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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

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THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 26th November 2024

The House met at 9.30 a.m.

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Martha Wangari) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Martha Wangari): Serjeant-at-Arms, ring the Bell for 10 minutes.

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Martha Wangari) left the Chair]

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gladys Boss) took the Chair]

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, we can now proceed.

PAPERS

The Deputy Whip of the Majority Party.

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table:

Reports of the Auditor-General and Financial Statements for the years ended 30th June 2021, 30th June 2022 and 30th June 2023 and the certificates therein in respect of:

- (a) Kenya High School;
- (b) Sabunley Secondary School;
- (c) Wajir Girls Secondary School;
- (d) Kimunyu Secondary School;
- (e) Gathiru-Ini Secondary School;
- (f) Kahuguini Boys High School;
- (g) Nakeel Secondary School;
- (h) Baringo High School;
- (i) Mangu High School;
- (j) J.G. Kiereini Boys Secondary School;
- (k) Ossen Girls' High School;
- (l) Enoomatasiani Girls Secondary School;
- (m) Isinya Boys Secondary School; and,
- (n) Machakos School.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I beg to lay.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health, Hon. Pukose. Your microphone is on.

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table:

Report of the Departmental Committee on Health on the Budget Implementation for Financial Year 2023-2024 for the following State Departments:

- (a) Vote 1082 State Department for Medical Services; and,
- (b) Vote 1083 State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Next Order.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health, Hon. Pukose.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

THAT, this House adopts the Report of the Departmental Committee on Health on the Budget Implementation for Financial Year 2023/2024 for the following State Departments laid on the table of the House on Tuesday, 26th November 2024:

- (a) Vote 1082 State Department for Medical Services; and
- (b) Vote 1083 State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Next Order.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Lands, there is a request for a Statement. Let us have the Member for Lungalunga.

COMPENSATION FOR LAND OWNERS OF RAMISI PHASE 1 BLOCK 5056 IN KWALE COUNTY

Hon. Chiforomodo Mangale (Lungalunga, UDM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Lands regarding the implementation of a court order by the Environment and Land Court for compensation and land resettlement of the owners of Ramisi Phase 1 Block 5056 in Kwale County.

Mkupuo Network Awareness, a non-partisan community-based organisation, represents the residents in occupation of Ramisi Phase 1 Block 5056 in Kwale County. These residents have occupied the said land since precolonial times, having inherited the same land from their forefathers. In 2008, the Government initiated a settlement scheme plan to formalise their occupation which resulted in the issuance of offer letters to the residents. However, to date, no certificates of titles have been issued. The residents were forcibly evicted and their structures demolished to facilitate occupation by M/S Kwale International Sugar Company Limited, which had purportedly leased the land from the Government.

The forced eviction meted out on the residents without compensation prompted the affected residents to file ELC Petition No. 43 of 2020 at the Environment and Land Court in

Kwale. The court ruled in their favour, ordering that the Government has an obligation to compensate and resettle the affected residents of the organisation. The Government was granted a period of 12 months to comply with the decree, which expired on 27th January 2024. Despite the lapse of the timeframe, the Government is yet to comply causing undue hardship and suffering to the affected residents.

It is against this background that I request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Lands on the following:

1. The measures in place by the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development to comply with the decree of the court considering that Mkupuo Network Awareness was to be compensated, and its members resettled by 27th January 2024.
2. A report on the status of assessments made by the Ministry to ensure all villages within Ramisi Phase 1 Block 5056 are duly included in the valuation report for compensation.
3. An overview of the resettlement plans and the efforts that have been made to conduct awareness among the affected residents on their resettlement.

I thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Is the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Lands in the House? Any Member of the Committee in the House? I will leave it to you, the Deputy Whip of the Majority Party.

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): That is noted, Hon. Deputy Speaker. They will give the response once we resume.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Next Order.

MOTION

DEBATE ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 24(6), the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of His Excellency the President delivered in Parliament on Thursday, 21st November 2024 and further, that this House notes the following Reports submitted by His Excellency the President in fulfilment of the provisions of Articles 132(1)(c) and 240(7) of the Constitution, laid on the Table of the House on Monday, 25th November 2024-

1. The 11th Annual Report on the Measures Taken and Progress Achieved in the Realisation of National Values and Principles of Governance;
2. The 11th Annual Report on the Progress made in Fulfilling the International Obligations of the Republic of Kenya; and,
3. The Annual Report to Parliament on the State of National Security.

(Moved by Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah on 25.11.2024 – Afternoon Sitting)

(Resumption of debate interrupted on 25.11.2024 – Evening Sitting)

The Member for Gilgil, Hon. Martha Wangari.

Hon. Martha Wangari (Gilgil, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to also record my thanks to the State of the Nation Address by the President.

I will pick a few issues because I know we have limited time. We are on our second day of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. Allow me to start with that.

I laud the President because he pronounced himself clearly during his meeting with women leaders. He even committed resources to fight this menace. It cannot be normal that about 97 women have been killed in the last three months, mostly by intimate partners. That means we have lost 30 women to gender-based violence every month. Even today we have woken up to a woman being raped and stabbed in Murang'a. Yesterday we woke up to another in Nakuru and another in Laikipia. It cannot be normal. The disconnect we have now is that the President pronounces himself but the people supposed to take action are sleeping on the job.

Until now we have not heard a statement from the Ministry of Interior and National Administration condemning these incidents. Jasmine Njoki, a girl from Kasambara Village of Mbaruk Ward in my constituency, was raped and brutally killed last year. The 12-year old was raped and killed in broad daylight as she left school on 12th September 2023. The suspects were arrested and DNA samples harvested. It took six months before we heard of that DNA again. Why? The DNA was sent to Kisumu because we do not have any testing centre in Nakuru. We do not have a testing centre in Eldoret. We do not have testing centres in so many counties.

The Ministry of Interior and National Administration will boast of spending billions in buying modern fighting equipment. We wait for South Africa to tell us whether someone has committed rape or defilement. Why is it so hard to spare some amount to buy reagents to test DNA? Because it is not very appealing. It does not have much money that people can eat. It does not have the interest of the nation. We have to change this. We have to get to a point where every county can process DNA samples to ensure culprits are behind bars.

Such cases pain me. When a culprit gets arrested, the following day they are out on bail of about Ksh200,000, Ksh50,000, or Ksh100,000. They then go back to taunt the victim's families. They tell them "you can do nothing to me". I know people have said women should walk away. However, how many are able to do that? Some culprits follow victims even when they try to walk away from relationships. I am saying that as someone who has walked away from a violent relationship. They will follow you. They will tap your phone. They will call your friends and threaten you. You cannot walk away if you do not have financial independence.

I say that we are not doing well. We must loop in the Judiciary. The issue of just giving them bail and allowing them to walk free is another problem. If you go to police stations, gender desks are just mere desks. Actually, they may have even moved the desks from police stations. The idea was to give women a safe place to report these issues when they happen. That is not happening. The Judiciary must have a first lane in curbing gender-based violence. That should also apply to boys and men. We should have safe spaces where they can report and talk about gender-based violence. The stigma associated with reporting any abuse meted out to men or boys is quite huge. That stood out for me.

Of course, economic growth is the other issue. I hope we can translate these to the pockets of Kenyans so that they feel what the President is talking about, not just percentages. That way, we will feel. We will not need to say it even in newspapers. We will feel and see members of the public doing well and thriving.

I thank you for that opportunity.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga, Member for Tigania West.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Thank you for the opportunity to make a few comments on the President's Address.

The Address comes subject to Article 132(1)(c). It articulates measures towards realisation of national values and principles of governance in this country. These values are clearly outlined in Article 10 of the Constitution. We can put them in four key clusters. One is

loyalty to the Republic. The second is on promotion and protection of the rights of individuals. The third one has integrity. The fourth one has development.

I would like to pick a few values and ask certain questions about the extent to which Kenyans attest to these values. In my understanding, one is commitment to the nation's progress and sovereignty. The extent to which we commit ourselves is wanting. Upholding sovereignty is important so that we balance freedoms with public policy. To what extent do individuals within this country align with patriotism? How much progress have we made as a country? To what extent do we as Kenyans talk about this country as our home and a place we would like to live in when given an opportunity to express ourselves? To what extent is the media patriotic? Most of the time you realise that they criticise and not critique.

The other issue is that the report extensively cautions on the rule of law and constitutionalism. To my understanding, national unity is about promoting cohesion and inclusivity. Are we expressing nationalism when we group ourselves along ethnic lines? Is that national unity? The reality is that Kenya is to a large extent segmented into ethnic communities. How do we interpret national unity when we allow vernacular radios to take prominence in this country? When any one of us is aggrieved, we turn to the vernacular radio to try and express ourselves. We as a country need to deal with that issue. We need to promote national unity. The report addresses this issue at large.

There is sharing of power and devolution of power with respect to devolution itself. Equitable resource distribution has to do with reaching the people. How much has devolution done this? Out of the 47 devolved units called counties and the resources being sent to these devolved units, we need to see a lot more developments. That is so that we see Kenya has done the right thing in addressing issues of devolution.

Look at human dignity and respect and protection of every individual's rights and obligations. The immediate previous speaker has attested to gender-based violence, especially femicide. The report covers the topic extensively. Everyone deserves not just the right to live in this country but also the right to engage without any form of intimidation or discrimination. As Kenyans and a people living together, there should be no one superior before the other. We should always respect one another so that we can also be respected outside this country.

When you look at equity that has to do with fair distribution of resources, particularly to marginalised groups, this country has made much effort. Quite extensively, the report covers efforts of the government in considering or ensuring that everyone is taken care of. Projects like the Affordable Housing Programme distributed across the country have a constituency focus. That means every constituency is supposed to get its share. In addition to the NG-CDF, TVETs, and others, ICT hubs are spread across the country. Universities are now county-based, meaning every county has an opportunity to have its university. Equity is being exercised. This is very well articulated in the report.

Social justice is about equal opportunities. Pursuit of social justice has been misinterpreted terribly in this country. The report is very particular on misinterpretation of Article 27 where picketing is misinterpreted to mean violence. That is not true. Provisions on inclusivity have also been articulated within this report.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: You can finish your sentence.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Let me conclude by saying that this report has looked at equality very carefully. We have spread projects across the country by looking at different areas to make sure that every part of this country is developing. We have looked at employment and labour migration. That has also assisted people across the scope. The Equalisation Fund has also looked at areas that were behind others in development. Therefore, this report articulates what is happening in this country and the progress that we are making among others. The state of the economy has also

been clearly articulated as well as the state of food and nutrition and the cancellation of the contentious Adani deal.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The Member for Laikipia West, Hon. Wachira Karani.

Hon. Wachira Karani (Laikipia West, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to His Excellency the President's Address.

To begin with, there are many things that the President talked about. But due to limitation of time, I will touch only on a few. Kenyans have a funny way of looking at things. Whenever a new idea comes, we are used to opposing it without giving it an opportunity. I remember in 2002 when the third President of this Republic, the late Mwai Kibaki, came into power, he introduced, through his Minister, the late Hon. John Michuki, a transport mode where a mini bus would be carrying 14 passengers. Before then, people were used to minibuses carrying up to 30 passengers. I remember majority of Kenyans opposed it. A speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour was imposed on *matatus* which used to be driven at over 150 kilometres per hour, but Kenyans also opposed that. Installation of safety belts was also opposed. When the third president stood firm on it, through his Minister, today every Kenyan enjoys it.

We are currently in a similar situation. When the President took over the reign of this country in 2022, he found the country hugely indebted. We had almost reached the ceiling for our loan's obligations. Kenyans complained that they were being taxed very highly. There was no room for more taxation. The President turned to PPPs but Kenyans opposed it. What do we expect him and his government to do? I was impressed by the termination of the Adani contracts, both for the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO) and Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). I was very concerned. In my research, I found out that Kenyans were not against the contracts. They had a problem with the lack of transparency that was used in getting those contracts. My proposal is that if this country is going to enter into any PPP, it should be transparent and not be single sourced. We should give many organisations an opportunity to bid for them and then we get reasonable figures.

I thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The Member for Tharaka, Hon. George Murugara.

Hon. George Murugara (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

I am also happy to get the opportunity to contribute on the President's Address during the auspicious occasion. Although I was out of the country at that particular time, I was able to listen to the Address from Cape Town. I must commend His Excellency the President because he tried to give the picture of the country as it is. As we progress, all the matters should now be considered with the aim of moving forward and in a better way.

First and foremost, the President highlighted several laws that are to be enacted for purposes of good governance in the country. I am happy to report that some of the laws have already been considered in this House through the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. What is outstanding is the Conflict of Interest Bill. This is a Bill of the National Assembly that was passed sometime back and then taken to the Senate where several amendments were re-introduced. Since this House rejected the amendments, we have had to have a mediation. I confirm to this House that a Mediation Committee was established and started sittings yesterday. We undertake that by the close of business this week, we should have a mediated version of the Conflict of Interest Bill in the House to be passed.

The President also highlighted the case tracking systems and e-filing for the Judiciary. In fact, he lauded the Judiciary for being the leader in technology in the government. These are very important steps that the Judiciary has taken to ensure that parties are informed of their cases in time and the filing is also done timely. The net effect is that delivery of services in the

Judiciary is improving and has continued to improve. As a result of which we now have more cases being determined annually. Hon. Deputy Speaker, you headed this when you were in the Judiciary. The Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) system that was introduced that time is what is being improved and we must laud you for that.

We also had a presentation from the President regarding the Bill of Rights which is also very important. Of late, we have had issues with what is being termed as abductions and forced disappearances. We also have had extra judicial killings. As advocates of human rights, we must condemn anything that is unlawful which is being done by anyone from whatever quarter. We have always said that, as a country, we abide by the rule of law and everybody is bound by the laws we have in the country including the Constitution, the statutes and regulations made thereunder.

If there are to be arrests by the police, those arrests have to be within the confines of the law. Any other criminal that goes on to abuse the law must be brought to book in a manner that is prescribed. If we move in this manner, our country will continue to shine in the continent as one that is strictly governed by the rule of law.

The President also highlighted other aspects of life including the CBC where there have been questions as regards the preparedness of the country towards this. It is a new education system that was introduced. We know for sure that it has teething problems like shortage of infrastructure but the country is moving to address this through our NG-CDF and allocations from the Ministry. We will ensure that the infrastructure is established, teachers are employed and our children continue to get best quality education.

The President spoke of the economy which is improving and growing, including stabilising our shilling. We are happy to see that we are now competitive when it comes to hard currencies. Our shilling is doing well. We are happy to note that inflation rates have gone down. There is evidence that our shilling is becoming stronger every day. This is good for the country. Interest rates have gone down which means we are able to borrow more money and bring it into circulation in the country for purposes of growth.

There was mention of our agriculture where we are boosting production. Again, here we must laud the policies that appeared unpopular in the first place, but led to a boost in production such that our silos are almost full in terms of food reserves. We have put in place measures to ensure that production of sugar, coffee, and milk is improved. The President emphasised that we need to invest resources in the agriculture sector and ensure that we boost production for the sake of the country.

On the Universal Health Care (UHC), I wish to state that the Social Health Authority (SHA) and the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), now Taifa Care, have been giving Kenyans nightmares. However, from today, as we read in the Press, things have begun to work. It was said that the challenges were going to last for two to three months then all the systems would be in place and every Kenyan would get free health care. In as much as Kenyans are complaining about taxation on the UHC and the housing levy, I can confirm to the House that some of the laws that are about to be introduced in this House will ensure that Kenyans are taken care of and taxation is reduced. As a result, the burden that is resting on Kenyans will be eased.

As I conclude, there was a discussion on corruption. It is a vice that eats into the flame of the country. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) now has a new CEO. The one who was there completed his term. I may not discuss a lot about the new CEO. He is going to be a subject of the proceedings in this House. The Motion is not here yet. It is high time the EACC got a new CEO so that corruption – a vice that is eating into the flesh of the country – can be fought. We know very well that it is difficult to fight corruption because corruption fights back. We must, under all circumstances, ensure that this vice is eradicated. Unless we

eliminate corrupt elements and corrupt practices that are injurious to the well-being of a country, we cannot develop.

All in all, the President gave a balanced speech. He made assurances that it is not pledges that are being made now. Slowly, it is becoming a reality that some of the promises that were made in the plan are actually being actualised. With those remarks, I wish to rest my comments there.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Beatrice Elachi.

Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to give thanks to the Address of His Excellency the President. This was one Address that gave the country a new face. The President told us that the country is starting on a new trajectory as it moves from where it has been to a better place where every Kenyan will start to appreciate what is happening in the Government. The President analysed all the pillars that needed to be touched so that we can move forward as a country. One of the pillars he touched on was food security. It is critical in ensuring that people have food on their tables. The other pillar was UHC. He rebranded it to Taifa Care, which is a better name to move with. I want to tell you that those who registered with SHIF are starting to see how it works. I want to tell every Member of Parliament here that it is our responsibility to ensure that our people register with SHIF so that we actualise Article 43 of the Constitution.

I call upon the civil society that has been fighting for provision of health care to appreciate it. The civil society has been urging that the country adheres to the Maputo Protocol and all other related protocols that we are party to. It is time we actualised Article 43 of the Constitution. Therefore, we must work together. We must see where the problem is. Let us first register Kenyans. We will then face the Government if it fails to offer medical care to the already registered people. That is the point where we should pick a fight with the Government. If we have to criticise the Government, we should criticise it in a positive way so that things work for our country. If things work in the country, it means they are working for all of us.

The President also talked about femicide. Even as we start the 16 days of activism and campaign against gender-based violence, I remember a vulnerable family in Dagoretti North that lost a girl. She was a third-year student at the Mount Kenya University. She is called Vivian Kajaya. We buried her. This girl's mum was in Kawangware. Imagine knowing that your daughter is in Mount Kenya University but you find her body in Nakuru. That was the saddest thing ever to happen to that family. Yesterday, again, other cases of femicide were reported. So, I laud the President. All the agencies that are dealing with these cases have, indeed, let us down. In fact, my prayer is that their officers should be taken for re-training in order for them to understand femicide. We have officers who, when they talk about gender-based violence, you will realise that they think it is a crime just like any other crime. We have lost so many women and it is not fair even for us as a country.

The other thing that I want to really thank the President for is bringing out everything that the Government has done so far. We have decided as a country to be very negative. There is nothing good we see. We are not realising that... If you look at Burundi and Nigeria now, you will end up thanking God 10 times for our country, Kenya. So, I want to tell Kenyans out there and those of us who go to the media to discuss politics, that the President was following whatever was happening with the Adani deal and he decided to cancel it. We should be appreciating that the Adani deal has been cancelled instead of starting to question, again. We need to be questioning how we will get a new airport so that we can be like Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania that have made progress.

With those few remarks, I want to thank God for what He has given us. We are better and we can do better. Kenya is great.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Osoro, Member for South Mugirango.

Hon. Silvanus Osoro (South Mugirango, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to also speak to the Presidential Address by His Excellency the President in this House. The President, in my view, spoke to the real issues that affect the common mwananchi. He has been accused in the past of not being in touch with the things that affect the common man. However, from the Address that he gave last week, you do not need to be a rocket scientist to identify the things that he said directly touch on the common mwananchi. The challenge we have as a country now is that people are naturally negative. That is the situation we are facing right now.

I will be very specific on the things that the President spoke to, especially on health, education, the Adani deal, and even the cost of living. It is a fact – we all live in this country – that at the time the President took power as the President of this country, the price of common commodities like *unga*, our staple food, was very high. That is no more because of the measures that have been put in place to make sure that we increase our production. The President spoke to that fact. The President also spoke about the economy. He talked about the exchange rate of the United States of America (USA) Dollar against the Kenya Shilling which is not as it was when he took over power. This is also a fact.

More importantly, and a thing that touches the common mwananchi that is so dear to so many of us is the SHIF. Several people who do not understand how it works and do not want to understand how it works are opposing a very noble idea. On one point, you want leaders that you elect to bring change. When they bring it, you raise questions and say we need to go back to *status quo*. You complain that NHIF is not working. It has not been working because people make unscrupulous claims. Now, when there is a system that is put in place that is working very well, you, again, say that we revert to the old system. Why do you elect leaders? You do it for change and you admit their ideas. You cannot complain without offering a solution. I want to read a message that I received yesterday from a constituent about SHIF:

“Good evening, *Mheshimiwa*. I wish I can get an opportunity to thank His Excellency the President, but through you, the message is at home. I am from South Mugirango, Tabaka Ward and a beneficiary of Social Health Authority. It has footed my dad's surgery hospital bill of Ksh151, 000 without me paying a shilling”.

These are people who are sending us messages. When they had challenges, they used to invite us for medical fundraisers. This is transformation. This is something that all of us should celebrate.

The President spoke loudly and in a clear language. He encouraged Members to tell the members of public to register in large numbers, because this is now what we call the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) system. It is working. On this point, he spoke to the real issues.

The President also spoke to the issues that bedevil this country: femicide and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). One wakes up one morning and decides to make his wife, girlfriend, or woman a punching bag and then kills them. Some of them are tortured to death, which is really shocking. I do not know whether it is a moral issue or the devil gets into people's heads. A man wakes up one morning and decides to turn the person whom he lives with or he has a relationship with into an animal and hits her. That is the point the President spoke to. We all condemn it.

Finally, this House was accused of celebrating Adani's contracts. Some Members of Parliament celebrated when the deal was proposed. When the President sought for the withdrawal of the contracts, we clapped and gave him a standing ovation.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I will add you one minute to finish your sentence.

Hon. Silvanus Osoro (South Mugirango, UDA): I want to explain to the members of the public that it is, indeed, true we celebrated initially when that proposal was brought to us. First, we agree that our airport is not doing well. It does not look good. We do not want to borrow loans to make it. We have no other option of making it other than engaging in a Public

Private Partnership (PPP). We were very happy that there was a PPP. However, we did not know that Adani is corrupt. There were speculations until that morning when the USA found him culpable of corruption. As patriotic Kenyans, we were happy because we were fighting corruption. That is why the Members of Parliament gave the President a standing ovation. It is because he is fighting corruption.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Member for Mandera South.

Hon. Abdul Haro (Mandera South, UDM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to also air my views on the State of the Nation Address by the President.

(Hon. Silvanus Osoro consulted loudly)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Osoro, stop shouting across the House.

Hon. Abdul Haro (Mandera South, UDM): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for granting me this opportunity to express my views on the State of the Nation Address by the President. In summary, the President's speech was short or concise, hopeful and very forward looking. I agree with the Whip of the Majority Party that he touched on key issues affecting Kenyans.

The President talked at length about the state of food security in the country. He had very good news for the sugarcane farmers. He told the nation that the 17 sugar industries we have in the country are all now functional, up and running. For the first time since independence, we have a surplus of sugar production in this country. He also had very good news for the coffee farmers. They are now enjoying good prices.

The President also talked about health. He elucidated at length about SHIF and SHA. He drew a clear difference between Taifa Care and the defunct NHIF. He explained why Taifa Care, under SHA, is more superior to the defunct NHIF.

The President also addressed education matters. He touched on the teachers' crisis and how the Government will address it. He addressed the issues arising from the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). He also addressed the question of the crisis in our universities now. We have a lecturers' strike going on. Most of the students from universities are languishing at home.

The President also addressed and condemned the many cases of people disappearing and illegal arrests. He termed them as a threat to life of Kenyans. He also talked about wastage and corruption. You remember we gave him a standing ovation when he particularly talked about the Adani deals.

