



THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT
THE SENATE
OFFICIAL REPORT



Fifth Session

Wednesday, 25th February, 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 25th February, 2026

*The House met at the Senate Chamber,
Parliament Buildings at 9.33 a.m.*

[The Speaker (Hon. Kingi) in the Chair]

PRAYER

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
AT COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Clerk, do we have quorum?

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted with the Speaker)

Serjeant-at-Arms, kindly ring the Quorum Bell for 10 minutes.

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

Serjeant-at-Arms, ring the Quorum Bell for a further 10 minutes.

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Order. Hon. Senators, we now have quorum.
Clerk you may call the first Order.
The Senate Majority Leader, proceed.

PAPERS LAID

REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS OF VARIOUS ENTITIES

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the Senate, today, Wednesday, the 25th February, 2026.

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*(To be laid pursuant to the Senate Resolution of Tuesday, 11th November, 2025
on the Referral of Statutory Instruments and Papers submitted
during recess for the year ended 30th June, 2025)*

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Webuye Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Bungoma, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Mt. Elgon Sub-County Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Bungoma, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kimilili Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Bungoma, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Karuri Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Kiambu, the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Langata Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Nairobi, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kiambu Level 5 Hospital, County Government of Kiambu, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Dagoretti Sub-County Hospital Mutuini, County Government of Nairobi City, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Tassia Kwa Ndege Level 4 Hospital, Nairobi City County Government, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Njenga Level 4 Hospital, Nairobi City County Government, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kihara Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Kiambu, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Nyathuna Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Kiambu, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Sagana Sub-County Level Hospital, County Government of Kirinyaga, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Municipality of Nyeri, County Government of Nyeri, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Nyeri County Referral Hospital, County Government of Nyeri, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Westlands Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Nairobi City, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kandara Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Murang'a, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Othaya Sub-County Level IV Hospital, County Government of Nyeri, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Ihururu Treatment and Rehabilitation Hospital, County Government of Nyeri, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

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Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Mt. Kenya Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Nyeri, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Olkalou Water and Sanitation Company Limited, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Gatanga Water and Sanitation PLC, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Murang'a Municipality, County Government of Murang'a, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on God Kwer Sub County Hospital – County Government of Migori, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Ober Level 4 Hospital - County Government of Homa Bay, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Etago Level 4 Hospital - County Government of Kisii, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Malela Level 4 Hospital - County Government of Homa Bay for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Suba South Sub County Hospital - County Government of Homa Bay, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Ogongo Level 4 Hospital – County Government of Homa Bay for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Rangwe Level 4 Hospital - County Government of Homa Bay for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Keumbu Level 4 Hospital - County Government of Kisii for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Migosi Sub-County Hospital - County Government of Kisumu for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Taveta Municipality for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kendu Bay Sub County Hospital - County Government of Homa Bay for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kandiege Level 4 Hospital - County Government of Homa Bay for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Marindi Sub-County Hospital - County Government of Homa Bay for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Uasin Gishu County Assembly Mortgage and Car Loan Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Municipality of Eldoret - County Government of Uasin Gishu, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on University of Eldoret Endowment Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Macalder Sub County Hospital - County Government of Migori, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Rachuonyo County Hospital - County Government of Homa Bay, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

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Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Nyamagundo Level 4 Hospital - County Government of Kisii, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Nyandiwa Level 4 Hospital - County Government of Homa Bay, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Amukura Sub County Hospital - County Government of Busia for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Likuyani Sub County Hospital - County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Khwisero Level 4 Hospital - County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Archers Post Sub County Hospital - County Government of Samburu, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Karuri Water and Sanitation Company Limited for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kikuyu Water Company Limited for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Angurai Sub-County Hospital - County Government of Busia, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Teso North Sub County Hospital - County Government of Busia, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Port Victoria Sub-County Hospital - County Government of Busia, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Lodwar Water and Sanitation Company, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kacheliba Sub-County Hospital - County Government of West Pokot, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Muriranga's Level 4 Hospital - County Government of Murang'a, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kirinyaga Water and Sanitation PLC, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kangema Sub-County Hospital - County Government of Murang'a, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kirwara Sub County Hospital - County Government of Murang'a, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Matayos Sub-County Hospital - County Government of Busia, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Naitiri Sub -County Hospital - County Government of Bungoma, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Isiolo County Referral Hospital, County Government of Isiolo, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Makunga Sub County Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Butere County Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Navakholo Sub County Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kakamega County Emergency Fund, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Busia Water and Sewerage Services Company Limited, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Shibwe Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kimilili Municipality, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Sirisia Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Bungoma, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Bungoma Municipality, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Bungoma County Referral Hospital, County Government of Bungoma, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kakamega County Microfinance Corporation, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Bungoma County Referral Hospital, County Government of Bungoma, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Mautuma Sub County Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Malava Sub County Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Matete Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Nairobi City County Assembly Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Thika Water and Sewerage Company Limited, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Githunguri Water and Sanitation Company Limited for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Gatundu Water and Sanitation Company Limited for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Samburu Water and Sanitation Company Limited for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on County Assembly of Laikipia Car Loan and Mortgage (Members) Scheme Fund, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on County Assembly of Laikipia Car Loan and Mortgage (Staff) Scheme Fund, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Baragoi Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Samburu, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Busia County Referral Hospital, County Government of Busia, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Ol Kalau Municipality, County Government of Nyandarua, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kenneth Matiba Eye and Dental Hospital, County Government of Murang'a, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kirinyaga Sub-County Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Kirinyaga, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Equalisation Fund, County Government of Isiolo, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Khunyangu Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Busia, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Nyahururu County Referral Hospital, County Government of Laikipia, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Mukhobola Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Busia, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Cheptalal Level 3B Hospital, County Government of Bomet, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kipkelion Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Kericho, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Longisa County Level 4 Referral Hospital, County Government of Bomet, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kericho Municipality for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company Limited for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Bokoli Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Bungoma, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Lupida Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Busia, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Matunda Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kakamega County General Teaching and Referral Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Manyala Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kakamega County Rural Water and Sanitation Company Limited, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Kakamega Municipality, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Matungu Sub-County Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements on Iguhu Level 4 Hospital, County Government of Kakamega, for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Mr. Speaker, I beg your leave.

*(The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot)
laid the documents of the Table)*

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Next Order.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

QUESTIONS

Hon. Senators, we have four questions; two directed to the Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury and Economic Planning and two directed to Cabinet Secretary in charge of Interior and National Administration.

Now, I am informed that the Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury and Economic Planning is already in the building and, therefore, we will proceed to take the two questions that have been directed to the Cabinet Secretary. Those two questions are by the Senator for Kisumu County, Sen. Tom Ojienda whom I am informed is not present, but has nominated Sen. David Wakoli to ask those two questions on his behalf.

Clerk, you may usher in the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning.

*[The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic
Planning (Hon. John Mbadi) was ushered into the Chamber]*

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, welcome back once again to the Senate. You are before the Senate for purposes of responding to Questions No.001 and No.002, both by the Senator for Kisumu County. However, those two questions will be asked by the Senator for Bungoma on behalf of Sen. Tom Ojienda.

Sen. Wakoli, you may proceed.

Before Sen. Wakoli asks this question, I have allocated 20 minutes per question. So, at the expiry of 20 minutes, we will move to the next question.

Proceed, Sen. David Wakoli.

Question No.001

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF POVERTY REDUCTION AND HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

Sen. Wafula: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On behalf of the Senator for Kisumu, Prof. Tom Ojienda, I would like to ask the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning, Question No.1. *Karibu sana, Waziri.*

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(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the implementation status of all ongoing economic and social programmes aimed at reducing poverty and alleviating household economic hardship?

(b) What is the total number of beneficiaries reached from Financial Year 2019/2020 to date, and what measurable outcomes have been achieved under this programme?

(c) Could the Cabinet Secretary indicate the regions or counties experiencing the highest levels of poverty and the specific measures being undertaken to address these disparities?

(d) What steps are being taken to ensure effective targeting, transparency and equitable allocation of resources in national poverty reduction programmes?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Cabinet Secretary, you may now proceed to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and Hon. Members. I take your guidance very seriously that each question should take 20 minutes. However, this first question is too long. I will deal with the second one in those 20 minutes, but the first one seems to be too long. I am trying to look for a strategy on how to handle it within the 20 minutes, but let me---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you have provided a very detailed written response, so you need not---

The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): Okay, to read to read word for word.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Absolutely.

The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I will devise a strategy to try and summarise.

Hon. Speaker, I am here to address Question No.001 by the Senator for Kisumu, Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, on the status of national poverty reduction programmes and resource allocation in the country. I was asked to provide an update on the implementation status of all ongoing economic and social programmes aimed at reducing poverty and elevating household economic hardships.

Allow me to give a status of poverty in Kenya. We continue as a country to implement various interventions aimed at reducing poverty levels. The poverty headcount ratio stood at 54.9 percent in 2009. This has reduced to 36.1 per cent in 2015/2016, or it reduced to 36.1 per cent in 2015/2016 and 33 percent in 2019. However, due to COVID-19, in 2020, this ratio rose to 42.9 percent, but it has since reduced to 39.8 percent, the latest data that has been given. However, that is still very high and interventions are necessary. The Government has prioritised a number of programmes which are aimed at reducing poverty and some of these programmes target to reduce poverty directly. For example, we have social transfers. I will go to social transfers and explain what this means.

The social transfer programme has been employed by the Government to protect households or individuals who are vulnerable to poverty. We have a number of them. One of them is cash transfer for orphans and vulnerable children, targeting households

with orphans and vulnerable children aged zero to 17 years. This was followed by the older persons' cash transfer in 2008/2009. It would interest this House to note that the older persons' cash transfer programme came as a result of a Motion which the Cabinet Secretary standing in front of you, moved in 2008, so that the older persons could be given cash transfer of Kshs1,500 then, which has since risen to Kshs2,000. However, the admission age has since been revised to include all elderly persons aged 70 years and above. Initially, it was 65.

Another intervention is persons living with severe disability cash transfer that was introduced in 2010/2011. The other one is the hunger safety net programme, which is targeting poverty for all those with extreme poor households in the arid and semi-arid lands of northern Kenya that are prone to drought. That is another programme. The cash transfer initiative is part of Kenya's social and economic inclusion project under the Government's broader Inua Jamii Social Protection Programme.

All those programmes that I have mentioned provide Kshs2,000 per month, payable bimonthly to the beneficiaries while the hunger safety net programme started at Kshs2,300 per month, but is currently at Kshs2,700 per month. This is being administered by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) which is the administrative arm.

Mr. Speaker, Sir and Hon. Members, the Government also implements nutrition improvement through cash and health education, targeting vulnerable households already enrolled in one of the four above cash transfer programmes. This one, which we call the Nutritional Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE), is being implemented in Kitui, West Pokot, Turkana, Marsabit, Kilifi, Garissa, Isiolo, Samburu, Tana River, Wajir and Mandera.

