026-10-00104-A2 |

Milestone Badge

The blight of new HIV infections, adolescent pregnancies, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is robbing the future of young people, especially girls, in the country.

Recent trends in the fight against the menace indicate that major investments must be provided, including advocacy, health information systems, health workforce capacity, community systems, surveillance systems and service delivery platforms.

Strengthening the response efforts has been at the top of Busia Senator Hon. Okiya Omtatah's priority list. He has underscored the need for combined efforts to safeguard the welfare of children and young people.

He notably contributed to ending the vice through his participation in the collaborative campaign led by the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA) in Busia County in 2025. His contribution strengthened and injected impetus into the campaign.

Senator Omtatah has also participated in engagements with civil society organisations and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) on historical injustices and systemic violence against women. During various human rights forums, he has supported calls for the government to formally recognise sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and femicide as a national crisis.

The proposals have also included an official State apology to survivors of historical and ongoing sexual violence, as well as measures to expedite reparations and financial assistance for victims of violence committed by state and non-state actors.

According to the Senator, addressing these gaps is necessary to strengthen accountability in sexual offence cases and improve access to justice for survivors.

From an oversight perspective, Senator Omtatah has associated



Hon. Okiya Omtatah, when he joined the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA) in his efforts to safeguard the welfare of children and young people in Busia County in 2025. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah

Okiya Omtatah's record on addressing HIV infections, GBV and teenage pregnancy

the high incidence of teenage pregnancy in Busia County with wider challenges in infrastructure, social services and local development.

The legislator has also called for the effective implementation of the Ministry of Education's school re-entry guidelines to enable adolescent mothers to resume their studies after pregnancy.

Additionally, the Senator's push is in line with the country's National Guidelines for School Re-Entry in Early Learning and Basic Education

policy that guarantee teen mothers and pregnant girls the continuity of learning.

The policy allows a girl to re-enrol in a different school, with the head of the current school and the sub-county director of Education required to support her in securing a placement. Schools are required to unconditionally re-enroll pregnant learners and adolescent mothers.

If a teen mother wishes to change schools to avoid local stigma, her current headteacher and the Sub-

County Director of Education are legally mandated to facilitate a placement in an alternative school.

In the Senate, Senator Omtatah has raised concerns about the handling of sexual offence cases by law-enforcement agencies, the judiciary and county health departments.

He has called for these institutions to address administrative and procedural challenges that may delay the investigation, prosecution and provision of services to survivors.

Omtatah's push to create jobs for Busia youth and women through agriculture

Report ID: MB-2026-10-00105-A1 |
Milestone Badge

For Busia Senator Hon. Okiya Omtatah, agriculture offers more than food production. With reliable irrigation, skills, markets and value addition, the sector can create jobs, raise

household incomes and expand economic opportunities for young people and women.

His role, however, has largely been one of oversight, advocacy and protection of public agricultural resources, rather than direct implementation of farming or employment programmes.

Hon. Omtatah has used his position in the Senate to push for the completion of irrigation projects, question stalled agricultural investments and protect land and facilities intended for farming and agricultural training.

Irrigation projects

One of Hon. Omtatah's major interventions has been scrutiny

of stalled irrigation and water projects in Busia.

In October 2025, he asked the Senate to investigate the Sisenye, Bunyala and Lower Nzoia irrigation schemes, which he said had stalled, been vandalised or were underperforming despite public investment. He called for the projects to be secured, rehabilitated and operationalised to deliver their agricultural and food-security objectives.

The employment potential of such projects is significant. Reliable irrigation allows farmers to produce throughout the year, creating opportunities not only on farms but also in input



Hon. Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah

Continued from page 7 →

supply, transport, aggregation, processing, marketing and other services.

The Lower Nzoia project illustrates this potential. The scheme covers parts of Busia and Siaya and is designed to support year-round farming. It is expected to benefit about 12,600 farmers, including 4,200 in Busia, while 30,000 farmers have received training in irrigation management, marketing, value addition and good agricultural practices.

More than 8,000 seasonal farm workers are also engaged through the Lower Nzoia irrigation system and related agricultural activity.

Hon. Omtatah's contribution has been to press institutions to ensure such investments work and benefit the communities they were designed to serve.

Protecting agricultural land

The senator has also opposed the use of Busia Agricultural Training Centre land for non-agricultural development, arguing that the facility should remain

available for agricultural training and related activities.

The issue has an employment dimension. Agricultural training centres can equip young people with skills in farming, agribusiness, extension services and value addition, while providing a foundation for future agricultural enterprises.

For women, access to training, productive land, irrigation and markets can help shift farming from subsistence to commercial activity.

Water projects and accountability

Hon. Omtatah has also raised concerns over local water and irrigation infrastructure that has failed to deliver its intended benefits.

In 2023, he presented a petition concerning the then stalled Changara Water Pan Project in Teso North. The project was intended to provide water and irrigation for more than 5,000 families. The petition raised concerns over implementation,

including alleged irregularities, lack of public participation and shortcomings in the construction of the water infrastructure.

The intervention reflects Hon. Omtatah's broader approach to agricultural development: scrutinising how public resources are used and pushing institutions to complete projects rather than simply demanding additional funding.

Functional irrigation can increase production while creating opportunities in planting, harvesting, aggregation, transport, processing, equipment services and marketing.