There are two things I wish the President had addressed in his speech, but he did not. When he talked about food security, he had good news for the sugarcane farmers and coffee farmers. I wish he also addressed the state of livestock farmers in this country. The livestock industry supports about 10 million Kenyans in 14 Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties. It contributes 12 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It contributes 50 per cent of the agriculture labour force. It is affected by droughts and conflicts. I wish the President addressed the state of the livestock industry in relation to the food security component that he addressed. Going forward, whenever we address issues of food security and agriculture, we should always make effort to address the livestock component of the agriculture sector.

When the President talked about enforced disappearances, the impression was that those people who disappeared are those ones who went missing after the demonstrations. In parts of North Eastern, there are people who have been disappearing under enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. For example, in my constituency, I have three Kenyans who have been missing for the last six months: Hassan Mali Mali of Identification Card Number 26881584; Adan Mali Mali of Identification Card Number 35332269; and, Abdi

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Ali Abdullahi of Identification Card Number 23490434. I wish the President addressed the question of disappearances in North Eastern and not just the issue of missing persons after the demonstrations that took place in this country.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for the giving me the opportunity to contribute.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Member for Narok County, Hon. Tonkei.

Hon. Rebecca Tonkei (Narok County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the President's Speech. The President's Speech was good and we are happy because most of the issues Kenyans face were addressed.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, you are one of the leaders who visited the President a day before he came to address the nation. The issue of gender-based violence is on the rise. Every day, we wake up to killing of women by men. It is unfortunate that the people who are killing us are the people we expect to give us leisure. We also contribute to their leisure so that they can enjoy the company of women. It is unfortunate that women are dying in the hands of the men that the women have entrusted their lives with. The President addressed this issue as we requested: that he should provide for desks in hospitals to address cases of gender-based violence. This is to ensure that when a woman is taken to the hospital, for example, she should be given P3 forms and the police should address that issue in the hospitals. The cases are rising in number at an alarming rate, and as women we are facing it. We are really terrified that every day as we wake up, we are not sure that we are going to get home safely. When you look at the issue of the three women — a woman and her three daughters — who were killed the other day in Eastleigh, it is really scary. Therefore, it is an issue that we cannot stand as women.

The President committed to also check on the gender rule where more women will be given chances to be in leadership positions. For the first time, many women have been given very many positions, for example, the Cabinet Secretary positions. This is the first time in Kenyan history where the President has given women equal representation.

The other issue that we are happy about is that of teacher recruitment. The President has committed to check on the education sector where the child of the common mwananchi is going to get the right to education through employment of teachers. We have heard the President say 56,000 teachers have been employed. Just the other day, 46,000 teachers were confirmed on permanent and pensionable terms, and as we talk right now, there is ongoing recruitment of 20,000 interns who will be confirmed after one year. So, looking at the Kenya Kwanza Government, it is the first time in the history of the country that the highest number of teachers have been employed.

So, we applaud the President for giving the best speech and giving Kenyans hope that Kenya is on the right track. We support the President for this because Kenya is, indeed, on the right track. We want to tell Kenyans to look at the good things that this Government has done. Please, look at what the President is doing and support him for he is actually working very hard for Kenyans.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Dido Raso, Member for Saku.

Hon. Ali Raso (Saku, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker. Let me thank the President for his bold and focused speech. This is not the first Government. This is the fifth administration of the Republic of Kenya and within two years, Kenyans are saying the election promises have not been fulfilled. We must be careful about some of the things we are asking for. This is the Government that came into office and said that they found the national coffers empty. What is it that they can do to turn around the economy, education, health and everything around in two years? There is no Government that has bad intentions for its people. Listening to the President of the Republic of Kenya last Thursday, I think he was clear and honest. He was focused because he was telling Kenyans the problems that are there and what he intends to do to address them.

On education, in the last administration, CBC was adopted. Many of us in the political space were very sceptical. We did not want to proceed with CBC. However, this administration and President William Ruto said if Kenyans find CBC to be a good system, that it is a foundational education that tends to look at skills development at a very young age, then let it be. Indeed, many professionals in that sector supported him. Today, the President has put in place the necessary infrastructure. Over 56,000 teachers have been employed so that this CBC can be a success. They say Rome was not built in a day. There is no way we are going to ask why CBC has teething problems. As Kenyans, we must begin to accept that there is no seamless system when you run a country.

Second is the issue of health. They say health is wealth. When a country invests in health, then it simply means it is looking after its people. The health system in the United Kingdom, among the oldest in the world, is still having a lot of problems. We established ours just one year down the line, and we are saying it is not working. It cannot just work on the spur of the moment. We must invest in it. We must have the necessary human capital invested. We must also have a system which is able to move things around so that it works for the people.

Hon. Osoro gave an example of a Kenyan who feels that, indeed, this thing is working. We are asking ourselves why people are fighting this system. We have found out that it is a few interested parties who have invested money in hospitals and in the health system, and are benefiting from what should be a universal thing where all Kenyans benefit.

Let me talk about security. In the North Rift, the guns are silent. It is because of the stellar performance of this Government. If many will not talk about it, few of us will talk about it. Today, our people are not killing each other, and rustling has gone down. This has happened as a result of investment by this Government in new sub-counties and sub-locations. These have gone a long way in improving the administrative footprint of the Government.

The Deputy Speaker: Add him one minute.

Hon. Ali Raso (Saku, UDA): I really want to thank the President for the sub-county of Ileret that belongs to the people of the Daasanach. They are among the minority tribes of this country. They live on the border of Kenya and Ethiopia, along the shores of River Omo and Lake Turkana. They have been given a sub county. This is how focused the Government looks at fate and how minorities must be brought into the centre of governance.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, with those few remarks. I thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Next is the Member for Sirisia. I know you stayed quite late yesterday.

Hon. John Koyi (Sirisia, JP): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me a chance to also contribute to the State of the Nation Address, by His Excellency the President. He spoke on many issues that are affecting this country. Many people did not understand him but they now understand him.

The President talk about youth employment opportunities in this country. This month, we saw young people doing job interviews to go and work abroad. Many of them were recruited. He spoke about this but people were unsure. Kenyans do not believe easily.

We should support our President and his Government. He took over the country when the economy was down and loans had reached the ceiling. The country is now paying debts. In every agency, department or ministry, civil servants are being paid their salaries. The President is working very hard to ensure that everything goes on well. He is hands-on.

Kenyans were shocked on two occasions. The first was when Generation Z came to Parliament and the second was when they asked the President to sack his Cabinet, which he did. He listens to the people of Kenya. In this House, we struggled to pass the Finance Bill, 2024. When it reached State House, the President did not assent to it because Kenyans did not like it.

Regarding the Adani issue, all of us were shocked when the President cancelled the contract. I do not like it when Members of Parliament clap their hands like school children. There is a way we should clap when the President or whoever passes or rejects something. We should not stand up and misbehave like school children. We are supposed to listen...

Hon. Esther Passaris (Nairobi City County, ODM): On a point of order Hon. Deputy Speaker?

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order, Hon. Passaris?

Hon. Esther Passaris (Nairobi City County, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I would like the Member to withdraw the statement, "misbehave like school children." Our school children do not misbehave. This is too generalised and stereotyping. When some youth misbehave, we cannot brand all of them as having bad behaviour. To say that we behaved like school children is an insult to all the children of this nation. Thank you.

Hon. Omboko Milemba (Emuhaya, ANC): On a point of order, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order, Hon. Omboko?

Hon. Omboko Milemba (Emuhaya, ANC): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. This is a House of respect and honour. The tradition of rising in the event a speaker touches people's souls or says something exciting that is overwhelmingly magnanimous for the country or a particular group is allowed. Hon. Members are being misconstrued for having risen. That was very well in order. It is called a standing ovation. It is not good to say that Hon. Members behaved badly. Standing ovations are respected moments of a great speaker when delivering a speech.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Member for Sirisia, you should withdraw and apologise to Hon. Members.

Hon. John Koyi (Sirisia, JP): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I know it is a House of...

Hon. Deputy Speaker: No! I have asked you to withdraw. Are you declining?

Hon. John Koyi (Sirisia, JP): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I withdraw. But we need to have a way of... Let me leave it at that. I have withdrawn and apologised to Hon. Members.

Hon. John Koyi (Sirisia, JP): Hon. Deputy Speaker, when the President took over this country, he ensured that teachers were employed.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: You have half a minute to finish your sentence.

Hon. John Koyi (Sirisia, JP): A total of 56,000 teachers have been employed. For the first time, Kenya wants to export sugar to other countries. This shows that our President is working very hard to ensure that collapsed factories are revived. Seventeen of them have been revived and we are happy with the work of the President. As leaders of this country, we should support the Government of President William Ruto as he continues to build this country.

Hon. Deputy Speaker...

Hon. Deputy Speaker: You have finished your minute. The Member for Dagoretti South, Hon. John Waweru.

Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to make my contribution on the State of the Nation Address made by the President. To me, it was very well-prepared and delivered. If this speech can be captured in one statement, it would be the analogy he used. The President said he is a farmer and if you are a farmer, you plant a seed. It will be very foolhardy for anybody to dig up the seed to see if it has germinated.

If the Constitution of Kenya is a seed that we planted as a people, we are waiting to harvest the aspirations we espoused. If the Kenya Kwanza Plan, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and other marshall plans out there are seeds that were planted, then it is upon us as farmers to cultivate, prune and take care of them. Even going to the garden to see if there is progress.

If BETA was a seed that was planted, we should check two years later, whether we can harvest anything. From the President's Speech, it is clear there are parameters telling us that we are in the right direction of recovery. The President enumerated some of the successes we are all seeing. If it is the price of fuel, it has been consistently going down month by month. If it is the cost of living, the price of *unga* is not where it was in 2022. The President told us that, if we were to put it in a word, it would be what the Swahili say, *ukiona vyaelea, jua vimeundwa*. It took a policy change, shifting from subsidising consumption to subsidising production. That is what has led to the reduction of the cost of living, especially the cost of basic goods like *unga*. Inflation came from a high of 9 per cent to a low of 2.6 per cent. The last time we were at an inflation rate lower than 3 per cent was more than 17 years ago.

The point I am making here is that, yes, there are plans that have been put out there. Yes, there has been implementation going on and, yes, there have been results. From the speech, the President is telling us that the situation is not business as usual. The situation calls for agility. It calls for innovation. It also calls for responsiveness. That is why the President says that he is listening. This House is also listening. Leaders are now being forced to hear what it is that the people are saying. Even as we become agile, innovative and responsive, we have to place responsibility where it has to be placed.

In his speech, the President spoke about plans in the sector that the Committee I chair superintends: the sector of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) and the digital economy. He talked about rolling out 100 kilometres of fibre, Wi-Fi hotspots, digitisation of government services and the institution of digital innovation hubs. For this to happen, it will not be just the work of the Executive. It will take the Cabinet to move with him. Members of Parliament have to also take their role, especially in the installation of digital innovation hubs. The ministries and agencies will have to be way more agile. They will have to do that which the President is calling on us to do—to be innovative in the approach and responsive—so that we take this farm that we call Kenya ahead. The President drew a picture of us as farmers. We have planted a seed that we all must take care of and prune if we shall harvest the fruits espoused in the national anthem that says “plenty be found within our borders”. It was a great speech. It is for us to now implement it.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Janet Sitienei, Member for Turbo.

Hon. Janet Sitienei (Turbo, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for according me this opportunity to add my voice. I applaud our President for the great State of the Nation Address. I was particularly very happy because the President gave a very, very good speech. The Address was very specific to the issues raised by wananchi and their aspirations. The very issues that the President took us through were measurable, achievable and time-bound.

The President started by recognising issues raised by wananchi or the people of Kenya, which was a very good indicator that he is alive to the issues bedevilling our nation. That really made me very happy about him. It also showed us that our President is a listening President. That is why he started by mentioning issues bedevilling our people. He went ahead to give the progress and plans he has to take this country forward.