Let me now move on because there are a lot of details which Hon. Members, I am sure, are able to read and follow.

On economic empowerment or inclusion programmes, that is addressing the second leg of the Question. Economic empowerment interventions include the following-

We have the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement, which we call NYOTA. This, I think, has received a lot of public attention, and I do not want to dwell so much on it. It started last year, October, targeting 820,000 youth. We are targeting youth across the country in all the 1,450 wards. It is targeting those who are aged between 18 and 29 years, and if you are living with a disability, up to 35 years. The project helps in equipping young people with skills in training, apprenticeships, certification, business support and financial literacy. It is aimed at enhancing employability, entrepreneurship and access to opportunities, thereby creating sustainable pathways for youth economic participation and empowerment nationwide. It is being supported by World Bank funding.

The second one is Uwezo Fund, which has been around for a while. Remember, this began in 2013, when then President Uhuru Kenyatta made a pledge before elections that if there would be no re-run, he would dedicate money that was meant for the re-run or possible re-run of presidential elections, to this fund. That happened in 2013. Since then, over Kshs7.2 billion has been disbursed to over one million beneficiaries across all constituencies.

There is also the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), which started in 2006, during President Kibaki's era, and this has also been targeting the youth. There is Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), which started in 2007. This is providing low-interest financing, entrepreneurship training and market access support for women-owned enterprises. So far, about Kshs25 billion has been disbursed to this fund, targeting over 132,000 self-help groups, mostly women, benefiting over two million people.

Then we have the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), which is being administered through counties and being championed by women representatives across the country, the 47 of them. There is also the National Youth Service (NYS), which has been in existence from 1964 and as a disciplined service starts with training young men and women to serve the nation. A number of youths have been trained and continue to get training.

I now want to talk about food security as a way of dealing with poverty because inability of Kenyans to feed themselves is the first indicator of poverty. Food security is a foundational national priority that affects human survival, economic stability, public health and social cohesion.

The Government efforts towards food security include implementation of various interventions under the Agricultural Transformation Agenda. These interventions include Kenya National Fertiliser Subsidy Programme (KNFSP), which has seen the price of a 50-kilogramme bag of fertiliser which used to sell between Kshs6,000 to Kshs7,000 per bag now selling at between Kshs2,500 to Kshs3,500 for all categories of fertiliser; DAP, UREA, CAN, NPK and many others. During the 2025 long rains, approximately 7.4 million bags were procured and distributed.

Expansion of irrigation infrastructure and rehabilitation of the existing schemes is also another area where we have intervened. Right now, our first serious experiment with irrigation of Galana-Kulalu has borne fruit. We have harvested from 1,500 acres and the yield per acre is about 30 bags which is very high and we want to upscale this. We have put additional 108,000 acres in various community managed and smallholder irrigation projects.

Investment in agriculture value chains is another area that we are also targeting through aggregated industrial parks. This will help in aggregation, storage, processing, market access, improve farmer incomes and reduce post-harvest losses.

I have also given statistics there. Agriculture gross value added expanded by 4.4 per cent to Kshs1.7 trillion in 2024 based on the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) facts and figures.

Collectively, the intervention signaled improving domestic food availability and household resilience. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics Economic Survey of 2025, growth in agriculture increased from 2.8 percent in 2019 to 4.4 per cent in 2024 despite a brief contraction in 2021, but peaking at 7.1 per cent in 2023 reflecting an overall positive trajectory. I have provided data there and statistics.

I want to talk about health interventions. The Government has progressively increased the total Government expenditure in health as a ratio of total annual expenditure. In the Financial Year 2022/2023, the ratio was 5.7 per cent. It increased to 5.9 per cent in Financial Year 2023/2024 and further to 6.2 per cent; in Financial Year

2024/2025 and may rise in this financial year basically to make sure that Kenyans get access to Universal Health Cover (UHC).

To enhance all that, the Government replaced the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) with a new contributory insurance fund; the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) and the Social Health Insurance Act, 2023 to achieve universal health cover.

Under education, again, Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from the broader social protection and fiscal equalisation mechanisms, the Government continues to implement a number of education focused measures aimed at directly reducing the cost burden on poor households and improving human capital outcomes. These include free primary education and free day secondary education to eliminate tuition costs in public schools thereby reducing direct household expenditure on basic education.

There are also the targeted bursary schemes which are being administered to the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) and the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF). There is also the Elimu Scholarship Programme targeting bright, but financially disadvantaged students particularly from the informal settlements and marginalised areas.

We also have the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) to provide loans and bursaries to financially needy university and Technical Industrial Vocation Education and Training (TIVET) students. It would interest this House to note that we are even upscaling money going to the HELB from Kshs41 billion this financial year to a proposed allocation of Kshs58 billion, to respond to the increasing needs of financing our education.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget for education is increasing from Kshs703 billion in this year's budget to Kshs767 billion in the next year's budget. As a matter of fact, when this administration came into office, the education sector was only receiving Kshs546 billion. We are upscaling that to Kshs767 billion in three years, an increase of over Kshs200 billion that is going to fund our education sector.

There is also the new student-centred funding model for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and other tertiary institutions. We are also subsidising technical and vocational education. There is also the school feeding programme for areas like arid and semi-arid areas and urban informal settlements.

I have given data of a number of households receiving cash transfers in Kenya and you can see how the number has grown. You will see under each category, for example, under orphans and vulnerable children in Financial Year 2019/2020, only 294,000 were benefiting. Today, it is up to 443,000, almost double the number. The next category of all elderly persons, used to be 763 now it is 1.2 million Kenyans and many others as you can see in the data.

Poverty headcount rates of various population groups have been tabulated because I have been asked to give measurable outcomes. Various assessments both by the Government and non-Governmental institutions and researchers have documented the effects and impact of the Government-supported cash transfer programmes.

Number one is effect in material well-being and economic security. The Government-funded middle income impact evaluation of Kenyans in Inua Jamii cash transfer has demonstrated how much this has helped in terms of reducing poverty.

On effect on poverty and reduction in inequality, the poverty and distribution impacts of fiscal policy in Kenya report based on Financial Year 2015/2016 by the KNBS, the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), the World Bank the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the African Centre for Excellence for Inequality Research (ACEIR), University of Nairobi, showed that in the 2022/23 fiscal year, each one percent of GDP spent on direct transfers reduced poverty by 2.7 percent points and inequality by 1.97 points. That is an indication of the need to enhance the direct transfer programmes to households for increased impact in eradication of poverty.

I was asked to indicate the regions or counties experiencing the highest levels of poverty and specific measures are being undertaken to address these disparities. That is on page 15 of my presentation.

Kenya aims to eradicate poverty levels in all its forms across the country. The overall poverty level according to the 2022 Kenya continuous household survey was at 39.8 per cent. There are 22 counties with a headcount poverty rate above the national levels; that is, Turkana, Mandera, Samburu, Garissa, Tana River, Marsabit, Wajir, West Pokot, Kitui, Isiolo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Busia and Kwale having poverty rates of above 50 per cent.

I have given the table where you can see Turkana as the highest with a head count rate of 82.7 per cent, followed by Mandera. The lowest is Nairobi City at 16.5 per cent and then Kiambu at 19.9 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was trying to look for Kilifi. It is somewhere in the middle at 53 per cent and probably you can check where Homa Bay is at 28.2 per cent.

The next table gives the distribution of the poor across the counties basically giving how each county is contributing to the national poverty. You can see Bungoma is contributing very high to the national poverty at 4.4 per cent, Nakuru and Kilifi in that order. The lowest is Lamu at 0.3 per cent.

Although the poverty levels in some counties were lower, they still contribute more to the poor nationally. For instance, Nairobi City County which had a poverty rate of only 16.5 per cent contributes 3.8 per cent of the total poor nationally. This necessitates robust planning, not only to curb poverty in regions with high poverty levels, but also to consider the emerging growing urban poor that may contribute to higher weights in the overall national poverty levels. The movement of urban poor is a problem.

Apart from the Equalisation Fund, the Government continues to implement targeted measures aimed at addressing socio-economic disparities. These include-

- (1) equitable share allocation formula has a component of poverty in it;
- (2) conditional and targeted grants: We are giving some counties conditional grants to be able to address some of these disparities;
- (3) social protection programmes, such as the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP);
- (4) enhanced productivity in arid and semi-arid regions;
- (5) food security and nutrition is another initiative we are taking; and,
- (6) expansion of transport infrastructure and connectivity across various parts of the country. This administration is seeing a lot of Government intervention towards

infrastructure development in the northern Kenya, an area that had been neglected and forgotten for so many years. This Government is implementing a programme that is covering over 700 kilometres of roads.

What steps are being taken to ensure effective targeting, transparency and equitable allocation of resources in national poverty reduction programmes? If you are with me, they are on page 19. The Government is taking deliberate steps to ensure that all national poverty reduction and household support programmes are well targeted, transparent and equitably implemented across the country. The following interventions are being implemented. You will allow me to read them.

(1) Strengthening of beneficiary identification and targeting through improved use of national database, including the single registry. This is done to reduce duplication, eliminate ineligible beneficiaries and ensure support reaches the most vulnerable households. In fact, in the last financial year, we saved over Kshs2 billion by cleaning the register for cash transfer. This is to ensure that the right people are targeted.

(2) Enhancing transparency and accountability by expanding the use of digital payment systems and strengthening programme management information systems, which provide clear audit trails and improve traceability of public resources.

(3) Reinforcing equitable allocation of resources by applying objective criteria, such as poverty levels, vulnerability and exposure to shocks, so that counties and communities most in need receive proportionate support.

(4) Strengthening of verification, monitoring and audit systems, including periodic beneficiary validation, enhanced internal controls and independent oversight, to curb leakages and provide value for money.

(5) The Government is improving coordination across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and county governments and strengthening grievance and complaint mechanisms. so that citizens can support exclusion errors or misuse of resources and receive timely address.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government acknowledges the importance of generating and making use of evidence in policy formulation and implementation. Participatory poverty assessment is a strategic evidence generation process that complements traditional statistical data and provides deep insights into how poverty is experienced by households across Kenya. Participatory poverty assessment are used internationally and in Kenya in the past to gather qualitative information from poor and vulnerable communities themselves. It captures their perspectives on living conditions, access to services, barriers to opportunity and the real-world impact of Government policies and programmes on their daily lives. This assessment generates evidence that is crucial for refining policies, improving targeting and enhancing programme effectiveness.

Given the value of this evidence to strengthening policy formulation and ensure programmes under the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) are responsive to the lived realities of the poor, I now formally request that Parliament considers allocating dedicated resources in the Financial Year 2026/2027 Budget to undertake the sixth participatory poverty assessment. This allocation will support nationwide fieldwork, stakeholder consultation, data analysis and dissemination of

findings. This will ensure that the Government has up-to-date community-driven insights to guide poverty reduction and household hardship alleviation strategies going forward.