Agriculture and youth employment

Hon. Omtatah has also promoted structured economic empowerment for young people, including support for youth groups and SACCO-based approaches intended to provide revolving capital for enterprise.

Agriculture provides a potential outlet for such initiatives because employment opportunities extend

beyond farming to processing, input supply, logistics and marketing.

The ENABLE Youth Kenya programme, for example, is designed to create jobs and income through agribusiness, including production, processing, value addition, input supply and marketing. Its targeted value chains include poultry, vegetables, dairy, beef, pasture, mushrooms, pigs and fish.

Busia has also benefited from youth-focused agricultural initiatives. In 2026, the Cereal Growers Association trained young people and provided value-addition equipment, promoting agriculture as a source of employment and income.

These are not Hon. Omtatah's direct employment schemes. His role is better understood as providing oversight and advocacy for an environment in which agricultural investments and programmes can generate livelihoods.

Opportunities for women

Women are central to Busia's agricultural economy, and irrigation can provide opportunities to move from subsistence production into commercial farming.

The county has benefited from women-focused initiatives involving irrigation support and climate-smart agriculture. While these programmes are implemented by national and county governments and development partners, Hon. Omtatah's role has been to advocate for functioning infrastructure, accountability in the use of agricultural resources and protection of facilities that support farming.

Irrigated production can support vegetables, rice and other crops, while value addition creates opportunities beyond primary production. Women can participate as farmers, traders, aggregators, processors and owners of small agribusinesses.



Okiya Omtatah's role in shaping Kenya's data privacy and digital rights framework



Hon. Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah

Report ID: MB-2026-10-00106-A2 |
Milestone Badge

Broadening the aperture of digital and technological infrastructure is a critical component in catalyzing economic growth, improving public service delivery, and safeguarding the basic rights of the citizenry.

The Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) prioritises delivering practical

and quantifiable results through the strategic expansion of network connectivity, the reinforcement of data governance frameworks, and the systematic integration of artificial intelligence into public service delivery.

Strategic capital investments in the digital economy are projected to enhance national productivity, expand access to employment opportunities, and revitalise enterprise growth across the

market. To ensure equitable outcomes, these investments must be anchored in rights-based frameworks that explicitly guarantee the right to data privacy, digital accessibility, and non-discrimination.

By prioritising the systematic reduction of the digital divide across geographic and socioeconomic demographics, technological expansion can serve as an inclusive driver of national development without infringing

upon fundamental human liberties or causing systemic economic exclusion.

None has embodied the actualization of this agenda better than Hon. Okiya Omtatah, the Senator for Busia who stands out as a leading Kenyan human rights defender who has fundamentally reshaped the nation's digital, telecommunications, and technology laws.

Continued on page 10 →

Continued from page 9 →

Through a relentless strategy of public interest litigation, he routinely deploys constitutional lawsuits to dismantle government overreach, safeguard digital privacy, and enforce strict integrity in major state technology contracts.

In a landmark case *Okiya Omtatah Okiiti v Communications Authority of Kenya & 8 Others* (Constitutional Petition No. 53 of 2017), he took center stage to freeze a state-sponsored initiative aimed at embedding an invasive monitoring framework into Kenya's telecom architecture.

Representing the Kenyans for Justice and Development (KJF) Trust, Senator Omtatah sued the state in early 2017 following a Communications Authority (CA) mandate that ordered mobile operators to integrate a controversial Device Management System (DMS).

The technical realities of the DMS were exposed, framing it as a government "backdoor" surveillance mechanism. The mechanism would harvest sensitive subscriber identifiers - including IMEI, IMSI, and MSISDN numbers - effectively empowering the state to intercept call logs, trace real-time locations, and eavesdrop on private dialogue without judicial warrants.

The case proved that the apparatus directly breached the right to privacy protected under Article 31 of the Kenyan Constitution. Furthermore, the activist targeted the lack of civic engagement. Because the infrastructure was being introduced arbitrarily, the case established a binding precedent: any state-driven technology rollout with far-reaching societal impacts must undergo rigorous public consultation.

On April 19, 2018, High Court Judge John Mativo struck down the initiative, declaring the CA's surveillance framework unconstitutional due to the threat it posed to data privacy.



This victory was later reinforced on April 24, 2020 by the Court of Appeal. While the appellate court acknowledged the CA's duty to curb counterfeit devices, it dismissed the state's appeal against Judge Mativo's ruling, decreeing that any future rollout of consumer DMS guidelines remains illegal unless it undergoes comprehensive public participation.

More importantly, legal interventions spearheaded by Senator Omtatah served as the primary catalyst that forced the

Kenyan government to halt its initial, unconstitutional rollout of the National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS), popularly known as Huduma Namba.

Through systematic litigation against the state, the activist altered the trajectory of Kenya's digital policy, compelling the executive branch to establish data protection frameworks before harvesting the biometric data of citizens.

In December 2018, the state

introduced Huduma Namba through an omnibus amendment to the Registration of Persons Act. State officials subsequently issued an ultimatum, warning that individuals without the digital identifier would be barred from essential public services, including passports, healthcare (NHIF), driving licences, and KRA PIN registrations.