I am really happy about the progress with the affordable housing programme and enhanced food security in this country. For a while there has not been a need for distribution of relief food in this country, because of affordable fertiliser and the favourable weather that the Lord has blessed us with. There is enhanced food security.

The President also mentioned something that excited me about improvement in the sugar sector. He mentioned that we are already self-sufficient in terms of sugar production and, therefore, we do not need to import sugar anymore. We have sufficient sugar for our nation and we are going to have more to export. That made me very happy because previously we had been importing sugar. That is why we had a menace of contaminated sugar, which led to a lot

of cancer in our people. The fact that we are going to be self-sufficient in sugar production will improve our economy and help people have money in their pockets. That is something very good.

The President also mentioned something on the economic growth: That we are on an upward trajectory. He also said that he had put measures in place to increase the tax base, which is going to improve revenue collection in this country and improve our economy. We are really happy about the President's Address. He mentioned the declining inflation, which has moved to 2.7 per cent from 9.6 per cent in 2022. This is a very positive trajectory in this country. Even the dollar has now gone down and it has made commodity prices to go down. We thank the President because he has listened and put measures in place to improve our country going forward.

I was really excited when the President ended by saying that this country is resilient. It is very true. Our country is resilient and we thank the President for putting proper measures in place. He has already hired the highest number of teachers, which has never been done before. Hiring 56,000 teachers is not a mean achievement. He has plans to employ another 20,000 teachers by January. We are praying that as we get into the next budget...

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Finish your sentence.

Hon. Janet Sitienei (Turbo, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. We are praying that in the next budget, the President should employ the remaining teachers who have already graduated. We have quite a number of teachers who still are not employed. Employing them will bring back our education to the mark where we were before.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I thank our President for putting a lot of work into this. That speech was wonderful. It has given hope to the people. I was on the ground and people are very happy about it because they can see hope. People are now positive about UHC and SHA. They have understood what they mean.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, if I give you one minute to finish your sentence, you cannot start a fresh point.

Hon. Janet Sitienei (Turbo, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I request that you stick to the five minutes because there are many Members waiting. Thank you.

The Member for Emuhaya, Hon. Omboko Milemba.

Hon. Omboko Milemba (Emuhaya, ANC): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for this chance. When a President whose nation has been facing a lot of challenges and bashing from the social media on issues to do with the CBC, hiring of teachers, university education funding model, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) manifested in Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) and the unemployment manifested in the many youths who do not have work and the promissory notes given by the Government to have these jobs outside the country...

Healthcare, the now Social Health Insurance Fund and Social Health Authority also known as Taifa Care is a challenge. The cost of living has been very high. This is caused by the high prices of food starting with the basic items identified and measured in terms of what we commonly call the *gorogoro* which has risen from Ksh100 to Ksh250. The unstable shilling and the external borrowing that had gone overboard, and has stretched us in terms of the physical space has caused the inflation to 9 per cent. The challenging relationship that we have had with the church is still ongoing. Having femicide as a challenge on his head and many other things including the sugar sector which had completely died, the President walking into Parliament and confidently confronting those issues one by one truly shows that he is a great leader.

When the President walked into the House, I was not sure how he would address the nation and Parliament but at the end of his speech, I was convinced that he is a President who is ready to confront the challenges that are before him and the ones facing Kenyans. I was very

clear in my mind that the standing ovation that the President received in this House was worthwhile and well deserved because he spoke truthfully and rightfully. He did not hide any cards nor gloss over anything, rather he confronted everything that needed to be, head-on including Parliament itself on certain laws that have not passed, and especially on the Conflict of Interest Bill, 2023. He also confronted the Judiciary on how they deal with corruption cases. That is why this House must not feel intimidated in any way that they gave the President a standing ovation.

I am a teacher of history and government. Some Presidents have received standing ovations. One of the longest-standing ovations was 22 minutes which a President in America received because of this good address in that particular Assembly. Allow me to pick up on one because of time. The confrontation that the President tackled with the SHA/SHIF/Taifa Care was so good. I have gone to the villages and realised that the biggest challenge that SHA is facing is on registration. If we want to succeed in that sector, we must make our people register. How do they register? The Community Health Promoters (CHPs) were sent three links. The first and second links did not work, but the third link is now working. Unfortunately, they need bundles to register our people. We need to move as Parliament and everyone else. Possibly, I am speaking to the Cabinet Secretary that we need to white mark that link for registration of people into SHA so that it does not draw any money or any bundles from the CHPs, and would register everybody. Once everybody is registered, we can now confront the issue of whether it is working or not. That is one area that I thought its confrontation was correct.

Another area that the President confronted was education, CBC and employment of teachers which I thought was very good but we are now challenged with promotions. The issue of the 45,000 teachers not getting promotions was because of a letter by the Cabinet Secretary of National Treasury and Economic Planning which is blocking the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) from using the monies they have in Appropriations in Aid (A-in-A). I ask this House to ask the Cabinet Secretary to allow the TSC to promote these teachers.

With those many remarks, I commend the President for the good speech. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Nominated Member, Hon. (Dr) Bishop Jackson Kosgei.

Hon. (Dr) Jackson Kosgei (Nominated, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the State of the Nation Address by His Excellency the President of our great country.

Allow me Hon. Deputy Speaker, to quote from one of the scholars about regimes and systems that rule the world. There is a university lecturer in one of the Indian universities, Krishna Udayasankar, who said, “No empire lasts forever, no dynasty continues unbroken. Someday, you and I will be mere legends. All that matters is whether we did what we could with the life that was given to us.”

It was a speech of leadership with due care and attention. The President was honest, candid, focused and relevant. He has been described by his speech in this country and internationally. I listened to some of the comments made by other countries, and they said that he appeared and demonstrated as a listening President in the following areas which were very clear in his comments: health, food security, education, security and the economy.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Gladys Boss) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba) took the Chair]

Hon. Temporary Speaker, when I listened to the President and the reactions that we had, and in light of where we have come from in the history of this country since independence, for a country to progress, and for us to benefit from every leadership that comes to us, I wish to appeal to all of us as a country and a people of this nation that what will make us benefit

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from this country is what has been described by historians as the solidarity of purpose. We must be proud to stand by our shared values and interests as a people so that every opportunity given to us, we can advance ourselves. We should also have a national pride. Let us be proud of our country, love our nation and make sure that each one of us plays their role as we serve the nation. Do the best you can so that we can pull our country together towards prosperity and a promise of future generations.

In conclusion Hon. Temporary Speaker, on matters that were raised by the President on health for example, education and security, I wish to also comment on what the women in this country have faced recently. What surprises me is that some of the people who attack our women are people known to them. It is a question of moral values. I appeal to all social connection institutions to do their best in influencing the character and moral shaping of our society.

With that, I applaud the Speech by His Excellency.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. Hon. Paul Mwirigi of Igembe South.

Hon. John Paul Mwirigi (Igembe South, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

Kenya is our motherland. We do not have any other country to call home. I commend His Excellency the President for the well-informed speech which he issued here, on Thursday. When the current Government assumed office, we were not on the right trajectory, but His Excellency the President made it clear what our achievements up to now are. The President has reformed the agriculture sector. He took the initiative to subsidise agricultural inputs since the previous Government subsidised the consumable goods. Through subsidising the inputs, the price of a sack of fertiliser, which was Ksh7,000, dropped to Ksh2,500. Many farmers are now producing a lot of food. On Thursday, His Excellency the President told us that there are more than 47 million bags of cereals at the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). That means that our country will be food secure. We will end the maize importation that we have been forced to do in past years as we are almost a food sufficient nation.

Secondly, His Excellency the President talked about revival of the sugar factories. Already 17 factories are operational. Kenya is now sugar secure and sufficient. He informed us that we are now on our way to export our sugar to other nations. That means that the money which was being used to import sugar will be utilised elsewhere. We will now earn foreign exchange due to exportation of sugar and our economy will improve immensely.

It should also be noted that many of our youths have been employed in those 17 factories, and the upcoming three factories will also employ many youths. His Excellency the President has good thoughts towards our nation. As the father of the nation, he must think about how the nation will grow and bring an end to the citizens' complaints.

His Excellency the President elaborated on the healthcare reforms. We have heard many testimonies from Kenyans who have benefited from the Taifa Care. Many Kenyans have benefited from that insurance. I urge all Kenyans to enrol for that insurance, so that they can benefit. It is an instant insurance which can benefit our people.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I commend His Excellency the President for his Speech. I know that our nation will be secure.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Suzanne Kiamba.

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the President's Speech.

First and foremost, I wish to appreciate two important things. I liked the promise of exemption from taxation on agricultural inputs that the President mentioned in his Speech. I hope that that is implemented very fast because our farmers are suffering due to very expensive

inputs that have made farming unprofitable. I wish that that is reinforced so that our farmers can benefit from the business of farming.

Secondly, I wish to appreciate the incentives that sugarcane farmers were given. The fact that we can now produce our own sugar is a plus.

Nevertheless, I have many questions regarding the President's Speech. I wish that those issues could be put into context. First, the concept of SHA was very good, but as far as I am concerned, its implementation remains a scam. You realise that salaried people are carrying the burden of SHA. Kenya is not made up of salaried people alone. When they carry the burden of SHA without the big businessmen or people in the informal sector, who are not under SHA, you are turning them into slaves. That is discriminatory. I do not know why they were in a hurry to set up that programme. If that programme is for Kenya, everybody should be on board. The salaried people should not carry the burden of SHA alone.

Secondly, I also heard that SHA is now Taifa Care. How many things are being introduced outside Parliament? It is respectful that we continue to consistently use the terms that are introduced in Parliament. Otherwise, we will just be a House of decorations and not a House that makes decisions for Kenya. I was very shocked to hear that new terminology while I knew very well that we have SHA and SHIF. It is very demotivating for people behind the curtains to come up with other funny names because it erodes the trust of Kenyans. We wonder when those names were crafted and what else is being crafted.

What benefits are people getting from SHA? A patient on dialysis is entitled to Ksh6,000 per session. How much is a dialysis session? Let us unpack that new healthcare system and not pretend that we are newcomers in Kenya. What will Ksh6,000 cover for patient on dialysis? That is a big joke. That needs to be reviewed.

The element of Adani in SHA must be done away with. If we have said that Adani is corrupt, then he is corrupt all through. We cannot have an element of Adani in SHA and yet, it is being covered up to seem like it does not exist. The element of Adani in SHA should be removed. That is in order.

My second point is on...

Hon. Cynthia Muge (Nandi County, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Order, Hon. Member. There is a point of order.

Hon. Cynthia Muge (Nandi County, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, everything that is said and mentioned on the Floor of the House must be substantiated and factual. I ask the Member on the Floor of the House to produce evidence that Adani has something to do with SHA.

(Applause)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Order!

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, that Member must be a foreigner.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Order, Hon. Member. We do not use casual language in this House. This is a House of order and rules. The Member has risen in her place and asked you to substantiate the relationship between Adani and SHA. Proceed to do so or withdraw your statement.

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, if I am getting it right, one of the companies that is implementing SHA is in partnership with Adani. It is known all over. I can bring that information if you give me time.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Order! This is a House of records. Could you name the company, and produce the company's documents and its relationship with Adani? This is a House of rules and order. Proceed with your contribution.

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I can see that everybody is up in arms because this House has decided that no other voice should be heard. Protect me, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

Secondly, nobody is against PPPs. When we accused Adani and Kenyans rejected the issue of Adani, it was not about rejecting PPPs...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Add the Member one minute. Her time was taken away.

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I need my God. The President talked about the issue of governance. Recently, we had what we call a broad-based Government, witnessing a case where the Opposition joined the Government. Practically, we do not have a functional Opposition in this House because everything is becoming yes, yes, yes, yes. Kenyans are not getting what they should get out of Parliament. This is reducing the democratic space that Kenyans have worked so hard to develop.

Hon. Fatuma Mohammed (Migori County, Independent): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): What is your point of order, Hon. Member? The microphone is available for you.