Thank you. I submit.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Thank you, Hon. Cabinet Secretary. Sen. Wakoli, do you have any supplementary questions?

Sen. Wafula: No.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Good. Sen. Mbugua, proceed.

Sen. Mbugua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Hon. Cabinet Secretary, my question is on the NYOTA programme. There was a Government policy that in all the funds, five per cent was to be allocated to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). There is a complaint all over the country that the PWDs are not adequately benefiting from this programme. Can you tell this House how many PWDs have benefited from this programme?

Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, take note of that question and take more, so that you respond to maybe 10 of them at ago.

Sen. Mumma, proceed.

Sen. Mumma: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. *Karibu*, Hon. Cabinet Secretary. My question relates to the support for TVET institutions. You will agree that the greatest mitigation strategy to reduce poverty is enabling members of families to stand on their own. We have just learned from one committee that you have not deployed even one shilling to the new funding models for TVET institutions for the financial years 2023/2024, 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. As a result, learners from the poorest families are dropping out of school because their capitation under the new funding model has not taken place in the TVET institutions and many others have not joined TVET institutions. How can we reduce poverty if we do not honour such a basic need?

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Chute.

Sen. Chute: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the Cabinet Secretary for being here today. He spoke about investment in marginalised areas over the last five years. I would like the Cabinet Secretary to mention one project that has been started and completed in Marsabit County, which is the largest county in this Republic.

Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Edwin Sifuna.

Sen. Sifuna: Hon. Speaker, listening to the Cabinet Secretary, some of the figures he mentioned left me confused. In December last year, there was a report by Oxfam titled, *“Kenya’s Inequality Crisis: The Great Economic Divide”*. The report from Oxfam put the figure of Kenyans living under extreme poverty at 50 per cent. I heard the Hon. Cabinet Secretary talking about 39.8 per cent. They cited reasons, including the rising cost of living and inflation, which is 50 per cent higher than it was in 2020 the period before COVID-19 pandemic.

My question to the Cabinet Secretary is about the NYOTA programme. You said it has received a lot of publicity. It is because you publicise it. It is essentially a political rally. My question on the NYOTA funds is: Could you tell this House the expense side of hosting those NYOTA events? How much does it cost to put up the large tents we see?

How much does it cost to transport all of you, including the President, to those events? Lastly, why do you allow politics to be played on those podiums?

I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a question to the Cabinet Secretary. We are discussing an important subject on alleviating poverty among our citizens. I appreciate the interventions that have been listed and the measures that the Government is putting in place to try and help the less fortunate amongst us. There is a figure that the Cabinet Secretary mentioned that by a clean-up of the register, they were able to save Kshs2 billion in the cash transfer for the vulnerable in our society. Apart from cleaning up the register, were there any sanctions to public officers who may have been involved in populating the list with non-deserving people or ghost beneficiaries?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the last comment on NYOTA is that I ask the Cabinet Secretary to publicise it as much as possible alongside any other programme. Any programme that helps citizens and makes their lives better should be publicised as much as possible.

I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Maanzo.

Sen. Maanzo: The Cabinet Secretary talked about the Galana Kulalu Irrigation Project, but I have a question on agriculture. This project was to be stabilised by flow of water from Thwake Dam where there has been no progress for the past three years. Funding had been promised by the African Development Bank (ADB) by December, but up to now, there has been no progress at all. This should trigger irrigation in several counties; Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado, Machakos and the lower counties around Galana Kulalu. What is he doing to make sure that he spurs irrigation?

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): You are allowed to ask only one question.

Sen. Murgor, proceed.

Sen. Murgor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I also thank the hon. Cabinet Secretary for availing himself. I went to Rwanda last year around November and the system around social activities there targets the whole family units to alleviate and put them on their feet. What also helps is the assessment that goes on. They go to a family, see how it has alleviated and helped and the change that has taken place.

A lot of the activities he has mentioned have been going on. However, but how much assessment is being carried to ensure that the programme is effective and is helping people? This is because, you can pump money into a system, but it does not reach where it is supposed to reach. Therefore, families continue to languish in poverty and yet, there is a lot of pumping into a system that is not reaching targeted people.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Enock Wambua.

Sen. Wambua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Poverty is a present reality in this county and is made worse by the current drought situation. I am a bit taken aback by the figures that the Cabinet Secretary has brought here. I wonder if you are relying on figures for 2022 to address a problem in 2026, then there is a problem.

Remember, we were debating on something and I said, I am not sure if the 3.3 million people who are in need of urgent relief support are a reflection of the reality on the ground. The figures we have here are mostly drawn from 2022. We are in 2026 in the midst of a drought situation. I do not know which figures they are using to plan to alleviate poverty.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Veronica Maina.

Sen. Veronica Maina: I thank the Cabinet Secretary for coming to answer the questions in this House. We have Cabinet Secretaries who do not bother to even apologise when they are not available for this question time and yet it is crucial. More importantly, we require that when you undertake something on the Floor of the House, you ensure that it is performed.

As the Cabinet Secretary, can tell from his report, which he has prepared with caution in order to make sure that it is factual and represents the reality? We have a very poor population in Kenya. In Murang'a County, we have people living in extreme poverty who require key interventions. This report has disaggregated the counties.

Right now, there are some homes that have caught fire in Murang'a County and that population of people who have faced those fires do not have places to call their homes. What is the Ministry doing to intervene in the areas where the fires happened; Kigumo, Kangema, Kiawambogo and Kandara? This includes the old people who get rained on when they are asleep. Is the Ministry doing anything to intervene for the people living in extreme hardcore poverty in counties, especially Murang'a people? I have a line-up of seven homes who need urgent intervention.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, avoid making lengthy speeches. Go straight to the question, so that we can have as many questions addressed to the Cabinet Secretary.

Yes, Sen. Betty Montet.

Sen. Betty Montet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The hon. Cabinet Secretary talked about the social transfers. Are these transfers aimed at poverty reduction or are they poverty mitigation strategies? Also, is it not time that the figures are reviewed?

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Abass.

Sen. Abass: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 13 counties are facing drought as the Cabinet Secretary has said and they are above the poverty level status. This has been there for many years.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, I remind you again.

Sen. Abass: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me ask the question. How much money was allocated for drought intervention in northern Kenya and wherever there is drought? I see food being distributed, but we cannot continue relying on food alone every time. This country has to change its policies on drought intervention.

If you look at Burkina Faso, which is in the middle of desert, today, they have surplus food production because of one person who made change in that country. What are the plans for this country to intervene on drought on time and have enough food production to avoid giving out food supplies to drought-stricken areas?

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Consolata.

Sen. Consolata Wakwabubi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity. I also welcome the Cabinet Secretary. He has outlined a myriad of interventions to boost economic levels. However, my question is: Which mechanisms has the Ministry put in place to inform on the selection criteria of the beneficiaries of these opportunities and which evaluation and monitoring tool is there? Which feedback mechanism has been put in place to realise the uptake of these opportunities? I am disappointed that Bungoma County has been rated highest in poverty levels.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Cherarkey.

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. A quick one to *Waziri*. He has talked about poverty alleviation especially among the young people, through NYOTA and youth development programmes that are supposed to be in place.

Waziri, what monitoring and evaluation mechanisms have you put in place to ensure that what you are doing in NYOTA is beneficial to the young people? The issues of youth are very important and they need the attention of the President.

Secondly, what strategies are in place to ensure that these issues are addressed in the long-term, and ignore haters like Sen. Sifuna, who do not even know where the ODM certificate is?

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Senator for Nandi County, we have heard your question. Take your seat.

Sen. Seki, you may proceed.

Sen. Seki: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My question goes directly to the Cabinet Secretary and issues of irrigation development programmes.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, I believe there was a budget for irrigation schemes in Rombo, Kajiado County, and in Nguruman, Magadi, for the Financial Year 2024/2025. I would really wish to know the level and processes of the irrigation schemes, because we have not seen anything so far from the two financial years.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Joe Nyutu, you may proceed.

Sen. Joe Nyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I refer to the response by the Cabinet Secretary on economic empowerment. I refer specifically to the NYOTA programme, where whenever these funds are being distributed to young people, the President is always in attendance. Could the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning tell us exactly how much the country spends on transporting the President---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Joe Nyutu, that is a repeat question. It is a question that has already been asked, so just wait for its response.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you may proceed to respond and kindly do so in less than 10 minutes, so that we wrap up on this particular Question.

The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadia): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. On the first question by Sen. Mbugua on the NYOTA programme and the persons living with disabilities who have benefited or are benefiting from the NYOTA programme, I wish to state that so far, 26,000 persons living with disabilities have benefited from this programme. So, it is not that they have been neglected completely. There is a component of the funding that has been designated specifically for persons living with disability.

Sen. Mumma has asked me about support for TVET institutions. As a matter of fact, we are supporting TVET institutions. We have concluded the funding of TVET together with other tertiary institutions under the Higher Education Loan Support Programme.

In terms of capitation, I know there were challenges, but it is not that we have not provided money completely. There are challenges with the funding of TVET, and we now have the data on how to fund, how much is needed, but because of financial constraints, we are not able to provide enough funding to TVETs. However, it remains a priority.

In fact, we have even received some funding. We are receiving some funding from China to support the TVET activities, and TVET is at the core of the Government agenda. As we prepare the budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027, we are going to make sure that TVETs are supported in terms of capitation, because that is where the challenge has been.

Sen. Chute, on Marsabit County, I wish that this information was required. I will make it available if that is needed. On the projects that are ongoing in Marsabit County, I may not know the status, where they are, because the line ministries are responsible, but we will do as much as we can to provide the list of projects that are being implemented in Marsabit County.

I would not dispute that Marsabit County is not or has not been receiving proper funding from the national Government, because discrimination, marginalization and exclusion in this country, we cannot shy away from it. It has been a reality, and as leaders, we cannot run away from that responsibility. I will look into the budget of 2026 with a clear objective of ensuring some equity and fairness. We may not have an equal budget or equitable budget in year one, but we must start that progress.

If I had time, I would tell you some of the interventions that, even personally, I have intervened in the budget process to make sure that certain areas that have been ignored are actually taken care of.

This morning, before I came here, I was having a meeting with MPs from the northern Kenya region, and just to see how to give more support to that region in terms of budget, including the supplementary budget. So, I agree with you that there could be some kind of marginalisation, but that should be addressed.

On the questions by hon. Sen. Sifuna about the figures from Oxfam and my figures, I am putting public figures, and figures that have come from Government institutions that I think we have faith in.

Again, every country has its system of doing its survey. If we have put a Government institution in place that is doing household survey, and they have given us the data that in 2009, our poverty index was at 54 per cent and that went down in 2015 to 36.1 per cent. It went down even further in 2019 to 33.6 per cent, but rose or went up during COVID to 42.9 per cent, and then went down to 39.8 per cent. I have no reason to doubt those figures, unless I am proved to be wrong, or the institution that is doing the survey is proven to be wrong.