A constitutional petition was immediately filed to counter

Continued on page 11 →



this mandate, arguing that conditioning fundamental human rights on a digital number constituted an unconstitutional mechanism of exclusion and state coercion.

The proposed digital identity system originally sought to capture highly intrusive personal metrics, including DNA samples and GPS coordinates of citizens' residences. The legal challenge successfully dismantled this plan in court by demonstrating that

such extensive data harvesting directly violated the right to privacy protected under Article 31 of the Kenyan Constitution.

The litigation highlighted that the state was attempting to build a massive biometric "single source of truth" database without a supporting legal framework. The government had failed to enact a Data Protection Act or establish an independent regulatory body to oversee the security and processing of the compiled data.

Subsequent legal battles,

building upon these established precedents, culminated in an October 2021 High Court ruling that declared the entire Huduma Card rollout illegal. The court determined that the state had failed to conduct a mandatory Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) before rolling out the cards.

The suspension of an aggressive, digital-only transition prevented the disenfranchisement of millions of rural Kenyans and historically

marginalised communities, such as the Nubians. These populations frequently face structural barriers in acquiring primary identification documentation, and the judicial intervention mitigated the risk of systemic exclusion and de facto statelessness resulting from an immediate digital cutoff.

The litigation established a binding legal precedent that governs successive national identity initiatives. When subsequent administrations attempted to transition from the Huduma Namba platform to the Maisha Namba framework, the judiciary repeatedly intervened to halt deployment. These interventions directly cited the established rule mandating that no national digital identification system can be legally implemented without first conducting a comprehensive Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA).

The relentless efforts by Senator Omtatah secured long-term precedents and socio-economic impact for Kenyans. The judiciary prohibited the state from denying unregistered citizens access to vital public infrastructure. This intervention guaranteed uninterrupted access to essential services, including healthcare, telecommunications, and tax compliance systems.

The judicial rulings established a permanent legal barrier against state overreach by stripping the government of the authority to mandate the collection of DNA data or track residential locations via GPS under the pretext of national identification.

The sustained legal opposition directly compelled the executive branch to operationalize the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC). As a direct consequence of this regulatory enforcement, data privacy compliance became a mandatory legal requirement for all corporate and public entities operating within Kenya.

Okiya Omtatah’s push for expanded electricity access in Busia County

Report ID: MB-2026-10-00107-A1 | Milestone Badge

Busia Senator Hon. Okiya Omtatah has used his position in the Senate to raise concerns over electricity access, reliability and renewable energy, particularly in the county’s underserved rural areas.

One of Omtatah’s clearest interventions came in September 2025, when he sought a statement from the Senate Standing Committee on Energy on Electricity Connectivity in Busia County.

He told the Senate that rural parts of the county continued to experience poor electricity

In August 2026, the Senate Energy Committee reviewed implementation of the Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project, which aims to expand modern energy services in

14 underserved counties.

connectivity, unresolved disconnections and frequent blackouts, particularly during the

rainy season. He cited Nambere Shopping Centre in Busia County, where residents had reportedly gone five years without electricity after the transformer serving the area was removed by Kenya Power and not replaced.

Hon. Omtatah asked the Energy Committee to establish the number of villages that remained unconnected despite being earmarked for government electrification programmes and to explain the strategies for achieving universal electricity access in rural Busia.

He also sought answers on Kenya Power’s response to faults and prolonged outages and the role of the Energy and Petroleum



Hon. Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah

KECCO

KINGSTONE ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS LTD

CONSTRUCTION | ICT INFRASTRUCTURE | ENGINEERING

OUR KEY SERVICES

Drilling
waste
management
(DWM)



Camp
building and
management



Architectural
design and
consulting
Services



Civil
and Building
Engineering
services



Land
Scaping
Design and
General
Compound



Real
Estate
Development



WHAT SETS US APART

- Deep Experience ● Long Term Business ● Relationships
- Health ● Safety & Environment ● Value ● On Time

 Plot 832 Namanve Industrial Park |
  P.O.Box 8062, Kampala - Uganda
 +256 782 264 288 (Phone), +256 782 545 680 (Mobile) |
  muhuza2014@gmail.com, muhuza2000@yahoo.com
 m.muhumuza@kecco.co.ug, www.kecco.co.ug |
  facebook.com/KeccoUganda

Continued from page 12 →



Regulatory Authority in ensuring accountability. His interventions have linked electricity access to broader development concerns, including education, investment and the viability of rural markets.

Pushing solar solutions for underserved areas

Hon. Omtatah has raised renewable energy as an option for communities that remain outside reliable electricity networks.

In his September 2025 Senate intervention, he specifically asked the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum to outline plans to integrate renewable energy solutions, including solar mini-grids, into efforts to achieve universal electricity access in rural Busia.

His approach reflects a broader argument that extending conventional electricity infrastructure alone may not adequately address the needs of remote communities. Off-grid solar is already part of Kenya's national electrification strategy through programmes targeting underserved counties. In August 2026, the Senate

Energy Committee reviewed implementation of the Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project, which aims to expand modern energy services in 14 underserved counties.

For Busia, Omtatah's contribution has therefore been to push the government to explain how renewable technologies can complement conventional grid expansion rather than leaving rural communities dependent on delayed grid connections.

Energy planning for industrialisation

Senator Omtatah has also connected reliable electricity to Busia's industrial development.