Hon. Fatuma Mohammed (Migori County, Independent): Hon. Temporary Speaker, the Member has just talked about the Opposition joining Government. I would like to confirm to you that I am in the Opposition, and I have not joined any other Government. If there is anyone who has joined, please clarify to us who this person called 'Opposition' is.

As a member of Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party, I am in the Opposition, and I am there to stay until we are elected.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): We have heard you. Your point of order has been made. The speaker on the Floor, please conclude.

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): I have not mentioned anybody; I am giving my opinion on what I see on the Floor of the House, where the Leader of the Minority Party fully supports the Government and even speaks more than the proposer of the Motion from the Government side.

Lastly, this is a very important point. The President talked about us having security, but since June 2024, this country has witnessed high levels of insecurity, such as the killing of youths and the Shakahola issue has never been addressed. What is insecurity in Kenya...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. You have had your bite.

(Hon. Suzanne Kiamba spoke off the record)

You have had your bite Hon. Member. Hon. Paul Biego.

Hon. Paul Biego (Chesumei, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for this opportunity.

I rise to add my voice to the President's State of the Nation Address. As he gave his scorecard for the two years, he was very clear and, most importantly, he sold hope to the great people of Kenya. What struck me most was when he pointed out and demonstrated how the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has increased its revenue from Ksh5.3 billion to Ksh7.6 billion

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by strengthening and tightening their procurement processes, which cut down on wastages by digitalising their systems. This is one parastatal that has done so well, and the template being used by them should be cascaded throughout the country to help institutions be self-sustaining.

He also mentioned so many gains, among them the stabilisation of the shilling, which appreciated from Kshs162 to the Dollar and is now at Ksh129, reflecting a positive turnaround and upward trajectory to the economy. Issues to do with economy are key, and he also mentioned the fact that inflation rate has come down. I am very happy about that because inflation dropped from 9.6 to 2.7 per cent, which is very impressive.

He also mentioned the employment of 56,000 Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers. We take note that, in a record two years, no other Government has been able to employ 56,000 teachers on permanent and pensionable status. Alongside that, I have taken note of the construction of over 11,000 JSS classrooms across the country.

It is also notable that, in agriculture, sugar factories have been revived. Seventeen factories are now operational, and we shall soon be self-sustaining. It is, therefore, remarkable.

On the fight against corruption, he gave zero-tolerance and asked the National Treasury and Economic Planning to adopt e-procurement services. I am happy, and it is notable that 20,850 services are currently being offered digitally, which is something to be proud of.

Another thing that I am happy about is that each arm of Government was called out, for example, Parliament on the issue of Conflict of Interest Bill, 2023, and the Judiciary on the issue of delayed cases.

I also take note of SHA, SHIF and Taifa Care health care services. I call upon Kenyans to note that this is a new product which I believe is good. Let us give it some time. As many Members have said, and as the President also mentioned, it is important for us to tell our people to register so that they can enjoy using these services.

Also, notably are the trips that the President and his entourage have made overseas, which I believe have borne a lot of fruits. The bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding have shown that the labour force we are now exporting will help and assist in the growth of the GDP.

Lastly, I am happy that the policies that have been put in place have helped bring down the cost of living. For example, the price of commodities like *unga* and other stuff like fuel and petrol products have come down. I am happy that this country is now on a positive trajectory.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Dick Maungu.

Hon. Dick Oyugi (Luanda, DAP-K): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity to add and contribute to this important President's Address to the nation.

The President's Address to this National Assembly is a matter that is constitutional and therefore meant to communicate, or rather set the agenda, to the country. The whole country was waiting anxiously to hear the message that the President had for this country.

There is a Swahili saying, *Mgala muue, na haki umpe*, and I must agree that the Address gave hope to Kenyans, especially on the number of variables I wish to delve into.

First is the issue of education. It is a fact that this regime has done extremely well in matters of education. As much as we have had challenges on teacher management, especially recruitment of teachers, it is a plus that we should all be able to applaud. To date, this Government has recruited close to 56,000 teachers, who will help address the huge teacher shortage that we have had.

I believe this is an issue we should all applaud and appreciate because, in previous regimes, teachers were only employed at a rate of 5,000 per year, which was purely replacement. Therefore, the step this regime took to employ teachers was very bold indeed, and I must applaud the President for that.

One issue that has become of concern of late is femicide that has taken place in our country. We are in a situation in our country where people no longer have respect to life. People no longer have respect to human life, more so human blood. People are being slaughtered like chicken; people are being killed left, right and centre. When the President talked about femicide, I wish he expanded it to other areas.

I come from a region where we have had serious issues of insecurity of late. People have been cut with *pangas* and *shokas*. Some have even been shot. I wonder what has become of us as a nation because people no longer have respect to human life. As the President talked about femicide and the insecurity we have, I wish it involved the other insecurities we face as a country. Maybe he should have directed the necessary agencies in the Ministry of Interior and National Administration to move deeper and find out the root cause of the insecurities we have. An example is the serious violence that has taken place in my area of Luanda over the last two weeks or so. All this has to do with insecurity. Therefore, I must applaud that but call for more action on insecurity.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, there is the Adani matter and our airport. It is a fact that our Kenyan airport, the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) that we are so proud about, is not of great significance as compared to the others we see whenever we visit. It is true that Kenyans are yearning for a new airport. It is true that Kenyans would wish to have a state of the art airport that is commensurate to, or pairs well with other international airports.

The person who was supposed to do the PPP is the matter at hand. That is the Adani deal. This is where Kenyans had an issue. I particularly had an issue with Adani because of the issues we have read, what we gathered before, and what has been said about Adani. Therefore, I must applaud the President for coming out strongly and agreeing with Kenyans that the Adani tender or PPP should be cancelled. That was a great thing to me. I believe we can have a new person do the PPP.

Lastly, I must confess that I have not been very keen on the SHA or SHIF issue. Recent testimonies from my people is that they are now beginning to appreciate what this scheme has. It is more inclusive and accommodative. I must say that I now have a deeper insight. As much as we passed the SHA law in this country, I did not support or even know it. I have found it more accommodative and inclusive.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Hilary Kosgei.

Hon. Hilary Kosgei (Kipkelion West, UDA): Thank you for giving me this opportunity to record my thanks on the President's Speech in the State of the Nation Address.

It is important to know where we as a country came from. Everything was collapsing when the President took over this country. The economy was on its knees. Agriculture was on its knees. Every other sector was collapsing. What the President did was to first revive the economy. According to his speech, even Dollar reserves have risen from US\$2.4 billion to US\$9.4 billion. Inflation has come down from 8.7 per cent to 2.7 per cent. Generally, the economy is on good footing. This President is handling a task that is equivalent to what the late Hon. Mwai Kibaki handled when he took over the country. The late President Kibaki called upon Kenyans with "*tulipe ushuru tujitegemee*". He rallied the country around Vision 2030.

This President has laid the foundation. The cost of living has come down. Farmers are earning. The biased media has not stopped nagging the good progress we are making. The headline of *The Standard* Newspaper today is reporting that this Parliament is about to enact regulations to make farming very difficult. I want to tell *The Standard* Newspaper that farming is becoming more profitable. Seventeen sugar industries are being revived. We are in the next few years turning this country from a sugar-importing one to a sugar-exporting country. Things are moving well.

The biased media will not report that companies like the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) known to be making losses are working. For the first time, under this

administration, companies that ran losses for several years have recently recorded profits of Ksh30 billion. The Kenya Airways known for losses throughout entire regimes has recorded over Ksh30 billion profit because of the stability that this President has put. These successes are laying foundation to conclude Vision 2030 and enter a new era dubbed Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, in which African governments are fighting to make sure their citizens enjoy good life by 2063. The Affordable Housing Programme is part of the work.

We became happy about the nation and a new country when we got independence and forgot to plan our country. That is why Kenya has the largest slum in Eastern and Central Africa. This Affordable Housing Programme is based on a study by the World Bank. The study said that 65 per cent of Kenya will be urban by 2055. By starting the Affordable Housing Programme, the President is attempting to stop 'a Kibera' happening in the near future.

The foundation of this nation has been well laid. I thank the President for speaking to the country candidly and telling the truth. We are making good progress towards a better country.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Christopher Aseka.

Hon. Christopher Wangaya (Khwisero, ODM): Thank you.

I also rise to join my colleagues in applauding the President's State of the Nation Address. More particularly, I will dwell on one issue that is the state of the economy.

The drop of inflation from 9.6 per cent to 2.7 per cent has occasioned a reduction in the cost of the basic commodities. I reside in Western Kenya where maize and *ugali* remain our staple foods. The price of a two-kilogramme packet of maize flour has reduced by 100 per cent. That is when we compare with the prices that were there a time like now in 2022.

I also laud the economy of this nation for the resilience of the Kenya Shilling against the Dollar. We will pay our foreign obligations at a lower rate when our shilling is doing well against the dollar. That creates more fiscal space and more money that can be appropriated to development.

Third is the recruitment of 46,000 Junior Secondary School teachers on permanent and pensionable terms. It has reduced burden in our schools that were recruiting teachers using much money from parents. That policy is a plus to the President.

The change in strategy from consumption subsidy to production subsidy has really improved our food reserves. Irrespective of a few challenges here and there, we can take pride that this country is now food secure. We are happy that our National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) has enough food that can easily sustain this nation. As we laud the President for his Address, we need to appreciate that there are challenges in the recruitment and onboarding of Kenyans on the SHIF and SHA programmes. It is our onus, as Members of the Parliament, Members of the County Assemblies and all the leaders, to wake up and mobilise our people. We should ensure that all of them are registered and onboarded onto this programme. The challenge we have is that infrastructure in our Level 2 and Level 3 hospitals does not match the demand from the public. There are no basic drugs and equipment in our hospitals that can be used. As we laud this programme, we must also call upon county governments in conjunction with the national government to ensure that the infrastructure in our health sector is commensurate to address the issue.

Farmers have harvested enough maize and we laud the food security we enjoy in this country. Farmers will be at a loss if they sell a 90-kilogramme bag of maize at Ksh3000 considering the inputs used. I call upon the relevant ministry to look at better ways of creating market linkages for this produce so that it can fetch a better price for our farmers who are doing a good job in farms. Some Hon. Members of Parliament asked about the Opposition. We are here to say that the broad-based government is the best thing that happened to this country. We

can see that after the broad-based government, the President's Address is acceptable internationally and I can confirm.

(Laughter)

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Kibet Komingoi of Bureti Constituency.

Hon. Kibet Komingoi (Bureti, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I appreciate the President for his Address which captured the mood of the nation very well. Having read the Address, the first few chapters posed questions to see how well we have been able to capture the mood of the country. He mentioned the new university education funding model, the mood of the country concerning the education system, the CBC, the classrooms that are yet to be completed, the difficult life Kenyans are facing under the cost of living, the seemingly no development within the regions and the stalled projects that we have in the country and the Social Health Insurance Fund programme now called Taifa Care.

All these questions raised by the President in his Address brought to the fore acknowledgement and the commitment that the nation must continue to encourage itself in its discussion so that we can have meaningful engagement. Combining that with thoughtful responses, the Address brought out what we really need to have and discuss as a nation. This is for the purposes of moving forward, and also bringing all to understand the challenges that we are facing as a country and tackle them.

The second issue I would like to raise and which I quite agree with the President is the broad-based government. It is for the inclusion of all for the purposes of serving all. This is to ensure that all people are brought on board to secure this nation in its economic endeavours and the social fabric of this country to be intact, and even the political ideas. It is not only meant for us to agree and be uniform but also to move this country forward so that all of us benefit from the programmes and the policies of the Kenya Kwanza government. I quite agree with the President that what is good for the nation is also good for each and every section, ethnic community and region of this country. Moving forward, we need to harness our efforts and vision together to build one nation.