So, I am relying on authentic figures, figures that we can challenge. If we feel we do not agree with the figures, we can challenge them. But these are statistics that have not come from the moon. They are with us, they are public documents, and can be checked.

On the issue of NYOTA Programme, and whether it is a political rally, you know Kenyans are very interesting. When you do not communicate they complain that they want public participation. When you do it, they ask why you are doing it. They will say you are politicising and ask you how much you are using. I do not know whether you expect the President to walk to Kisumu on foot, to go and conduct public sensitisation, on a very critical and important programme of Government targeting the youth---

(Sen. Cherarkey consulted loudly)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Order, hon. Senators. Order! Senator for Nandi County, you either be orderly or I will ask you to leave the Chamber. I do not know where that excitement is coming from. Let us listen to the Cabinet Secretary in silence.

Now, hon. Senator for Nairobi, you cannot rise on a point of order against the Cabinet Secretary. It is up to the Speaker to rule.

Proceed and conclude, hon. Cabinet Secretary.

The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I was just explaining that we need proper sensitisation of the youth in terms of how to run the businesses that they are going to start using the NYOTA programme.

Again, we need no lesser office than the Head of State to articulate and explain to the youth the agenda of the Government. He was elected to address the problems of Kenya. The President was not elected to sit at the State House. We need a president who reaches out to Kenyans, talks to them and explains the Government programmes.

On the question by the Senate Majority Leader---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, the question that has been asked by the Senator for Nairobi is for you to tell the country how much has been expended.

The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I were ---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): If you do not have the figure---

The Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I know is that it has been spent within the budget of the President to run the Government. The President has a budget at the State House to run programmes.

(Loud consultations)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Order! Order, hon. Senators.
Senator for Nandi County!

The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. Mbadi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the confirmation that I would give this House is that the budget

that the Head of State has spent in going around to sensitise Kenyans on the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme is within the budget of State House provided by the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya.

The Majority Leader asked me whether we have sanctioned the officers who probably were involved in giving us figures that were not accurate. I think the line ministry is dealing with that. However, the line ministry helped us to clean the system, get Kshs2 billion, which we actually reallocated to support health programmes for those Kenyans who cannot afford to pay for their health programmes. So, this money that was saved was properly put to support the health programmes.

Sen. Maanzo asked me about Galana Kulalu Irrigation Scheme. First, for us to be able to irrigate 200,000 acres of Galana Kulalu Project, we will have to do a dam along the Galana Kulalu. It will be costing us almost Kshs40 billion. I am sure you are aware that we have unlocked all the challenges that were facing Thwake Dam. Therefore, now, the African Development Bank and I signed with them, and are supposed now to complete the dam. So, it is not a challenge anymore. We know where the challenge was, and I am sure the Senator is aware of the challenges.

In terms of irrigating Galana Kulalu, we need more resources to do a dam that will help us irrigate 200,000 acres. If we irrigate 200,000 acres, imagine one acre produces 30 bags of maize. That we approved, we harvested in December. Out of the 1,500 acres, each acre produced 30 bags. Thirty bags times 200,000 acres gives you six million bags. The harvesting will be done twice in a year. So, that is 12 million bags. The most deficit that we have in Kenya, shortage is between 10 and 15 million bags. So, Galana Kulalu alone can help us fix the problem of food deficiencies in this country.

Sen. Murgor asked me how we are assessing, and the fact that we should assess at the family level as Rwanda is doing. That is why, in my last paragraph, I concluded by saying that we want to do participatory poverty assessment, which is a strategic evidence generation process. I asked that the Parliament should give us resources in the 2026/2027 Financial Year to undertake the sixth participatory poverty assessment. We have done five before. If we get resources, we are also in agreement that this participatory poverty assessment is a strategic evidence generation process that would help us address this matter. I completely agree with Sen. Murgor.

Sen. Wambua, I am not relying on figures of 2022. If you look at my reports or my submission, they touch on some figures of 2022 and some 2024. Again, for some household figures, you cannot do assessment every day. It is expensive and you cannot afford it. We must have some periodic assessment. Some like household survey was done in that year. It will be done again, but you cannot do it every year because the figures might have not even changed that much. So, we are not relying on outdated figures, as you are saying. However, yes, some figures relate to 2022. Not very far off because, again, even the Census we did in 2019, we will do it again in 2029, but we can project our population based on that.

Sen. Consolata asked about mechanisms put in place to select monitor and feedback mechanisms. Every programme that we have has an M&E component, including the NYOTA and the Uwezo Fund, which provides us with feedback mechanism. That is why I am able to report on the impact of each of these findings.

Again, I think that was the same question that Sen. Cherarkey asked on M&E and how to see the impact it has on the young people.

Sen. Seki asked about specific irrigation projects. I wish I was aware of that question; I would have come with the data. If it is desirable, I can go, check and write back to the Senate to indicate where that programme is.

Sen. John Methu again asked the same questions.

(An hon. Member spoke off record)

The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. Mbadi): Oh, sorry, Sen. Joe Nyutu. I got your name wrong. You will forgive me. I know you very well. You are always a permanent visitor in my--- Not my sitting room because you are always speaking when I am in the office. You are always there on *Citizen TV*, so I watch you. On giving me some very good tips on how not to do things.

Again, on NYOTA programme, you asked how much is being used to transport the President to this programme. We spend as much as the Parliament has appropriated to State House to support and facilitate the Head of State. So, that is what we spend.

Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Now, Hon. Senators, we will move to Question No.002. Sen. Wakoli, you may ask Question No.002.

(Loud consultations)

Let us handle Question No.002.

Sen. Wafula: Hon. Speaker---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Wakoli, resume your seat, please. Yes, Honourable CS.

The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): Hon. Speaker, it is true. I forgot to address three questions. I was writing them. One is by Sen. Veronica Maina.

On the issue of fire incidences in various places in Murang'a, we have a special state department dealing with emergencies and interventions like this one, the special programmes. We resource them very well when there are these emergencies because they cannot wait. So, I may not have information on what interventions have been taken, but that state department deals with emergencies.

On the issue of Sen. Abass, he asked me how much we have allocated to the 13 counties for drought mitigation. When drought or incidences of drought began in July, last year, the people we projected that would be affected were just about two million. Now, the figure has risen to 3.3 million.

The first request that I got, we gave Kshs3 billion to support in the month of August. In the month of November, we gave Kshs2.5 billion. That is Kshs5.5 billion. Then, again, in December, we gave Kshs3 billion. So, that is Kshs8.5 billion. Besides that, we also gave Kshs500 million specifically for livestock intervention. So, Kshs9.057

billion has been sent so far. The Kshs57 million went to Elgeyo Marakwet for the flood intervention. However, Kshs9 billion went for drought mitigation.

I have already approved another Kshs4.1 billion to support drought intervention. So, that will push it to over Kshs13 billion. We are still monitoring the situation, and if it becomes dire, we will be forced again to put in more resources. So, that in a nutshell, is my response to your question.

Lastly, the Senator for Kitui asked about--- Pardon? Machakos, yes.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): What question was it?

The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): The question was poverty reduction or mitigation.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): That was Sen. Betty Montet.

The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. Mbadi): Okay. I think I captured it wrong. Kitui Senator is Wambua, is it not?

Sen. Wambua: Yes.

The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): I got it completely wrong. Now, poverty reduction or mitigation; very thin line. When you mitigate, you intervene and mitigate poverty. Chances are that you end up reducing poverty in the long run. This is because, again, that intervention helps to give the capacity to help reduce poverty. We have seen it by the way those who are getting cash transfer, some of them may even end up saving part of that money to pay school fees. When they pay school fees, their children get educated and that is one way of giving empowerment and reducing poverty. So, it can be both. Our interventions are both reduction and mitigation.

Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Wakoli, you may now ask Question No.002.

Question No.002

REGULATION AND LICENSING OF DIGITAL LENDING PLATFORMS

Sen. Wafula: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for calming various voices in the background.

I beg to ask the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning the following Question.

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the regulation and licensing status of digital lending platforms operating in Kenya?

(b) What measures are currently in place to curb predatory lending practices, including exorbitant interest rates, unethical debt recovery methods and the misuse of borrowers' personal data?

(c) How is the Ministry coordinating with other regulatory agencies to enforce consumer protection and data privacy standards within the digital credit market?

(d) What steps are being taken to promote fair, transparent and responsible digital credit as part of financial inclusion, while safeguarding citizens from exploitation?

The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this response has been prepared by the National Treasury together with the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), and I would like to respond as follows-

(a) The CBK licenses three categories of financial institutions to engage in lending to the public. We have 38 commercial banks, 14 microfinance banks and 195 Non-Deposit Taking Credit Providers (NDTCPs), previously referred to as Digital Credit Providers (DCPs). I think that is the gist and genesis of this question.

Principally, the licensing and oversight is undertaken pursuant to the Banking Act, Microfinance Act and the Central Bank of Kenya Act respectively and regulations thereunder. The statutes have elaborate and comprehensive measures in place for the licensing and oversight of the indicated financial institutions.

As of December 2025, credit to private sector by commercial banks, microfinance banks and DCPs was Kshs4.3 trillion, Kshs32 billion and Kshs110 billion respectively, representing 96.8 per cent, 0.8 per cent and 2.4 per cent of the credit advanced by the institutions respectively. This highlights the continued dominance of commercial banks in the private sector at 96.8 per cent. That table is an elaboration of what I have just said. That is for the first question.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, and hon. Members, my response to (b) is as follows. One of the purposes of licensing NDTCPs is to ensure that consumers are duly protected from malpractices such as predatory practices including high interest rates, data protection breaches and abuse of personal information. The CBK thus engages with all NDTCPs licensees to ensure that their pricing models are customer-centric and risk-based. The CBK requires these institutions to submit pricing models that are aligned to the provisions of Regulation 27(2) of the DCPs Regulations 2022. In view of this, the CBK has been engaging with all its licensees to ensure that their pricing models are customer-centric and risk-based as required by the law.

Further, all product features and prices must be reviewed and approved accordingly by the CBK. This is ongoing for the licensed NDTCPs as well as all applicants. This is aimed at ensuring that the pricing models are fair, transparent and empowering for consumers accessing the digital credit products.

The CBK works closely with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) to coordinate enforcement actions and ensure consistent application of data privacy standards across the sector. The primary responsibility of implementing and enforcing the Data Protection Act rests with the ODPC.

To prevent cyber harassment and unauthorised data access, the CBK monitors compliance through regular offsite surveillance and onsite inspections. These reviews assess the adequacy of licensees internal controls, data governance frameworks and day-to-day data handling practices, enabling prompt collective action where gaps are identified.

My response to (c) is as follows. The primary mandate to implement and enforce the Data Protection Act rests with the ODPC. Accordingly, the CBK works in close collaboration with the office as I mentioned before. This collaboration strengthens sector-wide compliance and ensures that violations are addressed through joint investigations, audits and, where necessary, penalties or license revocation is applied.