In May 2026, during Senate discussions on County Aggregation and Industrial Parks, he questioned the government's planning for the programme and specifically raised concerns about the availability and scope of feasibility studies for the Nasewa CAIP in Busia.

He also questioned whether the feasibility studies adequately addressed incentives for producers and investors and the

infrastructure needed to make the industrial parks viable.

The intervention is significant because industrial parks require dependable power alongside other infrastructure. By demanding clarity on planning and feasibility, Omtatah has sought to place energy requirements within the wider discussion about industrialisation and investment in Busia.

Scrutiny of biomass and environmental sustainability

Hon. Omtatah's energy advocacy has also extended beyond electricity access to the environmental consequences of energy choices. In March 2026, he sought a statement from the Senate Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources over what he described as increasing deforestation associated with large manufacturing companies switching from furnace oil, diesel and gas to firewood and wood-based biomass fuel.

He questioned whether the shift was taking place with adequate safeguards for sustainable

biomass sourcing and sought information on the regulation of the practice.

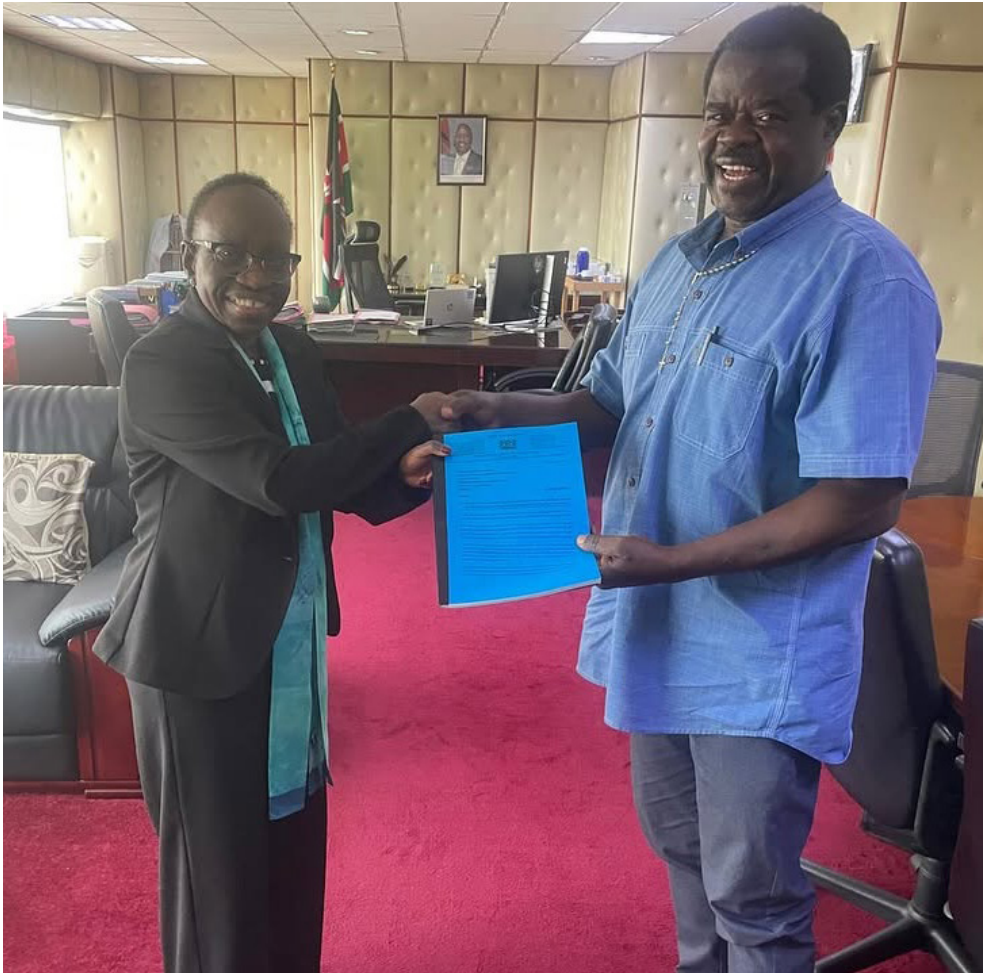
Although the issue was national rather than specific to Busia, it is relevant to the county because Omtatah has linked energy policy with environmental protection. His concern is that cheaper industrial fuel should not come at the expense of forests and other ecosystems that support agriculture and rural livelihoods.

Energy access as a social and economic issue

The Busia senator has also connected access to energy with household welfare.

During a Senate debate in March 2026, he said women in his county had reported eyesight problems that he associated with cooking with firewood. His remarks came during a broader discussion on women's welfare and energy access. The intervention broadened the energy debate beyond electricity connections to include household energy use and the potential effects of dependence on traditional cooking fuels.

Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah



Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah



Okiya Omtatah's role in strengthening police welfare and mental health support

Report ID: MB-2026-10-00108-A2 |
Milestone Badge

Mental health is a key component of human capital development, with direct implications for cognitive functioning, productivity and economic participation. Investments in mental health and social welfare can improve quality of life while contributing to human capital development, economic growth and Kenya's long-term transition towards upper-middle-income status.