On the question of food security and the stability of our rural economies, we realise that for us to be able to grow our rural economies, we must invest more in agriculture. In the sugar sector, as it was pronounced, 17 factories have been revived. And soon we shall be sugar sufficient and ready to export even sugar. We should move also to other sectors of our economy. I have in mind tea production in this country. We should be able to harness and bring together our farmers. We should also bring together agricultural policies to support our farmers, especially in the tea and coffee sectors.

In the tea industry, some factories are old from the *mzungu* days. The government should look into all these aspects improve and modernise them so that our people may grow tea that benefits them. That way, the efforts and determination of our farmers will translate to money in their pockets. There is insecurity in the coffee regions, especially the theft of coffee. There must be integrated policies on security for our farmers and their produce so that they can secure their products. In my constituency, there is a coffee farm and a coffee pulping station that was invaded and two people were killed. Because of that, we must harness and bring together all policies to secure the farmer, the produce and the livelihood of the people so that we can continue to secure the lives of our people. Today, they will be holding a fundraising for the funeral expenses.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Kathambi.

Hon. Charity Chepkwony (Njoro, UDA): Thank you very much Hon. Speaker for this moment you have granted me so that I can make my contribution in relation to the State of the Nation Address by our able President, William Samuel Ruto.

The most impressive point in the President's Address is the matter of food security. This country has gone through a lot of challenges. When the President took over this government and made sure that there was a decrease in the prices of fertilisers, it assisted farmers on the ground. Most of farmers have confessed to having high production of food in their farms. We are now expecting the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to assist them to get even better prices for their farm produce.

Another main point that His Excellency the President raised in this Parliament was unemployment. This is a big and thorny issue in relation to the youths in this country. I find it very encouraging that His Excellency the President went beyond this nation and made a lot of partnerships with different countries. He found many jobs outside the country. It has motivated us as single constituency Members of Parliament because in our respective constituencies, we have had a lot of short courses. We also have Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes where we have trained many youths. We appreciate the overseas jobs which His Excellency the President has found in different countries. We are now seeing the fruit. Yesterday, the Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection, Dr Mutua, was in Nakuru County. Many beneficiaries may be coming from my constituency, Njoro, because I had trained many youths in short courses.

To encourage more youths, we appreciate the action by His Excellency the President to ensure that we have an increment on employment of teachers. There is a big baggage of many trained but unemployed teachers in this country. This is a thorny issue. Therefore, we appreciate the President's action. So far, we have over 56,000 teachers who are already employed. We expect 20,000 teachers to be employed in January, 2025. On job creation, we appreciate the creation of jobs outside the country. We challenge the National Employment Authority to ensure that the poor youths are not burdened by employment agencies.

The President also raised the point on public universities, which I appreciate. We have a lot of challenges. Most universities have undergone a lot of challenges. Some institutions are dead. I appreciate it because one of the beneficiary institutions is Egerton University, which is in my constituency.

Lastly, I expected the President to speak on climate change, but it was forgotten. He is the head of all Heads of State in Africa in championing climate change. Kenya is at the forefront on climate change matters. His Excellency the President is the champion of climate change matters. I expected that point to be appreciated in his Speech. His absence in the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) was felt by everyone. He has played a great role globally in climate change matters.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Esther Passaris.

Hon. Esther Passaris (Nairobi City County, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the State of the Nation Address. It was one of the best State of the Nation addresses I have ever heard. It was real, humble and progressive. It showed the areas which the President has focused on and worked hard, and the systems and structures he is putting in place. We have to understand that he has been in office only since 2022. From 2022, I celebrate and commend him for being a very hard-working and focused President. I am not surprised that he and the Right Hon. Raila Odinga have teamed up to form the broad-based Government.

The broad-based Government does not negate issues. Even Members who support the Government are in the opposition. We are in the opposition because we are convicted that something is right and wrong. Anyone in this House can choose, at any point in their leadership, to shift from being in the opposition or the Government. We see that in this House. It shows

the independence of the House and the Members. In 2023, I stood up here and supported the Finance Bill because I was a Member of the Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works. Being an elected Member for Nairobi City County, I know that one of the things that ails us is housing. Just two days ago, it was raining heavily in Nairobi and I prayed for everyone who lives in the informal settlements of this city. No one should live in a slum in the capital city of Kenya, which is rated as one of the most progressive cities, yet we have people who live in tin huts. They can be washed away by the rains. I cannot imagine what children are going through, the noise and the fear that their houses will collapse.

The President has commissioned houses all across the country. In the Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works, we have also commissioned markets everywhere. So, we have trade and housing. Some people are against the housing project. They might not want it, but millions of Kenyans living in informal settlements need them. I am happy and proud that he fought for the Housing Levy. We needed it to be dedicated to housing.

It is morally wrong for a Member of Parliament or businessman earning Ksh1 million to pay Ksh500 for NHIF and expect to have UHC. It means that anybody in this country can walk into a hospital or facility, and be treated by doctors and get medicine. What does it mean to have doctors and nurses? It means we have jobs. What does it mean to have schools and students in schools? It means we have jobs for teachers. This is a holistic programme. I tell Kenyans out there, especially the ones who are abroad and have never voted, that they should not send any taxes to Kenya. Certain citizens pay taxes, if they want pensions in their country. A lot of Kenyans who live abroad make so much noise. They keep branding the President a liar. I will tell you one thing that there is no one who can make a promise and deliver it when things that are beyond his control come to play.

When the President took over the Government, we had climate change to deal with. Secondly, we had wars all over the place. We were coming out from COVID-19, and he has tried his best. He is doing his best. The naysayers and those who are negative, please, remember Kenya belongs to all of us. The President said that we have to be resilient, focused and work together. The efforts to bring Kenya from poverty to prosperity depend on all of us. Our forefathers worked hard, and we are working hard. The youth of today will work hard tomorrow. The country continues to progress. Let us celebrate the wins we have today because if we do not do it, then we cannot bless the nation. Thank you, Mr President for the good work you are doing. Continue, and may God continue to favour you.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Kivai Ogesi.

Hon. Ernest Kivai (Vihiga, ANC): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the State of the Nation Address by the President. This Speech is timely, honest or candid, factual, hopeful, progressive and challenging. It is timely because when the President was delivering it, the nation was very expectant and he did not know whether to go left or right.

The President gave hope to the nation, told us where we are and where we are going. Why do I say the Speech was honest or candid? If you look at its preamble, he started by acknowledging very many things. He acknowledged that people out there are suffering. They are losing hope. He knows and understands that, and he strives to do something about it. Why do I say that this Speech was factual? All across its entire spectrum, the President was speaking on a topical matter and giving facts. For example, in the area of agriculture, he gave facts on almost all aspects. There is the issue of fertiliser supply and subsidising agriculture. We all know this, and we have seen it.

I will give you a very good example from the village I come from. My neighbour who hardly harvests a bag of maize every time the harvesting cycle comes around told me that she

harvested close to 15 bags. I asked her the reason and she told me it was because of the fertiliser. She applied fertiliser both at the planting season and the top-dressing season. In that same meeting, there was another gentleman who was seated next to me and he said that the Government supplied them with stones and rocks. In a situation, people can either see a glass as half full or half empty. This gentleman is a typical example of somebody who sees a glass as half empty. But overall, we have traversed this country and seen that farmers have had a good harvest. That is also reflected in the figures the President gave on the number of bags of maize in our stores. Obviously, all these successes come with challenges. The challenge here is that we should try and avoid all post-harvesting losses. Additionally, as one of us here has said, the Government should find a way of ensuring that farmers are adequately compensated through the prices paid by the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB).

On the economy, facts are out there. For example, on the exchange rate, some of us who have studied economics keep on wondering why the Kenya shilling is resilient. That resilience is not from nowhere; it is out of the micro-economic policies that have been pursued by the Government. Nobody can argue on the inflation rate because it is factual. The foreign exchange reserves are critical because if we do not have them, then we cannot import goods. The current foreign exchange cover in the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) is very encouraging. The facts on education are just as they have been enumerated here.

On the health sector, a lot has been said about Taifa Care and SHA. The ideas and plans are very good. What we are seeing at the moment is just implementation challenges which, if we are focussed, can be managed. I challenge the Cabinet Secretary and all stakeholders to look into that.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. Hon. Daniel Karitho. Is he in the House? Proceed.

Hon. Daniel Karitho (Igembe Central, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to also add my voice to the State of the Nation Address by His Excellency the President. First, I wish to commend and support the President on this Speech. He came out strongly and articulated the issues affecting this country openly. He also faced the challenges head-on and enumerated how we will tackle them. I encourage leaders, especially us, the politicians, to avoid politicking matters development. There is no country that can develop unless it grows economically and strengthens its economic base. This is one area where the President has worked very well, especially on food programmes. A country that cannot sustain its own food stability cannot develop. That is why we support the President's policy to subsidise production. That policy has succeeded because for the first time, we have enough food for our people and even surplus for export. This means that our economy base will be stronger. We have already realised this whereby the shilling has appreciated against the Dollar from Ksh168 to Ksh129.

On the dairy sector, the President said that there is an allocation of Ksh3 billion to the New Kenya Cooperative Creameries Limited (KCC). I challenge the New KCC to make sure that these funds are well utilised and to remember our factories, for example, the Kangeta Dairy Factory, which only lacks sealing machines. This will ensure that farmers from all those areas, even from my home area of Igembe Central, can benefit from the funds. They should sell the milk directly to the factory instead of being handled by brokers.

A country that is not healthy is not a wealthy one. The introduction of the Taifa Care and SHA to replace the ailing NHIF is a positive move to make sure that this country grows health wise. I challenge the institutions involved in the implementation of these policies to do them to the letter. I am happy the Government has taken a step to make sure that it is introduced to the grassroots and to educate our people on the importance of registering on Taifa Care so that they can benefit. We have huge challenges especially on raising funds for assisting our people to undergo treatment. Having an agency that can take care of these bills is a welcome

move. We should all support it, educate our people and encourage them to register en masse so that they can benefit from this scheme.

On affordable housing, the arable land in this country is small and if we build houses all over the country, we may end up using all of it on houses. We should build houses for our people so that even in rural areas, we will have enough land for farming. This will ensure that the homeless people will also have some place to call home.

On security matters, I congratulate the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) because in Igembe Central, we had security issues last year whereby one gentleman, Mr Kimathi, was killed, but by last week, all the killers had been arrested. I sought for a statement in this House and a response was given.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very many Members are on the queue. You have done your bit. Is Hon. Abdikadir Mohamed in the House? If he is not present, then we listen to Hon. John Makali. Hon. Abdikadir is in. Proceed. Hon. Makali, you will follow thereafter and then Hon. Memusi.

Hon. Abdikadir Mohamed (Lagdera, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the debate on the President's Address to Parliament. The President did well to cancel the Adani deals. But our problem, as a country, is that we can neither raise enough internal revenue nor borrow huge loans to develop. So, if we need development, PPPs is the right way to go, although Kenyans are always against direct procurement and the privately initiated proposals. They always think that whenever something is privately initiated, then somebody somewhere is pushing for it so that he can gain. So, PPPs is the right way to go if we cannot borrow any more loans or raise our internal revenue. There is no other way that we can develop.

On the issue of Taifa Care that the President talked about, the problem is that transition has been hurriedly done. This can be seen where even the former staff of the NHIF are still working with Taifa Care yet they have already been laid off. I have never seen an organisation on transition whose staff have been laid off yet the same staff are told to work for the same organisation. The staff are not motivated because they have already been laid off. Currently, they are under the Public Service Commission. They neither work for the NHIF nor SHA yet they are used to register members. So, how will they be motivated yet they have been laid off? They are no longer staff, but they work for the organisation. I think that was hurriedly done. The Government should look into the welfare of those staff.

About 1,200 NHIF staff are good. I have worked there before and I can confirm that they are very good, although a few of them have problems. So, let them deal with the few, but transition the good staff to SHA without coercion. Failure to do so, they will lock out all the staff. So, what will we be doing? The SHA is good, but transition has been mishandled such that they do not have staff and are using the ones they laid off.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I support the President's Address.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. Hon. Makali.