The second one is regulatory compliance requirement. The CBK mandates all the licensed NDTCPs to fully adhere to the Data Protection Act and its attendant regulations. As part of the licensing and supervisory framework, NDTCPs are required to obtain a certificate issued pursuant to the law and develop and implement a robust data protection policy.

The third one is supervisory, oversight and compliance monitoring. Compliance with data protection obligations is monitored through regular offsite surveillance and targeted online inspections. These reviews assess the adequacy of internal controls, as I mentioned, and data governance frameworks.

The fourth one is requirement of informed consent. Digital lenders are expressly required to obtain clear, informed and explicit consent from borrowers before accessing personal data, including phone contact lists or location information. The use of consent must meet the standards outlined in the Data Protection Act and ensure that customers understand the purpose and scope of the data.

The fifth one is enforcement of data minimisation principle in line with Regulation 33 of the Data Protection Regulations 2021. The CBK enforces the principle of data minimisation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, and hon. Members, this is my response to (d). The first one is licensing and regulatory oversight. The CBK requires all NDTCPs to be licensed under DCPs Regulatory Framework that outlines eligibility criteria, governance, operation standards and consumer protection obligations.

The second one is supervisory engagement and capacity building. The CBK has continued to actively engage licensed NDTCPs via offsite reviews and targeted onsite inspections as I had indicated before.

The third one is technology-driven compliance monitoring. The CBK Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) system integrates with NDTCPs for streamlined data submission, covering lending activities, governance, consumer protection and redress. Further, the CBK collects periodic returns on outstanding credit from NDTCPs via bank supervision application.

The fourth one is consumer redress and dispute resolution mechanism where the CBK requires all NDTCPs to establish effective consumer complaints handling policies as a licensing condition. These policies must include clear guidance on lodging complaints, dedicated complaints communication channels and defined timelines for acknowledgement, investigation and resolution.

Fifth, we also have enforcement and sanction. This is explained here for hon. Members to see.

Sixth, the recently issued draft - Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) non-deposit taking credit provider regulations of 2025. Following challenges experienced since implementing the digital credit legal and regulatory framework in March, 2022, amendments to the CBK Act through the Business Law (Amendment) Act of 2024, have informed the drafting of new regulations.

Key proposals include-

- (i) expanding the scope beyond digital lending to cover all non-deposit taking credit providers, businesses not regulated under other laws, such as

buy-now-pay-later arrangements, peer-to-peer lending and pay-as-you-go arrangements;

(ii) introducing a tight licensing and regulatory framework to enable a risk-based regulatory approach, easing requirements for lower risk provider and improving oversight efficiency;

(iii) the credit providers continue to harass and, or mistreat customers, thus the urgent need to enhance the penalty for mistreating or harassing consumers;

(iv) enhancing penalties for violations and failure to comply with the provisions of the Act, these regulations and any other regulations, guidelines, code of conduct, directives, order or condition imposed by the bank from Kshs500,000 now to Kshs2 million, to be persuasive and is still discipline among the non-deposit taking credit providers.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

I rest my case.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Cabinet Secretary.

Sen. Wafula, do you have any supplementary questions?

We shall proceed to take supplementary questions from the other Senators.

Sen. Alexander Mundigi, please proceed.

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Asante, Bw. Spika. Swali langu ni kwa Waziri. Kulingana na *the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act*, kuna magari mengi katika Embu County ambayo yanafaa yauzwe. Najua hili swali halihusu Embu County pekee. Hazina *log books*, suala ambalo limekuwa katika *audit query* kila mara. Ningependa kujua hizo *log books* zitapatika wakati upi na haya magari yataondolewa wakati gani, ili magari hayo yaweze kuondolowa ama---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Mundigi, swali lako halihusiani na Swali lililoulizwa. Liko nje ya---

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Bw. Spika wa Muda, Swali langu lilikuwa *general question*. Nilikuwa nimeomba *before* yule Spika mwingine aondoke.

(Applause)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Mundigi, hakuna kitu kama *general questions*. Hakuna kitu kama hicho. Swali lako linafaa kuhusiana na lile swali ambalo limeulizwa na Sen. Wafula.

Sen. Munyi Mundingi: Lakini, *before* yule Spika mwingine aondoke, nilikuwa nimeuliza---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Lilipitwa na wakati.

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: *No*. Aliondoka na akasema nitauliza *under general questions*.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Tutawachia Waziri aamue kama ana hiyo *information* ili akupe jawabu. Ikiwa hana, itakuwa ni jukumu lake pengine kukuandikia kando.

Sen. Moses Kajwang', najua umengojea lakini siunaona orodha hapo?

Sen. M. Kajwang’: Nimeona.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Nilikuwa natafuta jina lako.

Sen. M. Kajwang’: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I was about to ask my question in Swahili, then I remembered that it is Cabinet Secretary Mbadi in the House. I might challenge him a bit if I proceeded in Swahili.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, Cabinet Secretary Mbadi is one of those people who make me believe in this Government because of the actions he has taken since he went into office.

I would like to ask on the digital credit providers. In 2000, Joe Donde moved this nation to amend the Banking Act, and we introduced Section 44(a), that introduced the *in duplum* rule. I would like to find out from the Cabinet Secretary what measures the National Treasury is taking to ensure that digital credit providers do not violate Section 44(a) of the Banking Act, which simply states that interest should never exceed the principal. We have seen most of these online and digital credit platforms, where the interest is exploitative and sometimes is double or triple the principle.

Could the Cabinet Secretary tell us what he is doing to ensure that the digital credit providers (DCPs) are also regulated, as well as subjected to Section 44(a) of the Banking Act. In as much as they might not be pure banks, it is important for Kenyans to be protected from exploitative interest and lending behaviours.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you. Sen. Steve Lelegwe, please, proceed.

Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I would like to ask a supplementary question to the Cabinet Secretary regarding the first Question, Question No.0001. I am not sure whether I can proceed.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): We have passed that already.

Sen. Mohamed Chute, please, proceed.

Sen. Chute: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Just a moment. Senators, if you are not intending to ask a Question, could you, please, unclick your button, so that we can have only the Senators who want to ask questions on the schedule?

Proceed, Sen. Chute.

Sen. Chute: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Question I am about to ask is within the knowledge of the CS, which is a bit out of what we are here for today. However, if you can answer now, it is fine. If you can answer later on, it is also fine.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, there is Engineer Joseph Waqo Guyo, Personal Number 1986059914. The engineer died in November 2020 and to date, the dues have not been paid. His wife, the widow, asked me to ask the CS---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Chute, I am going to remind you the same thing I reminded Sen. Mundigi. You are asking a question which is outside the line Question which has been asked.

Sen. Chute: I have said it.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Yes, you have said it, but your question is so detailed about an individual. You cannot expect the CS at this very moment to answer that question.

Sen. Chute: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I said he can answer now or later on.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): No, he cannot answer now or later because it is not part of the line Question.

Sen. Chute: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am asking this Question---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Chute, if I am about to advise you, seek an appointment with the Cabinet Secretary to take the matter to him, because he will have to ask his officers for the file. You cannot expect him---

Sen. Chute: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): No! We will not argue on this, Sen. Chute. Please, take a seat. We are going to take the next Question.

Sen. Joe Nyutu, please, proceed.

Sen. Joe Nyutu: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I refer to Question No.(b) and the response by the Cabinet Secretary, about exorbitant interest rates and what the Cabinet Secretary is doing to see to it that Kenyans are not exploited through these predatory lending practices. So, I would like to ask the Cabinet Secretary, whom Sen. Kajwang' has described as one of the reasons that he trusts this Government, to tell us whether he thinks that the former situation that we had, where we had fixed bank lending rates, is something that we should revisit.

In my view, this was very progressive to borrowers. Does he think that we can go back to the situation where we had fixed bank lending rates? If not, tell us why he thinks that we should not go back to that particular situation.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Samson Cherarkey, please, proceed.

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I want to find out from the Cabinet Secretary on the issue of digital credit providers. We have seen most of them are exploitative in terms of interest, and have shylock-like behaviours, called predatory lending. What mechanisms have been put in place by the Ministry of National Treasury and Economic Planning to ensure that these digital lenders operate within the Banking Act; they are not exploitative like Mshwari, in the case of Safaricom and on blacklisting? As you are aware, there was hue and a cry, especially from the youth. When you borrow, they sometimes even switch off your phone, even if it is *mulika mwizi*. In short, we need consumer protection, especially for digital lenders.

I ask Sen. Nyutu not to worry. There is a lot to believe in this Government. You should not be pessimistic. There is a lot that we are doing even in Murang'a, the Mau Mau Roads. I yield.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Cherarkey, why do you seek points of order for no reason? You are just supposed to ask your question.

Sen. Nyutu, what is your point of order?

Sen. Joe Nyutu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sen. Cherarkey should stop chest-thumping all the time and take time to listen.

I have platforms to express my displeasure with this failed Government but I did not, in my question to the Cabinet Secretary, say that. I just referred to the comment that Sen. Kajwang' made. I did not say whether or not, like Sen. Kajwang', I believed in this Government.

So, Mr. Temporary Speaker, you must ask Sen. Cherarkey to stop being the sycophant he has been and take time to listen to submissions by other Members.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Mundigi.

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Bw. Spika wa Muda, Bw. Nyutu hangesema serikali iliyoanguka. Labda imeanguka kwa Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) lakini sio Kenya. Anafaa aondoe hayo matamshi yake. Tumeona Serikali ya William Ruto ilivyofanya kazi kwa akina mama, wazee na vijana. Yule ni wa Serikali ya broad-based. Sasa anadanganya Wakenya hapa kwamba Serikali imeanguka.

Namfahamisha kwamba hii Serikali itaendeleza uongozi kwa miaka mingine saba. Rais William Ruto ataongoza kwa miaka kumi.

Asante.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Senators, we need to proceed with the questions.

(Loud consultations)

Yes, Eddie.

Sen. Oketch Gicheru: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, mine is a point of order. It is very difficult to get these Cabinet Secretaries so that we can ask them questions on whichever platform. I know it might be easier to say, "let Eddie Oketch go to the Cabinet Secretary's office." However, I can tell you that I have called several Cabinet Secretaries, including the one who is here, Hon. John Mbadi, but I did not get them on the phone. So, when they come to this House---

(Loud consultations)

Wait. I am on Standing Order No.51(c), which talks about the responses to questions by the Cabinet Secretaries. That is where I was heading. If you read Standing Order 51(7) (a), you will see that upon the issuance of a response or making of a statement under paragraph one, which is basically answering the questions, the Speaker may - the word there is "may", not "shall" - allow the senator who asked the question to raise a maximum of two supplementary questions that relate to the question.

The person who asked the question to the Cabinet Secretary shall relate their supplementary question to the question they have asked.

Part (b) says -

"Allow any other Senator to ask a supplementary question."