These objectives are also reflected in the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which is aligned with the Fourth Medium Term Plan (2023–2027). The agenda places emphasis on inclusive, people-centred development and programmes aimed at improving the living standards and socioeconomic wellbeing of Kenyans.

Mental health is particularly significant within the uniformed services, including the National Police Service, where psychological wellbeing can affect officers' ability to perform their duties effectively and respond to the demands associated with policing.

Busia Senator Hon. Okiya Omtatah has supported measures aimed at strengthening the welfare and institutional management of police officers. His position has included support for the National Police Service Commission (Amendment) Act, 2025, which he described as significant to police governance and national development.

Omtatah supported the legislation following its enactment and signing into law by President William Ruto in October 2025. The amendment forms part of broader legislative measures concerning the mandate and functions of the National Police Service Commission.

The endorsement centres on the Act's primary function: entrenching mental health, counselling, and psychosocial support systems



Hon. Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah

 Continued from page 17 →

Hon. Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah

directly into the statutory mandate of the National Police Service Commission (NPSC).

The contribution was significant because it marked a clear separation of issues; the bill was allowed to pass cleanly without legal resistance, while a simultaneous motion was filed in the High Court to challenge three other laws signed by the President around the same window as unconstitutional.

The primary target of the amendment was to transition police mental health from an optional internal service into a rigid statutory requirement under Section 10 of the National Police Service Commission (NPSC) Act.

The benefits of the law to police officers and the wider population extend beyond the immediate provision of welfare services. By decentralising mental health and psychosocial support, the amendment provides a framework

for establishing accessible and adequately equipped psychosocial support and counselling centres across all 47 counties. This approach is intended to bring services closer to police officers and their families, particularly those serving in remote and underserved areas.

The decentralised model can also facilitate earlier identification of mental health challenges, improve access to counselling and psychological support, and reduce

barriers associated with travelling long distances to seek specialised services. For police officers exposed to stressful and traumatic working conditions, the availability of support within or closer to their areas of deployment can provide an important avenue for timely intervention.

The broader public also stands to benefit from a police service whose officers have greater

 Continued on page 19 →

Continued from page 18 →

access to appropriate mental health and psychosocial services. Strengthening officer welfare can support effective service delivery, professional conduct and the capacity of officers to respond to demanding situations. The establishment of county-level support structures therefore represents a broader investment in both police welfare and the quality of public security services.

The law also promotes accessibility to counselling units for field officers by delineating that counselling units must be physically located within accessible spaces, such as police offices, operational camps, and training colleges. This provision has been critical because it acknowledges that personnel deployed in field environments operate under distinct occupational hazards, including prolonged geographical isolation, fluid security parameters, unpredictable scheduling, and exposure to localised crises.

These compounding variables generate sustained psychological stress, which accelerates professional burnout, degrades operational safety, and impacts overall mission delivery. Consequently, the provision outlines the institutional deployment of structured mental wellness sensitisation and psychosocial support systems. The initiative focuses on embedding preventive mental health practices directly into field operations to optimize duty of care, stabilise retention, and maintain operational continuity.

The legislation also strengthens direct legal anchoring, as it provides complete statutory backing to the long-standing Policy on Counselling and Welfare (2018), shifting the deployment of mental health practitioners from temporary assignments into a permanent institutional structure.

More importantly, it has enhanced disciplinary oversight by empowering the NPSC to actively review decisions made



Hon. Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah

by the Inspector-General and systematically hear appeals filed by aggrieved officers.

The implementation of the framework has introduced significant changes to the planning and administration of police welfare and governance. The legal mandate provides the National Police Service Commission (NPSC) with a basis for seeking and defending funding specifically allocated to

psychosocial support services. This creates a clearer mechanism for establishing dedicated budgetary provisions for the mental wellbeing of police officers.

The inclusion of mental health and psychosocial support within the legal framework provides an institutional mechanism for identifying and addressing psychological trauma among police officers. Such measures are linked to broader efforts to reduce

incidents of firearm misuse within the service.

The framework establishes defined responsibilities for the NPSC, the Inspector-General of Police, and the Ministry of Health. This provides a basis for coordination on medical and psychosocial standards while maintaining the respective mandates and command structures of the institutions involved.

Senator Omtatah has supported legal reforms that frame mental health and psychological wellbeing primarily as public health concerns rather than criminal matters. He was also associated with broader legal efforts that culminated in the High Court's declaration that Section 226 of the Penal Code, which criminalised attempted suicide, was unconstitutional.

The legal development has implications for police officers and other individuals experiencing psychological distress. By removing the criminal penalties associated with attempted suicide, the reform shifts the response towards medical and psychosocial support rather than criminal prosecution. For members of the police service who may experience trauma and other work-related psychological challenges, the change provides a legal basis for seeking mental health support without the consequences previously associated with attempted suicide.



MILESTONE BADGE

The inclusion of mental health and psychosocial support within the legal framework provides an institutional mechanism for identifying and addressing psychological trauma among police officers



Hon. Okiya Omtatah.
PHOTO | Hon. Okiya
Omtatah

Omtatah's hand in building and protecting Busia's public infrastructure

Report ID: MB-2026-10-00109-A1 |
Milestone Badge

Busia Senator Hon. Okiya Omtatah's contribution to construction and physical development in the county has largely been through oversight, public accountability and litigation rather than direct project implementation.