Hon. John Makali (Kanduyi, FORD-K): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker for the opportunity to contribute to the President's Speech. This was the third one since this regime came into office. The State of the Nation Address by His Excellency the President to this House answered our key principles of national unity. By coming to this House, the President gave a testament that he believes in the rule of law, democracy and constitutionalism, which are the national values espoused in Article 10 of our Constitution.

At independence, our forefathers committed themselves to fight poverty, ignorance and disease. Sixty one years after, we are still fighting those vices. In my contribution to this Speech, I wish to analyse it in light of those three vices. In his Speech, the President was candid that we must ask ourselves critical questions. One critical aspect he raised is the need to listen to Kenyans. He said that listening is a full-time occupation for those who have been given

leadership positions by the people of Kenya. So, when we go back to our people, what will they say about us? Do they have money in their pockets and the education we promised? Are they living to the expectations and promises we made to them?

Poverty is still with us and Kenyans have said many times that it is endemic in our society. The President said that he is committed to having economic freedom. From his Speech, I was delighted because I come from a sugarcane growing zone. Farmers have really suffered. Since 2022, we have been fighting to ensure that we have economic freedom, so that farmers can have money in their pockets. It was heartening to learn that all the 17 sugar factories are now operational. We will no longer be importing sugar.

We have not yet reached and have a long way to go. We want to ask all the unscrupulous business people out there in our sugarcane growing zones... We will support the sugar reforms so that our farmers can get value from sugarcane and ensure that the sugar industry thrives for their benefit. This is the way we will be fighting poverty, which is an enemy we committed ourselves to fight since 1963.

On the issue of health. I had occasion to look at all the manifestos lodged by political parties when convincing people to vote for them to form Government in 2022. Each one was committing themselves to offer universal health care. This House has passed four critical Bills that will bring UHC into play. We have challenges with SHA and SHIF and people are complaining. However, we are on the right path. As the President has implored, we ask for patience from our people. All the transition teething problems will be sorted out. We ask the technocrats in the Ministry of Health not to let the President and Kenyans down. Let us strengthen SHA so that our people can get quality healthcare. We receive calls every day from people who want to receive medical care, but cannot afford it.

On the issue of education, we have made various strides to fight ignorance by employing teachers. We ask our technocrats in the Ministry of Education to revisit the funding model for higher education, so that they can streamline it. This will enable Kenyans to benefit and stop complaining about it every day. Ultimately, we are one nation and should support the leadership.

(Hon. John Makali spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Many Members are waiting to contribute. You have done your bit. Hon. Memusi.

Hon. Memusi Kanchory (Kajiado Central, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity to add my voice in support of the President's Speech. It was inspirational, motivating and gave hope to Kenyans. It also showed that the President is in touch with the people and gave a thoughtful response to the issues affecting Kenyans.

Above all, it gave a clear picture of a leader with a plan. For a very long time, this country has been mismanaged by leaders who borrowed without caring. They knew very well that they did not have to worry about paying the debts, but the next regime would pay. For a very long time, past regimes did not think about population growth, hence we are facing unemployment that is threatening the security of this nation. The issues that Kenyans face today are not a creation of this regime, but a generational problem.

In his Speech, the President touched on almost every sector and gave a plan of what his Government has put in place. Corruption has been a cancer in this country. The President came out very strongly to address this issue. Therefore, I urge this House to support the fight against corruption. According to the drafters of the Constitution, the idea behind devolution was to bring areas that had been marginalised for a long time, at par with other areas in this country. Sadly, this is not happening. In my home county, people are still struggling to get basic needs.

Water is a far-fetched dream for our mothers and sisters. We still share the same water holes with cows and wild animals.

What is the meaning of devolution? It was not to create 47 billionaires every five years. That was not its meaning. It was intended to bring areas that were left behind at par with others. There are parts in my constituency where a child will grow and become an adult without having seen a tarmac road. Where is this money going to? The President came out very strongly on the issue of corruption and he is willing and ready to deal with it. I urge Kenyans to shun negativity. As the President said, we cannot afford failure. Kenyans are just waiting for a small thing to say, *hii Serikali ya Ruto*. This is not Ruto's Government. This is our country. We cannot afford to fail. I urge Kenyans to come together and ask ourselves: What are we doing for our country? We must all work to make Kenya great.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

Hon. Musa Sirma (Eldama Ravine, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute on the Presidential Address, which was delivered in this House. First and foremost is to thank His Excellency the President for the Speech, which touched Kenyans. It was a masterstroke on the issues touching the lives of Kenyans. The President admitted and showed his concern for the issues raised by Kenyans. He boldly said he has listened to Kenyans. Kenyans who have made so much noise while raising their issues through the media should have appreciated as of now, through the same channel which they used in insulting and saying unpalatable things to the nation. It is time we culture ourselves on the words we use in this country. It has gone all the way to the pulpit now. Where are we going to shelter ourselves in? We ask members of the cloth to become sober and look at this country as a country that needs unity. We need to be one. It is their turn to talk about it now.

I want to turn to the economic development this country has achieved. From 2010 to 2013, this country was an exporter to Uganda and it was the economic leader in the region. When this Government took over, we were importing goods from countries we used to export to. Right now, we have stopped buying sugar from neighbouring countries, and all other goods which were being imported. We have a reserve at the National Treasury for imports. That is real growth. Farmers are happy because they have subsidised fertilisers. My constituents are happy that they can grow crops and fend for themselves.

What perturbed me after the Address by the President were the media houses. They were talking about what the President said against what is in reports by the KNBS. How can KNBS reports be more accurate than the current state? The KNBS has given wrong figures before and they will continue giving wrong figures. The media are using the KNBS reports to disparage the Speech by the President. They are saying: "This is what the President said, but the real figures are different". Who leads the KNBS? It is the Government. So, how can the KNBS be more accurate than the leader of the country?

I also want to laud the President for his effort to bring up the farming community, namely, coffee, tea and dairy farmers. The National Treasury supported the New KCC to pay farmers up to Ksh50 per litre, but the management misused the money and they were not able to pay the Ksh50 per litre. It is time people who do not know what they are supposed to do should be given a chance to go and settle at home and give Kenyans a break.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Julius Taitumu.

(Hon. Julius M'anaiba spoke off the record)

Is the Member on the microphone? Please, update his microphone.

Hon. Julius M'anaiba (Igembe North, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for this opportunity. Let me join the rest in congratulating the President for the candid Speech

on the state of the nation on Thursday last week. The President went through a raft of issues that have been handled by his Government in terms of the challenges and the numerous excesses that the Government has addressed.

Let me single out the education sector. When this Government came into existence, this country was in dire need of teachers, particularly at the JSS level. There is no other Government that has addressed such a challenge within two years. In 2023, this Government employed a whopping 56,000 new teachers; 10,000 on permanent and pensionable terms and 46,000 on contract basis. The 46,000 teachers on contract will transition to permanent and pensionable terms come January next year. That is a big stride that requires to be supported by all citizens. We are aware that another 20,000 teachers are in the process of being recruited as interns this year. We urge the Government to transition them to permanent and pensionable terms by July next year after the budget. We are aware that due to challenges, the 20,000 teachers who are about to be recruited are basically geared towards addressing the science teacher shortage in JSS. That is an area that had a challenge. On its own and through the advice of other stakeholders, the TSC has realised that, that sector needs to be addressed.

The other challenge the Government is working hard to address is unemployment in this country. The State Department for Diaspora Affairs is conducting a lot of publicity to make sure that artisans and unemployed youths in lower levels get access to international employment. This is commendable.

This Government has revolutionised the agriculture sector by making sure that instead of subsidising consumables, it subsidises production. By so doing, we are almost food secure in all sectors. We heard that 17 sugar factories are now operational. This country is now sugar-secure. If things go well, we will even export sugar.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. If possible, through your indulgence, I request an additional minute to finish my contribution. Although the health sector in Kenya is facing a big challenge, I am sure it will be ironed out.

When the late Michuki took over the transport industry, people used to cling to the vehicle's doors. He faced the challenge head-on slowly; up to today, everything is working well in that sector. People no longer cling to doors of vehicles nor carry excess passengers. With time, I am sure SHA will work seamlessly, and Kenyans will enjoy it.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Adams Kipsanai, proceed.

Hon. Adams Korir (Keiyo North, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to comment on the President's Address.

The President addressed the nation in a precise and straight-to-the-point manner. He touched on issues that are affecting many Kenyans. In short, the President elaborated more on the problems Kenyans are facing, one being our education. Since the inception of CBC, I have had a problem understanding the curriculum. I battle with the shortage of teachers and materials. The President mentioned that his Government has made efforts to sort out the problem.

Secondly is the issue of teachers. As a country, we have a huge population of school-going children. The President elaborated and shared with the nation his plan on how he intends to equip the education sector, the efforts that he has already made by employing 56,000 teachers, and an underway plan to employ more next year.

Kenyans have suffered in matters of health care since independence. Consequently, the President told the nation that he intended to make an unpopular decision, but that would solve the problem that had been affecting us for a long time.

On the issue of the economy, he touched on the stabilisation of our shilling. About three years ago, the Kenya Shilling against the US Dollar was so high. We risked going in the direction that many African countries have gone before.

The President also elaborated on matters of food security that have enabled our Kenyan population to buy produce at low prices. Additionally, the availability of fertiliser to Kenyan farmers has made this country food secure. When we go upcountry, we see farmers harvesting maize courtesy of the subsidised fertiliser provided by the Kenya Kwanza Government. The subsidised fertiliser has also enabled other small-scale farmers, especially those dealing with horticulture, to supply and produce food, which has stabilised the economy for now.

On the Housing and the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) market issue, the President elaborated and shared more on the plans that he intends to ensure that most Kenyans get dignified housing per our Constitution. In return, most young people are now getting job opportunities from the said projects. If you go to any urban centre within our country, you will see many young people engaged in affordable housing projects. Our small-scale farmers and traders will also get places to conduct their business. Allowing local manufacturers to thrive has also enabled us to stabilise our economy. We have given our local manufacturers, especially those who manufacture furniture, an opportunity to access the markets in our country.

Lastly, I want to tell Kenyans we have one great country called Kenya. It is upon each one of us to remain positive and acknowledge the efforts being made in the country. Patience is a virtue. We must support the President in achieving his big agenda.

Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Jane Kagiri.

Hon. Jane Kagiri (Laikipia County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the State of the Nation Address. I want to start by appreciating the President for indicating he is listening to Kenyans. As he went on with his Speech, it confirmed that, true to his word, he is actually a listening President.

I want to start with the CBC. Many of us in this House and outside there assume that the CBC is not working. However, I recently visited Mombasa and took a boat ride. When we got to the middle of the ocean, the captain asked if anyone was ready to dive into the water. Three young boys quickly shouted that they were CBC students and knew how to swim. They gladly jumped into the water, swam and returned to the boat. That should confirm that the students are benefiting from that curriculum and that they are growing and progressing as they should. We need to ensure that we give them the required facilities and that teachers are available to guide them through their education.

Secondly, I appreciate that the President took time to mention the reality of this country. We are still heavily in debt, and we need to appreciate that things are not as they should be. We want a lot of development, but just like in our homes, when we are in debt, there are some things we have to sacrifice because we cannot get everything we want. That calls for the whole country to understand that when debts mature, we have to prioritise them for payment, which results in our country suffering in various ways.

I want to mention our food production and the fact that our Government has provided over 7 million bags of fertiliser to our farmers. That has graduated to giving us 74 million bags of food this year. That is our projection. Our country consumes around 52 million bags of food per year. That confirms that our country is headed towards becoming a maize exporter in the near future. That is growth and progress for our country.