The supplementary question might not be related. This is the sense of this point of order. If the intention was to make sure that the question here relates to the other question, it could have been provided in this provision. Allow us to ask these Cabinet

Secretaries any question that is supplementary to the best of what is affecting my people and what is affecting Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this is not to disagree with your ruling, but I wish that Sen. Chute could be allowed to ask his questions because it is difficult to get these Cabinet Secretaries when you go to their offices or when you call them. So, when they come here, to this House of the people, allow us to ask the questions.

The Standing Order states that it is not just for questions related to the question that was asked, but for any supplementary question. I wanted to plead with you to allow us to ask those questions.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Senator, thank you, I have heard you.

(Loud consultations)

Order, Senators. Order, Sen. Cherarkey! He does not want your assistance.

Sen. Eddie, as you have clearly read the Standing Orders, you underlined ‘the Speaker may,’ and I have chosen not to allow those questions. So, it is within my prerogative. If you are itching to ask a question, why not file the questions on time, so that you can ask it on the Floor of the House? We have another Cabinet Secretary waiting and we are spending too much time with the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning. So, we shall proceed.

Sen. Cherarkey, you asked your question.

Proceed, Sen. Cheruiyot.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I do not envy you. It is very difficult to steer this House on track sometimes with the kind of interactions I have seen this morning.

I have a quick question for the Cabinet Secretary with regard to Question No.002 on these predatory lending practices by various business entities.

One of the reasons why I celebrate you, Cabinet Secretary, is that you have really demystified this position of the Cabinet Secretary in charge of the National Treasury. You are the first Cabinet Secretary in charge of finance to go to Bunge la Mwananchi and engage citizens at the level that you are doing. I would wish that you would do it more.

At your next visit, Hon. Cabinet Secretary, please interact with our young men who ply the *boda boda* business. You will know how much of a menace this problem is to them. Some people give them motorbikes and at the end of the paying period, they will have paid almost triple the amount it would have cost them to acquire that particular motorbike.

When you tie that to the question that was asked by your own senator, Sen. Moses Kajwang, you appreciate that these companies are completely in violation of all existing laws of the land. So, what is the State Department doing with particular focus on the *boda boda* sector and the loan sharks that exist in that particular space that are exploiting our young people, who slave for them? By the time they finish paying the loan of the motorbike, the motorbike is actually completely worn out. There is nothing else they can do with it and they have not made anything substantial saving for themselves. Can we curb this menace?

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Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Proceed, Sen. Enock Wambua.

Sen. Wambua: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. For some strange reason, Sen. Cheruiyot seems to have asked the question that I wanted to ask, but I will ask a different one.

Bw. Cabinet Secretary, let me congratulate you for what you are trying to do to rein in these predators, but the real predators will be found in the shylock space; people preying on the desperation of Kenyans, especially young Kenyans, for quick money. The repayment is as painful as the pain can get.

What would your Ministry do to ensure that you clean up that mess about the shylocks? They are exploiting young people and are bringing a lot of pain to households. I know several families that have been broken because of activities of shylocks. What are you doing about that space?

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Maanzo, proceed?

Sen. Maanzo: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, a very brief one on the same.

Is the Cabinet Secretary aware of the credit facilities where logbooks are used to borrow monies; the practicality of the interest rates which keep on changing on a daily basis such that it becomes very difficult to ever recover your car once you have given it to these creditors who use logbooks as security for quick loans? Is the Government controlling that sector also?

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Cabinet Secretary, respond. Give the Cabinet Secretary the microphone.

The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi): Thank you. Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, listening to the various questions, I will condense them to just about three. The first question which is of major concern is about the exploitative nature of some of these credit providers, especially digital credit providers. Sen. Cheruiyot has again brought in those who are giving loans to even *boda boda* people. This is something we live with every day and we even see them. Senator, I agree with you absolutely.

My commitment to you, Sen. Cheruiyot, is that I will have an engagement with the *boda boda* operators soon, just to interact with them and understand their concerns. However, to answer this, this concern became apparent to us because there was no proper legal framework to deal with these credit providers.

One of my first assignments when I came into office was to bring some of these amendments. That is why in December 2024, through the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, I was able to bring these digital credit providers into the supervisory role and purview of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK).

Right now, they have to have their pricing model approved and ensure that they follow the *in duplum* rule, which Sen. Moses Kajwang talked about. We have even enhanced penalties to Kshs2 million from Kshs500,000. Whatever they do now is covered in law and, therefore, they must comply with the law. Anyone who is not

complying with the law risks facing the penalties that have been set in law. Unlike before, right now, they are under the supervisory role and purview of the CBK.

That also addresses the question by Hon. Maanzo; that, there are people who offer credit facilities using logbooks with the sole objective of selling these assets because they know that they have structured their debts in a way that you are not able to settle them. Now, they must operate within the law because there is a law. If they do not want to follow the law, then, obviously, they will be penalised properly. Even their licenses can be revoked.

I agree with Sen. Cherarkey that sometimes these people behave like Shylocks. That is why we have now brought them under Section 44(A) with regulations prepared to address the same.

The other issue that was asked by Sen. Nyutu was whether we should go back to that period when we had fixed interest on bank lending rates. My quick response is, no. By the way, it may look very appetising and easy to think that you can control the bank interest rates, but the effect it would have on the economy would be dire. We need a free but regulated economy. That is why we have the CBK.

If we control interest rates, first, we are discouraging investment in our country and since we do not live in isolation, we are making our country uncompetitive. Even the credit rating of our country will go down when we start putting some restrictions in terms of interest rates. The negative economic effect of that is much more than the positive side. That is why we use the monetary policies of the CBK to deal with the rising interest rates.

At a point, I think in November 2024, we had 17.2 per cent as the average lending rate in our banks. Today, it has come down to 14.6 per cent. Why? It is because of the intervention by the CBK and also the National Treasury's support by stabilising the foreign exchange and de-risking our debts portfolio to remove the exposure that our economy was subjected to in 2024. All this combined with asking banks and changing the system. For example, right now, we have changed the system of the overnight lending rate.

Senator, I am sure that you are aware that this will definitely help manage the interest rates or credit lending to the private sector, as opposed to coming in with a tough regulatory regime that may not look friendly because we are in the international space.

I think I had already addressed the question by Sen. Wambua.

On the question by Sen. Oketch - I do not see him here – he complained about Cabinet Secretaries not being found. Hon. Senators, if anyone was to call me right now, that person would not find me on the phone. Yesterday, from 2.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., I was engaged with two committees of the National Assembly, while on the previous day, I was with a Committee of the Senate. That is aside from the engagements that I have in the office.

I am really trying to be available to people's representatives. If Sen. Oketch were here, I would have told him that, at least, he is lucky because last Saturday, we travelled together with him to a rally in Siaya. So, he got the opportunity to talk to me, unlike Sen. Cherarkey who has not had opportunity to be with me for a very long time. I hope Sen.

Cheruiyot who has also not had time, will have time this Friday to be with me in Suba, so that we can engage and discuss other matters.

(Sen. Cheruiyot spoke off record)

No, but I have invited you. Sen. Kajwang' is my younger brother, so he will definitely come.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I will stop there because I think I have addressed all the questions that I was asked and just give a commitment once more that, any time I am invited, I will be available.

Ndugu yangu kutoka Embu County, my great friend, Sen. Munyi, kama una swali lolote kuhusu Kaunti ya Embu, nitakupa jawabu. Ukiuliza hilo swali na utume kwa Wizara yangu, nitakuja hapa nikueleze vile ambavyo tutatua hiyo shida.

I just wanted to prove that I can speak some Kiswahili because the way Sen. Moses Kajwang put it, it is like I do not even understand Kiswahili. I had a pass in Kiswahili to the extent that in 2007, when I was running for a parliamentary seat, there was a requirement at that time that if you did not do Kiswahili in high school and pass, you had to do what we called a proficiency test in both English and Kiswahili.

Fortunately, I had passed both languages in high school and thus, could not do a proficiency test. I am proficient in both English and Kiswahili, but I have a mastery of the Luo Language.

Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Yes, Senate Majority Leader.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Thank you, Temporary Speaker, Sir, for indulging me before the Cabinet Secretary leaves. This is the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and, therefore, it is important that we engage him as a House on certain things. I know that we are in the Budget Policy Statement (BPS) season. I have said that I appreciate this Cabinet Secretary because he is distinct in how he does his things. Part of the bigger problem the Senate of the Republic has always had with the National Treasury is how much they ignore the findings and the resolutions of the Senate with regards to the BPS. They never respond to them, none of it is ever acted.

So, I challenge Cabinet Secretary Mbadi, that if you want to become successful even more than what you already have become, please, take time and build into our national budget the recommendation from the Senate on the BPS. All your other previous ministers have ignored it and I do not want to say what the results have been.

Lastly, as a House, we have tried to pursue the very elusive Kshs450 billion plus shareable revenue to counties. Given that there are a few key state departments that you are now taking off main national budget by funding them through the National Infrastructure Fund programme, which the Government is introducing, as you come back to us in a month or two, Cabinet Secretary, with a budget proposal, kindly try and push it as far as Kshs450 billion. That is a request from the Senate.

I thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Senate Majority Leader. Hon. Senators, we have come to the end of Question Time with the Cabinet Secretary.

Sen. Mandago, you have just walked in. We had actually concluded. I only give the indulgence to the Majority Leader.

Cabinet Secretary, I really thank you.

(Sen. Mandago spoke off record)

He was speaking on behalf of the House. It was a matter of public BPS. No, we have the other Cabinet Secretary sitting and waiting to be asked questions. So, can we, please, allow the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning to take his leave?

Cabinet Secretary, we thank you for your time. Bw. Waziri, Sen. Chute has really pleaded that he really wants to take that matter up with you. Maybe he will write to you to seek for an appointment with the details, because I understand what he is asking requires your officers to look through it. So, Chute, the Cabinet Secretary will be expecting a letter from you with the question and the details, so that he can give you an appointment.

(The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning (Hon. John Mbadi) spoke off record)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): That is in order. Thank you very much, Cabinet Secretary. Thank you very much and have a good afternoon. It is still morning, sorry. Good morning.

Please, Serjeant-at-Arms, usher in the next Cabinet Secretary.

*(The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration
(Hon. Murkomen was ushered into the Chamber)*

(Interruption of Questions)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM MWONGORI HIGH SCHOOL, NYAMIRA COUNTY

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Hon. Senators, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the Public Gallery, this morning of visiting teachers and students from Mwongori High School in Nyamira County.

The delegation consists of seven teachers and 44 students. In our usual tradition of receiving and welcoming visitors to Parliament, I extend a warm welcome to the delegation. On behalf of the Senate and on my own behalf, I wish them a fruitful visit.

I thank you.

Sen. Enoch Wambua, you can welcome them.