As a senator, he does not control

an executive development budget or an equivalent of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund but his role has been to question stalled projects, challenge the use of public land, demand explanations for incomplete infrastructure and use the courts to protect public assets.

Stalled projects

Hon. Omtatah has repeatedly

raised concerns over poorly managed and incomplete public works in Busia County.

One example is the stalled ECDE classroom at Kalalaran Primary School in Malaba South Ward, where young learners were reportedly crowded into a single room divided by plywood partitions.

He used the case to demand accountability from the county department responsible for

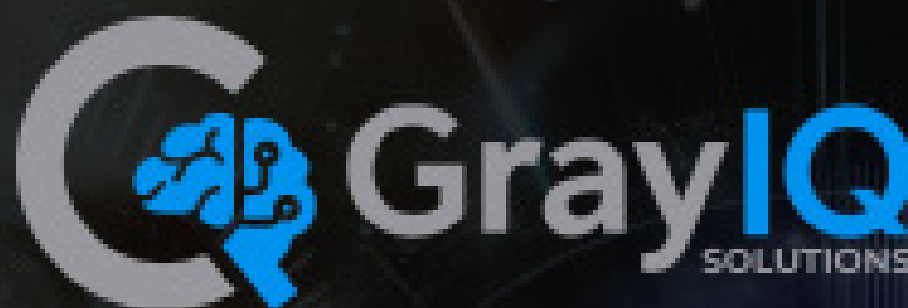
education and construction, calling for the project to be completed.

Roads and transport infrastructure

Road construction and maintenance have also featured in Omtatah's interventions.

He has raised concerns about the condition of the Kisumu-Busia highway, citing potholes, narrow sections and inadequate signage.

Continued on page 22→



EMPOWERING YOU IN THE DIGITAL AGE



DIGITAL CONFIDENCE MASTERCLASS

A friendly, practical masterclass designed to help professionals and entrepreneurs 40+ confidently use digital tools in everyday life.



WORKPLACE DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING

A customized hands-on programme enabling professionals to use digital tools confidently in everyday work.



AI TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS

Empower your team with practical AI skills to boost productivity, decision-making, and confidence.

BOOK YOUR SESSION TODAY!

info@grayiq.net | grayiq.net

Continued from page 20 →

He has called for emergency repairs, attention to dangerous sections and improved pedestrian facilities near schools and markets.

His concerns have centred on the safety and economic consequences of a deteriorating transport corridor used by residents, traders and other road users.

Hon. Omtatah has also sought action over delayed compensation for residents affected by the Ejinja-Bumala road project, which cuts across Busia and Kakamega

counties. The intervention highlights his focus not only on road construction but also on the rights of communities affected by infrastructure projects.

Scrutiny of stalled trailer parks

Hon. Omtatah has questioned the slow implementation of the Mundika and Malaba trailer parks, facilities intended to ease congestion and support commercial activity in the border region.

His concern was that infrastructure meant to support

cross-border trade and generate economic benefits had remained idle instead of serving transporters, traders and residents.

For Busia, where commercial activity is closely linked to border trade, the failure to complete and operationalise such facilities has consequences beyond the construction sector.

Questions over Busia Stadium

Hon. Omtatah has also raised concerns about the development of Busia Stadium.

The project was allocated Ksh600 million under the 2023–2027 County Integrated Development Plan, but he questioned the lack of meaningful structural progress.

He further opposed proposals to relocate the stadium to land belonging to the Busia Agricultural Training Centre (ATC). The approximately 95-acre property, he argued, has important agricultural, research and training functions that should not be displaced by other developments.



Hon. Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah

Continued on page 23 →

Continued from page 22 →

He has strongly opposed plans to use the Busia ATC land for non-agricultural developments, including affordable housing and the proposed stadium relocation.

He maintains that the property should remain available for agricultural training, research, climate-related initiatives and possible future academic expansion.

His position is not necessarily against construction, but against converting a strategic public asset to a different use without adequate justification. He has argued that land reserved for public and productive purposes should be protected from inappropriate development.

Idle agricultural infrastructure

Hon. Omtatah's scrutiny has also extended to facilities intended to support agriculture and local industry.

He has questioned the condition of the Simbachai Cassava Processing Plant, where processing machinery and solar-powered water systems were reportedly lying idle and deteriorating.

He has also raised concerns about infrastructure under the



Dairy Parks Programme, a World Bank-supported initiative whose facilities have not delivered the expected production outcomes.

These interventions shift the focus from construction to the management of completed assets. A processing plant, factory or

dairy facility becomes a productive public investment only when it is equipped, maintained and put to use.

Nasewa land battle

One of Hon. Omtatah's most significant interventions involving

physical assets is his legal battle over the Nasewa Nucleus Estate.

He pursued a six-year case over the 842-acre parcel in Matayos Sub-County. The land had been set aside in 1991 for the construction of Busia Sugar Company before its ownership was transferred to private hands.

The litigation resulted in the land being declared public property and reverting to the public domain.

The case illustrates another dimension of Hon. Omtatah's contribution to physical development: protecting the land on which future public infrastructure and economic projects may be established.

Rather than constructing an asset directly, his intervention sought to preserve a substantial public resource for future use.

Oversight of health facilities

Hon. Omtatah's infrastructure oversight has also covered public health facilities.