Taifa Care reminds me of when we were in school. We had classmates who would convince us that studying was not good, but they would study at night and succeed. If we look at the benefits of SHA for our people compared to the NHIF, it caters for patients from Level 1 hospitals, while the NHIF could only cater to patients from Level 4 hospitals upwards. That means that a person from a place called Gatero in my county does not need to travel to Nyahururu for treatment. They can go to the nearest dispensary, get treated and return home. They would have saved on transport and time.

Many times, we speak of accident victims who, when they get to a hospital, their relatives have to sign forms or first pay the bill for them to be treated. We have lost lives in many such cases. The SHA has come to ensure that a hospital can treat you and claim from SHA afterwards because you have been given priority as a Kenyan covered under the Universal Health Coverage.

Thirdly, we are constantly called for fundraisings for cancer patients and patients with other terminal illnesses. Here again, SHA will cover our people in all those areas and ensure that families do not lose their properties while trying to save their loved ones. Having had the experience of having a cancer patient in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), even as you pray for the patient every evening, you have to look at how fast the bill is growing. I appreciate that our people will never have to worry about that.

Allow me to mention the issue of affordable housing because I sit on the Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works. That programme has created employment for our people. If you visit Kibera on any given day, you will find 4,000 young men and women walking into a construction site. If you calculate the years they will have worked on that site, you will realise that these people will have money in their pockets and that means progress for their families.

Finally, Hon. Temporary Speaker, allow me to mention the issue of Adani. Of course, our President is a listening one. Many wondered why we cheered on when he said the procurement process had to be cancelled. This is because we have all raised our voices individually on this issue. Silently, the President heard us and made his proclamation on it. I want to add that, many times, we look at other countries that are doing well and forget about our own country. Rwanda is doing a PPP on the international airport. It owns 40 per cent of that transaction, and 60 per cent is by Qatar Airways. Is Rwanda going to lose its airport? The answer is no. Is Rwanda going to progress? The answer is yes, as they will get funding from private sources and grow their country.

Finally, femicide has...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Beatrice Kemei, you have been waiting and this is your chance.

Hon. Beatrice Kemei (Kericho County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice and appreciate the State of the Nation Address.

I want to appreciate him more sincerely because I noted during his Address that he is a listening President. Some of the issues he addressed have been of concern to many of our people in Kenya, especially those related to education, CBC and similar matters. The President heard, and he responded.

I want to appreciate the focus on agriculture. The sugar industry has been dormant for many years. I come from Kericho County where sugarcane is grown on a large scale in the lower strip of Kenya in Soin. The factories were mismanaged, and farmers faced many issues with them. I am delighted that farmers will now have money in their pockets. Seventeen factories have been revived, and four are ongoing. I am only concerned that some employees have not been paid their dues. I am asking the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to ensure these employees are paid.

On the issue of dairy farming, I am very impressed that farmers will be paid Ksh50 per litre of milk. Animal feeds have become very expensive, and while I appreciate the Ksh50, more should be done so that we do not have to import feeds from Uganda and other countries. The Ksh50 is okay, but I hope it will be progressive and that it will be more next time.

I expected the President to also add his voice to the issue of beef and livestock farming. Some areas do livestock farming but forget that many women do not own the cattle; they own goats and poultry. If the President could also add his voice to it, it would be safe for us as

women because that is where we can empower our women. We also have issues with the market for poultry and goats.

Regarding food security, I am very impressed that the fertiliser initiative has borne fruits. We now have plenty of food and a surplus to sell. The NCPB should have more stores to buy more maize. We should also look for markets outside the country so that we do not bring the price down from Ksh3,500, as farmers expect more from this. That is the only way we can be safe in this country; farmers can have money in their pockets. We have middlemen who are exploiting farmers. That is where the National Cereals and Produce Board comes in. However, we are not only concerned with maize; we also have other food products that farmers should engage in.

I cannot conclude without talking about sexual and gender-based violence. I appreciated the President in a very special way when he spoke of women not being second-class citizens. So, in this period that we are having the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, I want to thank the President. However, I pray that we will have a gender office in hospitals and not in police stations because that is where everything should revolve. We have victims and survivors who are not able to go to police stations, and when they go to police stations, they are not treated well. In hospitals, where counselling is done, is also where everything else that is concerned with the specimens and...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Kitilai ole Ntutu.

Hon. Kitilai ole Ntutu (Narok South, Independent): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to also add my voice to the President's State of the Nation Address that was done on Thursday last week in fulfilment of the mandate vested in him under Article 132(1)(C) of the Constitution of Kenya - To report to Kenyans on the measures the Government has taken and the progress made in realising our national values and principles of governance, and submit the progress made in fulfilling our international obligation.

During his State of the Nation Address, the President addressed thematic areas that touch the hearts of the Kenyan people. I sincerely commend him for making decisive decisions to better our country, including cancelling the contentious Adani deal. That shows our Government is listening keenly and remains committed to working hard every day for the greater national interest. As a Member of Parliament for Narok South, I support the President and the Government of Kenya for making those bold decisions.

Our President also announced the improvement of our school infrastructure and learning institutions. The employment of 20,000 more Junior Secondary School teachers in Kenya is absolutely tremendous. Creating countless job opportunities for many young people is a remarkable effort. I also encourage the Government of Kenya to fast-track the construction of more classrooms in JSS schools to ensure a smooth transition for our students in January 2025.

I also want to comment on the issue of national security. Our people must be secured at all times by the Government. It is imperative to note that we live in an era where criminal activities are rising. For instance, two weeks ago in Narok South, which I represent, we held a consultative security meeting that brought together the sub-county security team, members of the Nyumba Kumi Initiative and the business community after criminal activities increased in Ololulunga Centre. The Ministry of Interior and National Coordination must scale up its operations to protect Kenyans and their property.

I also commend the President for making the Government work hard to stabilise the economy by reducing inflation by lowering the prices of basic commodities. It is also worth noting that the Kenya Shilling has stabilised compared to how it was a few months ago against the U.S. Dollar. However, a lot remains to be done.

I also want to make a few remarks about the Kenya-Kwanza ambitious plan or the bottom-up economic model. Last Thursday, our President passionately addressed the need for Kenya to attain food security by modernising KCC. I request the Government to continue pumping more resources into cooperatives so that our farmers in Kenya, more importantly, livestock keepers, benefit directly. It is well known that livestock keeping is the main economic activity in Narok, Kajiado, Samburu, Garissa, and many parts of the country. We must empower our farmers through the New Kenya Cooperative Creameries.

For those few remarks, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Cynthia Muge has been waiting. Where is Hon. Cynthia? Let us have Hon. Omanyo.

Hon. Catherine Omanyo (Busia, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Quickly, I also want to say that the Speech was good. My prayer is about implementers or handlers to whom authority is bestowed to do their work. I hope they will do it because we must strike a balance in a country of people with malnutrition and others who look well-fed. The President mentioned so many crucial things in his Speech. I come from Busia where sugar companies are dwindling or going down. They are closing down because of poaching. This has come from delayed and poor pay. I hope this is the end of the frustrations facing farmers across the country.

The President also mentioned building a few sports academies. I happen to be a member of the Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture. This has been on for over a decade. I hope the sports academies will finally roll out this year because we no longer want to call the President a liar.

There is employment of young people and certain things that have been happening. I hear some people have been taken abroad to work. We need the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to publish the data yearly. Let us know how many people from every region have been employed or benefited. We need to know how many women and people living with disabilities have benefited. Generally, it is just about striking a balance so that we do not feel like some bigger tribes are better or more dominant.

There were so many other promising things in his Speech. I have heard one or two people say they have been treated without pay or being asked to pay in hospitals. I hope this is happening across the nation. I also want to try to testify if this is happening. We lack people who talk good about what has happened through this regime. That is why so many Kenyans are asking where exactly this is happening. Where is this good happening? We need to see and verify where exactly these things have started rolling out. We will say no to where it is not good, like with the Adani deals. I do not know why the President cancelled something that was not there. Why was he cancelling if it was not there? It would have been good if he had cancelled it before it happened.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Very well. Hon. Cynthia is now here. Please, just take a bite for three minutes. We shall give one more chance then we close. We are just recovering our time because we began late today.

Hon. Cynthia Muge (Nandi, UDA): Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment on the President's Address to this honourable House. I describe the Address as coming from someone who is not only concerned but also compassionate. He is a very empathic leader who listens to the people.

Following the President's Address to this House, he aptly elucidated the gains and milestones met by this Government. From the President's words, it is clear that he has the heart to sort out issues and problems ailing this country. He was actually able to ask himself the hard questions. The asking tells you he has been listening to the people and keenly following what is happening. I was specifically impressed by the fact that he said that we were not where we

wanted to go, but we were in the process of going there. He said we are no longer where we were before. He addressed very important issues. I want to touch four of them.

The housing programme is a first. I am one person who never paid attention to the housing programme until I went to the ground and saw its impact. We have counties that are called the bread baskets, including Nandi County. I kept looking at the land sizes and fragmentation when I went there. I saw the importance of paying attention to the housing programme. I want to urge all the Kenyans to pay attention to the houses.

I visited the Boma Yangu website and went ahead to save and commit to buying one of the houses. These are houses whose price you can never find anywhere, but the Government of Kenya is giving them. You cannot find a studio for Ksh980,000 or Ksh840,000 in this country. You will pay a lot more than that. In Kapsabet, where we have one ongoing, I am actually booking one that has three bedrooms. The three-bedroomed one goes for Ksh2.8 million. You can never find a three-bedroom house that is going for Ksh2.8 million. It does not matter where you go, but you will never find it, apart from Government.

The President spoke about the issue of the cost of living, and he was able to elaborate on that. We can then start appreciating the gains that this Government has been able to make.

He spoke about the issue of corruption, which is a game changer. This country will do better as soon as we sort out and slay the dragon called corruption. We are going to have seamless services, we are going to have efficiency in Government, and we are going to have even the youth of this country benefit from e-procurement. With that, we will ensure that access to Government opportunities and youth access to Government procurement opportunities is accorded to this country's women and youth.

He spoke about education. The employment of teachers is outstanding, but I also want to ask that there be a database showing all the P-1 teachers who graduated as early as 2012 and have never been employed. Some of those people are 43 years old. They only have two years to stop being employable. I ask that this be paid attention to so that they can be considered.

On Universal Healthcare and the issue of health, allow me to set the record straight. An Hon. Member, Hon. Susan, stood here during her contribution and said there is a capping of Ksh6,000 only for people who go for dialysis. She should be keen to detail that the coverage under SHIF provides Ksh10,650 per session, and it approves at least three sessions per week. The people who go through dialysis do not go more than three times a week. That should be set straight. The UHC is actually working in this country. I have been able to register people at my personal level because I am a citizen who is no longer asking what this Government can do, but I am asking myself what I can do.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. George Gachagua.

Hon. George Gachagua (Ndaragwa, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for allowing me to contribute to the President's Address to the nation regarding matters ongoing in the country.

It occurred to me that we have a listening government. The President addressed every concern in Kenyans' minds. It is very clear that the economy is improving. There are some indicators that we are heading in the right direction. Some of these indicators are the foreign exchange reserves surging by US\$2.4 billion to hit a record of US\$9.4 billion, thereby increasing investor confidence. The Kenya Shilling appreciated from Ksh162 to Ksh129 against the US Dollar. That is also another indicator that we are heading in the right direction. Inflation dropped from 9.7 per cent to 2.6 per cent. I come from Ndaragwa, a place endowed with dairy farming. The Government gave New KCC Ksh3 billion for modernisation. That is a very great idea. It is quite commendable that New KCC is taking 220,000 litres up from 100,000 litres.

On healthcare, I was quite impressed by the President when he said that....

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Order, Hon. George. You can take your seat. You will have a balance of three minutes in the afternoon Sitting. Make sure you are here early to finish your contribution on this particular matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Omboko Milemba): Hon. Members, be upstanding. The time being 1.10 p.m., this House stands adjourned until today, Tuesday, 26th November 2024, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 1.10 p.m.

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