Sen. Wambua: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I thank you for this opportunity to extend a word of welcome to the visiting delegation of our students and teachers from Nyamira County. I thank them for choosing to visit the Senate of the Republic of Kenya. I know that the Senator for Nyamira, who is our Commissioner in the Parliamentary Service Commission, and who sits next to me, is at home undertaking important national and county duty. I also want to thank the students and the teachers and send them to their parents to extend our appreciation from the alternative Government for the warm reception that they have given our team in Nyamira and Kisii. If we continue this way, the future is looking very bright.

I thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

(Resumption of Questions)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Cabinet Secretary, Interior and National Administration, Sen. Murkomen, welcome to the House. Thank you very much for coming. We shall proceed straight to asking the questions because of time.

Question No.003, to be asked by Sen. Shakila Mohamed.

Question No.003

STATUS OF INVESTIGATION INTO THE FATAL SHOOTING OF
VICTOR KIPNG'ENO MUTAI

Sen. Shakila Abdalla: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, Question No. 003 is about the fatal shooting of Mr. Victor Kipng'eno Mutai, by police officers. This is a question from Nominated Senator, Hon. Joyce Korir. She has requested to be apprised of the fatal shooting of Mr. Victor Kipng'eno Mutai by police officers on 23rd July, 2024 in Bomet County.

The Hon. Member particularly sought to be informed on –

(a) the current status of investigations into the death of Mr. Victor Kipng'eno Mutai, who was fatally shot during a security operation by police officers from Silibwet Police Station in Bomet County;

(b) whether the responsible police officers have been apprehended and if not, outline the measures in place to facilitate the arrest and prosecution of the officer; and,

(c) the measures in place to prevent police officers accused of extra judiciary killing from interfering with investigations and to ensure that those responsible are brought to book.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Once again, thank you for inviting me to this august House to respond to these two Questions. Because of time, I will go straight to respond to the Question by Hon. Joyce Korir.

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Hon. Speaker, Nominated Senator, Hon. Joyce Korir, has requested to be apprised of the fatal shooting of Mr. Victor Kipng'eno Mutai by police officers on the 23rd July 2024 in Bomet County. The Hon. Member particularly sought to be informed on the current status of the investigations into the death of Mr. Victor Kipng'eno and I respond as follows –

Hon. Speaker, on the 23rd July 2024, a team of seven police officers from Silibwet Police Station who were on patrol duties received intelligence reports that certain individuals were engaged in the sale of illicit alcohol beverage at Masese Market.

At the scene, the officers found a large group of individuals taking the illicit alcohol drinks. When the officers attempted to effect the arrest, the group became hostile. In an effort to disperse the crowd and restore order, the officers discharged warning shots into the air and during the ensuing confrontation, Mr. Victor Kipng'eno Mutai sustained fatal injuries.

The incident was subsequently reported and recorded at the station *vide* OB No.20/23/7/2024, at 2115 hours. Investigations commenced immediately with the opening of inquiry File No.2 of 2024 by DCI, Bomet Central. Upon completion of investigations, the file was forwarded to the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) on 12th September 2024 for perusal and legal advice. On the 2nd December 2024, the ODPP returned the inquiry file to the DCI with instructions to cover the gaps identified during the review.

Similarly, the Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) were informed and they commenced their own investigations into the matter. All officers who were actively on duty during the incident recorded their statements. The case remains pending under investigations.

Number two is on whether the police officer who is responsible has been apprehended. The IPOA commenced its investigations concurrently with the DCI which had opened an inquiry file and forwarded the two firearms surrendered by the officers to the National Forensic Laboratory for ballistic examination to preserve the evidence. Upon completion of the investigations, any officer found culpable will be dealt with according to the law.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the following measures have been put in place to prevent police officers accused of extrajudicial killings from interfering with investigations and to ensure that those responsible are brought to book: One, mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that the accused person have no access to the files or the witnesses. Two, Witness Protection Agency offers witness protection programme for civilians and fellow officers.

Three, courts should have authority to monitor investigations, compel production of evidence and sanction delays or obstruction. Four, prosecution makes it a separate criminal offence to obstruct justice, witness intimidation, destroying or altering evidence and colluding to cover up unlawful killings. This ensures interference itself carries consequences.

Number five, the Police Service ensures that any officer found culpable of committing any criminal offence or serious breach of discipline is promptly interdicted pending the conclusion of the case. Six, all members of service have been directed to

fully cooperate with the oversight bodies such as IPOA during any investigations into incidences involving police officers and forensic evidence and; ballistic reports are managed centrally to safeguard integrity and prevent tampering or undue influence.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Haji Abdul): Thank you, Cabinet Secretary. Sen. Shakila, do you have a supplementary question?

Sen. Shakila Abdalla: Yes, Mr. Temporary Speaker Sir. This case is from 2024. We are in 2026 now. Can the CS tell us the expected timeline for completion of the inquiry and submission of the final report? If so, has the Government considered providing interim financial assistance to the victim's family pending the outcome of investigations?

What is the Ministry's policy or legal framework governing compensation for victims of such incidents? Finally, could the CS clarify whether the family has been formally engaged or informed on available remedies and support mechanism?

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): On the part of timeline, the areas that the ODPP requested to be covered are yet to be completed and the ballistic analysis is also ongoing. I can promise, from a policy perspective, to request the Inspector General of Police to make sure that process is expedited in terms of policy purposes. In terms of directing on when and how, the Cabinet Secretary does not have the capacity or is not allowed by law to direct how the investigations will be carried out and at what speed. However, it is important to know that justice delayed is justice denied and it is important for those areas to be covered.

It should be noted that DCI had already been satisfied that they had enough evidence to proceed with the case. However, the ODPP considered that there were legal gaps. That is why they requested that those gaps be covered.

On the part of compensation, unfortunately, there is no Government policy that compensates victims of crime. Generally, people ask us if someone is killed, for example, by a civilian, should they be compensated because police should have protected that person? They also ask whether if someone's property is stolen, or if someone is in any way inflicted with grievous bodily harm, the Government should cover the hospital bills. Unfortunately, there is no law or Government policy that provides that victims of crimes must be compensated in any way.

However, in the broad-based arrangement or agreement that was put together by former Prime Minister and the President and between the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) and the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party, there was a political agreement, that led to, that had legal and policy consequences towards victims of police brutality.

A committee was set up. Unfortunately, there was a court order again against the committee that stopped its operations. That could have covered the specific case, this specific case of Bomet, because it falls within the purview of police brutality between 2017 and 2025, at that point in time when that committee was put in place.

So perhaps when the court processes are completed, there may be an opportunity for us to take care of this family on that case. However, it needs to be known that there are victims of crime all over the country, banditry, al-Shabaab, and other terrorism activities, yet none of them gets compensation as a result of the same. This is because

there is no legal framework, neither constitutional nor legislative or policy framework for the same.

On the issue of whether the family is fully aware of the court process, there will be no information to give the family on compensation until that policy framework is put in place. As soon as that is done, then the family will be made aware that the process of compensating victims of police brutality is ongoing and then they will receive the necessary compensation. It shall be established as we progress.

[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Haji Abdul) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma) in the Chair]

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Now we move on to questions by other Senators. Senators, remember it is one question each. Cabinet Secretary, please, take note of the questions. We will ask the questions and then give you opportunity to answer all of them.

Sen. Mandago: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. Just from the response of the Cabinet Secretary on the policy on compensation, I would like to know whether his ministry is considering, because policy is a ministerial issue, passing a policy on compensation of victims of police brutality, proposing or giving Parliament or Senate the legislative proposals for us to amend so that these victims of police brutality are compensated.

We are aware that there was an effort and some people went to court. Sometimes we do not understand these people who say we want people to be compensated, yet they are the ones who are also going to court.

Sen. Maanzo: I would like to indicate to the good Senator that the hon. Millie Odhiambo proposed a law to Kenya called Victim Protection Act. Also, there was a Victim Compensation Act, which---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Maanzo, are you asking a question or informing somebody? Please, ask your question.

Sen. Maanzo: Madam Temporary Speaker, now that the Cabinet Secretary says there is no policy, what plans does the Ministry have to establish a victim compensation policy and also an Act of Parliament to that effect, so that a fund may be set up to compensate victims of police brutality?

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Nyutu.

Sen. Joe Nyutu: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I would like to ask the Cabinet Secretary what he is doing to ensure that incidents of the police killing wananchi, whether innocent or otherwise, are reduced, if not completely stopped. I ask this because in the recent past, there have been many such incidents. In my county, one man was killed in a police cell called Mukura.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Nyutu, you have asked the question. Do not use the opportunity to speak to the issues you have asked.

Sen. Joe Nyutu: Madam Temporary Speaker, sometimes it is good to show the basis of the question one is asking.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): You know the rules. The basis is Question No.003. Please, sit down. You have asked your question. Sen. Cherarkey, proceed.

Sen. Cherarkey: Madam Temporary Speaker, my question relates to Question No.003 by Sen. Joyce. I want to find out from the Cabinet Secretary, since he is always quick to speak in the media and at political rallies, the status of the investigation into the killing of Father Alloys Cheruiyot Bett.

I also ask about the killings that happened in Kimwani in Tinderet Constituency, Nandi County. What is the status, including policy and any administrative action taken against senior police officers, on the youth attacked by police while playing a pool game in Nandi Hills Town, Nandi County?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Wambua.

Sen. Wambua: Madam Temporary Speaker, allow me to use the Dispatch. This is the closest I can get to the Cabinet Secretary. I do not see much of him these days.

(Sen. Wambua walked to the Dispatch Box)

First, I wish to condole with the family of Mr. Victor Kipngeno for the loss of their kin. My question is based on the policy direction that the Cabinet Secretary is considering to give to the National Police Service (NPS). Killings by police officers have become too common. What policy direction is he giving to the Service to ensure that everybody feels safe in the presence of police officers?

I thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Veronica Maina.

Sen. Veronica Maina: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. Welcome back to the Senate, Hon. Cabinet Secretary. We have not seen you for a while. You might need to give us a time slot when we can meet you. Kenyans have raised concerns against the police service for the way they manage riots and political rallies.

What policy intervention have you undertaken to ensure that the police are more friendly to the people? Citizens should not face the gun but rather engage in negotiation with the police. What are you doing to ensure that the heightened political tension in rallies does not escalate beyond control? Right now, there is heavy tension and 2027 is still far away.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Shakila, you already asked your supplementary questions. Is it a different matter?

Sen. Shakila Abdalla: It is related to the same question.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): You already had your chance. That is the point I am making. Cabinet Secretary, you may now answer the questions. I have noted that Sen. Cherarkey's questions are linked to Question No. 003 (c). If you are not able to give the full detail, you may undertake to provide that information later. If you are able to answer, then you can answer. You may proceed.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. On the question of policy for victims of police brutality, compensation is important. Police brutality is manifested in different forms. Some incidents happen when officers are performing their duties, for example, during rallies, public protests and picketing. The broad-based arrangement was meant to deal with victims of such situations, where people exercising their constitutional rights lost their lives. There was a cut-off period from 2017 to 2025 for the process that was stopped by the courts. We hope that process can be resolved and a consent recorded in court to allow this administration to act.