He has raised concerns over conditions at hospitals including Kocholia Sub-County Hospital and Busia County Referral Hospital. His interventions have questioned whether official reports on health infrastructure and service delivery accurately reflect conditions on the ground.

Among the issues he has highlighted are overstretched facilities, non-functional equipment and expenditure on systems and consultancies whose intended benefits were not evident.

The construction and upgrading of health facilities, however, remain the responsibility of the relevant government authorities. For instance, the Ksh100 million, 96-bed male surgical ward at Busia County Referral Hospital was built through collaboration involving national and county authorities and the Kenya Defence Forces.



Okiya Omtatah’s interventions on MSME financing and public funds oversight



Hon. Okiya Omtatah. PHOTO | Hon. Okiya Omtatah

Report ID: MB-2026-10-00110-A2 | Milestone Badge

Kenya Senator Okiya Hon. Omtatah’s contribution to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) financing environment has

primarily involved public interest litigation, legislative oversight and scrutiny of public financial management. Senator Omtatah’s interventions have focused on government expenditure,

public debt, taxation and the management of public resources. These areas have implications for MSMEs through their potential effects on the cost of doing business, access to finance, investment

conditions and the wider economic environment. A key area of oversight has been the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme, which forms part



of Kenya's MSME financing and youth entrepreneurship framework and involves the State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development. The programme provides support

to young entrepreneurs through financial assistance, business development and mentorship.

In June 2026, Senator Omtatah questioned the formal approval and

appropriation of funds allocated to the programme during proceedings in the Senate. He later expanded his criticism, raising concerns about financial management and accountability.

Senator Omtatah's main concerns centred on the transparency and legal treatment of foreign funding supporting NYOTA. He argued that World Bank funding for the programme was not

 Continued from page 25 →

formally appropriated by Parliament and questioned the use of such resources outside established legislative and budgetary procedures.

He also cited Article 225 of the Constitution and public finance laws in arguing that government borrowing should be incorporated into approved revenue and expenditure estimates before funds are utilised. In addition, he questioned the application of legislation such as the Bretton Woods Agreements Act in relation to the authority of Kenyan courts and oversight institutions.

The law is intended to ensure that government expenditure is linked to approved budgets and subjected to institutional scrutiny. The Public Finance Management

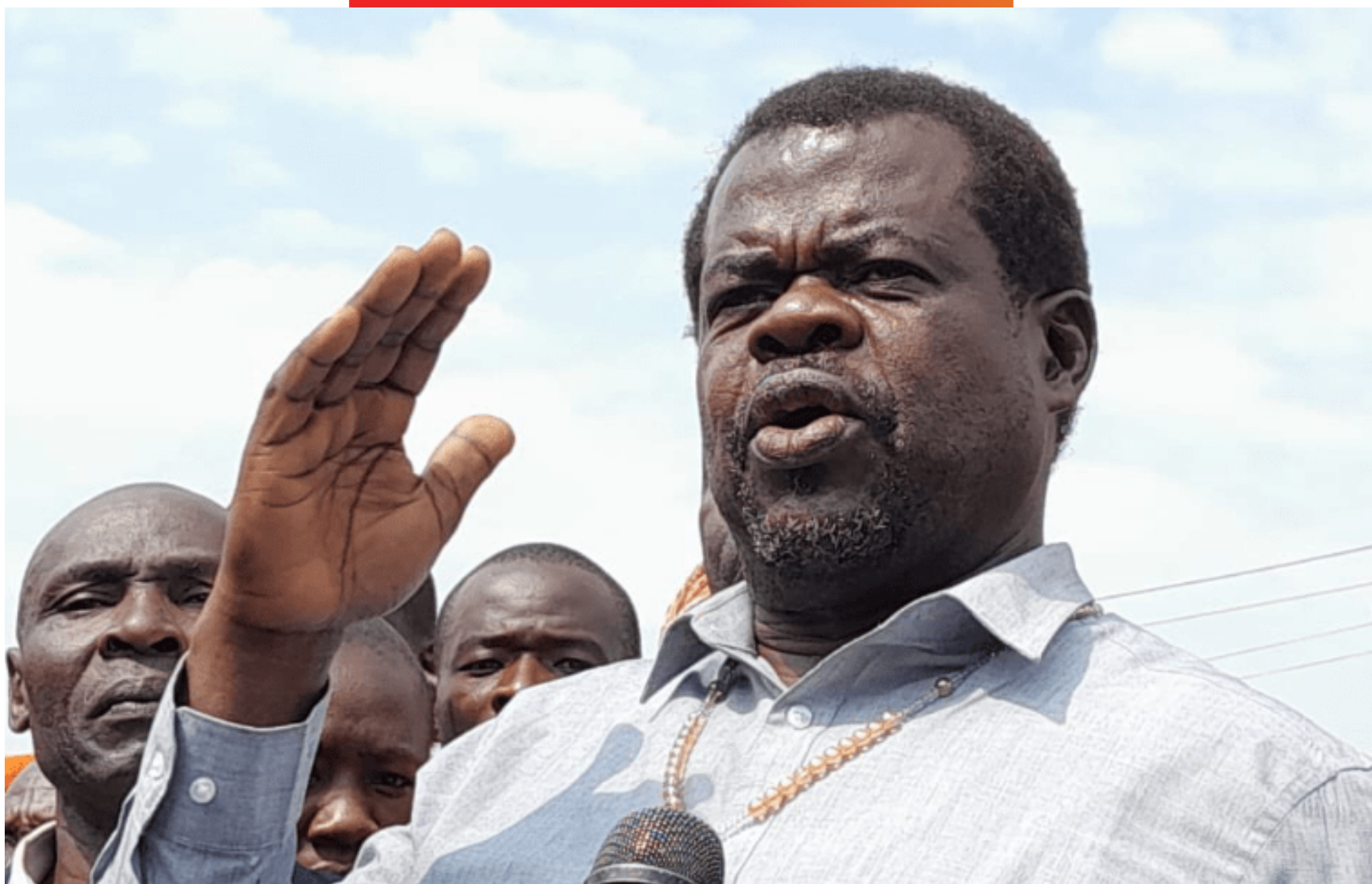


MILESTONE BADGE

Omtatah's forms part of wider proposals on public financial management, including calls for greater institutional independence of the National Treasury and improved parliamentary access to the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS)

framework further provides that withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund should be made through parliamentary appropriation, constitutional provisions or other legally authorised charges. It also sets procedures for the management and disbursement of loan funds.

Stronger financial controls can provide several accountability safeguards. Clear appropriations establish the purpose for which public money may be spent, while financial reporting allows Parliament and oversight institutions to assess whether approved resources have been used for their intended purposes. Proper documentation also facilitates auditing and enables questions concerning

 Continued on page 27 →

Continued from page 26 →

expenditure to be examined through established legal and institutional processes.

In October 2025, Okiya Omtatah raised concerns about the structure of the NYOTA Fund as its initial implementation phases began. He argued that the arrangement could concentrate significant authority within the Executive.

Senator Omtatah raised concerns about the direct management of off-budget resources by the Executive, arguing that such arrangements could weaken parliamentary oversight and create opportunities for political distribution of public funds. These concerns relate to the broader accountability of programmes intended to support young entrepreneurs.

The government has promoted NYOTA as a youth empowerment programme, with reported disbursements exceeding KSh5.5 billion to young entrepreneurs. Senator Omtatah's scrutiny focused on the legal basis, appropriation, management and accountability of these funds rather than the programme's objective of supporting youth enterprise development.

His concerns also form part of wider proposals on public financial management, including calls for greater institutional independence of the National Treasury and improved parliamentary access to the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS).

The issues raised have

contributed to broader discussions on the management of externally funded programmes, the role of the Consolidated Fund and the need for parliamentary oversight of public resources.

Senator Omtatah maintained that stronger legal and financial controls are necessary to ensure that government funds are properly authorised, accounted for and managed in accordance with the Constitution and public finance laws.

In the context of MSMEs and youth financing, these controls are relevant because such programmes involve public resources intended for specific economic and social objectives. Transparent financial procedures can provide a basis for

tracking allocations from approval to disbursement and determining whether expenditure corresponds with approved programme objectives.

Senator Omtatah's public finance interventions consequently place emphasis on strengthening institutional checks over government resources. His position has included calls for clearer separation of financial management responsibilities and stronger parliamentary capacity to scrutinise public expenditure. The broader issue concerns the balance between efficient implementation of government programmes and compliance with constitutional requirements on public finance management.





ABOUT MILESTONE BADGE

www.milestonebdage.co.ke

Milestone Badge is a dynamic digital platform that documents completed projects, reforms, and public welfare programmes delivered by Kenyan leaders since 2013.

The platform releases a new report every two weeks, with each report containing multiple records, each assigned a unique ID for identification and reference.

Reports are distributed directly to subscribers via email and WhatsApp and are also available for free download, ensuring broad accessibility and serving as a reliable, long-lasting reference for development milestones across Kenya.

Milestone Badge exists to help citizens, researchers, and voters clearly understand how leadership translates into measurable outcomes on the ground.

Platform statement

Milestone Badge documents evidence-based milestones and does not provide political opinions or endorsements.

MILESTONE BADGE RESEARCH & ANALYSIS UNIT

Lead Analyst

Obed Simiyu

Analysts

Jalang'o Odidi

Philip Momanyi

Technology

Milestone Badge Intelligence Engine

BUILDING TODAY.
SUPPORTING TOMORROW.

Dream & Build Foundation

Quality construction. Lasting assets.
A stronger future.

We deliver end-to-end construction solutions and manage physical assets that keep your business, communities and infrastructure moving forward.



Construction Services

From planning and design to build and handover, we manage every stage with expertise, safety and quality at the core.



Asset Management

We help you get the most from your physical assets, with proactive maintenance, monitoring and lifecycle support.



Infrastructure & Facilities

Reliable, sustainable solutions for buildings, infrastructure and essential facilities.



Sustainable Solutions

Built for today, designed for tomorrow — with a focus on efficiency, resilience and lower environmental impact.



Buildings & Commercial Spaces



Infrastructure Projects



Asset Maintenance & Support



Your Assets.
Our Commitment.

CONSTRUCTION / ASSET MANAGEMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE

**LET'S BUILD
LASTING VALUE**

 020 500366000

 info@dream&build.com

 www.dream&build.co.ke