Police brutality did not start three years ago with this administration. It has been witnessed since 1963. It was even heavier in the last administration. Our friends are now considered by people on the other side of the political divide to be very clean. This is a paradox. Those who complain today about police brutality are dining with the same people who have not answered questions on brutality in the last administration. That is hypocrisy. As soon as someone joins another political wing, they are no longer held into account.

To avoid such situations, on 18th July, 2025, I issued a written policy directive to the Inspector General (IG) of the National Police Service (NPS). It covered conditions such as the use of force and firearms by police officers. It guides them on when to use firearms, which officers should be deployed and the mental health status of officers being deployed. This prevents situations where officers struggling with mental health challenges misuse firearms to kill civilians. In future, if I am asked the same question as my predecessor, I will have a basis to show Kenyans what I have done to guide the process on police brutality.

Police brutality also occurs in other situations unrelated to exercising rights. Sometimes officers are accused of harassing remandees, killing colleagues in police stations, harassing citizens or collecting bribes. We cannot deny that some errant officers bring a bad name to the service. However, with over 100,000 officers, we cannot blame all because of a few.

Therefore, this Victims Protection Compensation Policy can only be better served by law. It cannot just be a policy because budgetary provision must be given by Parliament. This is something we must discuss deeply to the extent of who is a victim and a victim of police brutality; when is a police officer considered to be committing an offence in the course of duty such that he is not personally liable so that the State is able to compensate anyone.

Madam Temporary Speaker, Sir, someone had asked whether we should come up with a legislative proposal. I encourage Members of Parliament to come up with these proposals and show us how best we can move forward on this issue.

Hon. Nyutu, on the reduction of police, I have answered saying that we are working very hard. One of the ways that we will reduce the impact of police interventions in public gatherings and public meetings is by properly training our police officers. During the *Jukwaa la Usalama* forums we did last year, we came to understand that police training is an issue that we must work on.

Most police officers are trained only once in their lifetime during recruitment. We even discovered after the death of hon. Ong'ondo Were, the Speaker of the National Assembly who is the Chair of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) requested the IG to train police officers for your VIPs because some of you have bodyguards who have never gone for training in the last 10, 15, 20 years. For the time they have been with you, they have never fired even a bullet anywhere. I therefore thank the Chair of PSC for inviting the IG to train those officers.

Therefore, continuous training is an important issue within the police service and I appreciate the fact that all of us now believe that we should give the necessary budget allocation for continuous training. Currently, the NPS has revamped the regional training centers in many parts of the country to ensure that we have a framework for continuous training for police officers on human rights, the Constitution itself and on managing crowds.

I would like to report to the country that we are undertaking training for police officers to be ready to manage crowds differently and it is ongoing now. We are taking a number of police officers in different contingents so that we can deploy them ahead of the others when there are public functions or protests that may ensue. However, the best remedy is in this House. It is with the Members of Parliament. It is with our leaders. If we change the way we do our politics, we will not need to deploy a single police officer.

There are counties in this country where politicians are campaigning day-in, day-out. They do not go around with any police officer because of the ethics, behaviour and values they have as they campaign in their counties; their citizens and those asking for votes understand that violence is not useful or helpful to anybody. However, there are parts of this country that before elected leaders go to any function, they first have to spend money hiring either goons or gangs to accompany them to those functions.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the solution is in this Chamber and similar places where leaders are. If we can organize our politics differently, we will not need to deploy a single police officer and even when we deploy in case of a few criminals in there, they will not need to fire any single bullet because the politics will be organized, clear and clean. There is continuous spread of goonism and hooliganism across the country. It used to be confined in the cities. It used to be a Nairobi problem, Kisumu and a few other places. However, it has become a national problem. Even in rural areas, elected leaders and aspiring leaders are organizing goons across the country.

That is the existential threat to national security in this country because those who are organizing are in both sides of the political divide. They are in different levels of political campaign and they eventually ask; why did the police fire a bullet or why did the police kill somebody? However, had they not organized the goons to come to our meetings, they would not have that situation.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the other issue was a question asked by the Senator for Nandi regarding the investigations that are going on regarding the alleged police brutality in Nandi County and the situation of Father Alloys who died in the County where I come from, Elgeyo Marakwet who was killed by suspected bandits.

I can speak authoritatively on the question of Father Alloys because that is something I know and I have followed through the story. The biggest challenge the police

are facing is to get witnesses. Even where investigations lead to certain suspects, the problem is to get the witnesses because many people get intimidated to come forward to provide evidence.

The other challenge was that these are illegal firearms. Even when you do ballistic analysis, the challenge is how to link that firearm to a person because it is not a legally issued firearm. However, the police officers have been doing everything they could to sort this issue. I am glad to also note that despite the terrible situation that faced Father Allois and his family, as a result of that incident, police and the security sector having worked hard, we have been able to disarm all the criminals that were within that area of Marakwet East.

Now, we can confidently say that we have removed nearly all the guns. If there is any gun, that is someone who is hiding somewhere with it but we have collected over 1,300 guns in the Kerio Valley belt as a result of our targeted operations. I thank the security team and the community for cooperating. I continue sending condolences to the family of Father Allois whom I visited. We continue praying for that family even in this difficult situation they found themselves in.

Madam Temporary Speaker, on the question of the other issues within Nandi County, the hon. Senator can bring a specific question and then we can respond formally; either through a Committee or in the Chamber.

On the use of force, Sen. Wambua, I had already responded to that issue on my policy directive on use of force that I issued on 18th July, 2025.

On the question of rallies by hon. Veronica Maina, I have also responded to that issue. Yes, the police are being trained to manage public crowds in situations that may come up during rallies but it is more important for us to organize ourselves better.

Madam Temporary Speaker, that is it. There is no other question. I thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Senators, we now move on to Question No.4. This is a question by Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda but Senator Wafula Wakoli will ask on his behalf. You may proceed.

Sen. Wafula: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I welcome *Waziri* Kipchumba and his entourage. I can see one of our daughters of the soil giving him tips of wisdom. *Waziri* knows.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Wakoli, why are you conversing instead of asking the question?
Please, proceed.

Sen. Wafula: Madam Temporary Speaker, our people say; the hyena told the stone, whether you keep silent or not, you have heard.
I will now proceed.

Question No.004

INCIDENTS OF MOB JUSTICE AND RELATED FATALITIES

Madam Temporary Speaker, I beg to ask the following four questions to the CS, Interior and National Administration: -

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(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide details on the registered incidents of mob justice and related fatalities from January 2025 to date?

(b) What measures have been put in place to enhance police responsiveness to mob justice incidents, strengthen investigative capabilities and facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators?

(c) What measures are being implemented by the Government to address public mistrust of law enforcement agencies and the judicial system, which are the key drivers of mob justice?

(d) What other factors have contributed to the overall increase in mob justice incidents across the country, and could the Cabinet Secretary explain the actions being taken to address them?

Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. This is a statement on behalf of Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): It is a question. Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you may answer the question.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Madam Temporary Speaker, this is a very broad question and I beg your indulgence to respond accordingly.

On the first part, on the details of the registered incidents of mob injustice and related fatalities from January 2025 to date, the following are the reported incidents of mob injustice and related fatalities in the country from January 2025 to date.

I have given the list and I do not wish to read all of it for all these counties, however, just to capture a few, you will find that in counties like Machakos, we have 22 fatalities, in Embu, we have 33, in Kisumu, we have 36 fatalities, in Vihiga, we have 20, in Kilifi, we have 18, in Kisii, we have 18, in Migori, we have 19, and in Nairobi, we have 55 fatalities of mob injustice. Sorry, Kiambu was higher with 58. That points to a very serious issue with the rule of law. People, generally, do not believe in the judicial system and the justice system of the country, all the way from arrest to prosecution to conviction.

When you ask this question all the time, why do people resort to mob justice or what mob injustice is, the answer is always that if this person is taken to court, he will be released on bail. People do not understand bond or bail. They do not also understand that the justice system requires a certain level of burden of proof. They cannot, and sometimes they blame the police when someone has been arrested, charged and released on bail.

So, some of these things are escalating this kind of mob injustice. To have 58 in Kiambu and 55 in Nairobi is a measure of something---

(Sen. Lemaletian entered the Chamber without bowing at the Bar)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Order, Sen. Lemaletian. Can you kindly respect the House and bow?

(Sen. Lemaletian spoke off the record)

I did not see.

(Sen. Lemaletian went to the Bar, bowed and entered the Chamber)

Thank you, Senator.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you may proceed, please.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I do not know if I am allowed to say this, but I used to sit exactly where you sat as a Temporary Speaker and I appreciate the work you are doing.

Number two is measures that have been put in place to enhance police responsiveness to mob injustice incidents, strengthen investigative capabilities, and facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators. The following measures have been taken to enhance police responsiveness to mob injustice incidents-

- (i) encourage local communities to collaborate with police in reporting suspicious activities and preventing mob violence;
- (ii) deployment of police officers to respond quickly to incidents of mob injustice, especially in urban centers;
- (iii) use of toll-free hotlines and digital platforms to report mob violence, enabling faster police deployment; and,
- (iv) enhance the training of police officers on crowd control.

The following measures have been put to strengthen the investigative capabilities of police officers –

- (i) An Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) was established to investigate police misconduct and ensure that there is accountability, which indirectly builds public trust and reduces reliance on mob justice.
- (ii) Expanded the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), forensic and intelligence capabilities to investigate and investigate crimes more effectively;
- (iii) Training programmes for officers on human rights, evidence collection and handling mob-related cases.

The following measures have been taken to facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators-

- (i) Strengthen coordination with police to ensure mob justice is prosecuted with sufficient evidence.
- (ii) Provide security for witnesses in mob justice cases, encouraging testimony that supports successful prosecution.
- (iii) Efforts to reduce case backlogs, ensuring timely trial for mob justice perpetrators.

Madam Temporary Speaker, I have used mob justice and injustice interchangeably but, still means the same thing, one being a paradox because it cannot be justice and its mob at the same time.

Concerns have been raised over the rising incidents of mob justice. Such incidents often involve violent attacks, public humiliation and in some cases, fatalities before suspects can be formally investigated or prosecuted. To address this, the Government has

put in place several measures aimed at preventing mob justice and ensuring the lawful handling of suspects-

(i) National Government officers are continuously sensitizing citizens on the importance of informing the police whenever they arrest a suspect or when incidents occur;

(ii) The service standing orders require all police stations to maintain a standby team to respond to incidences, including mob justice, and it is therefore the responsibility of station commanders to ensure the swift response and management of such cases;

(iii) Toll-free number, including Fichua kwa DCI toll-free hotline 0800-722-203, allows members of the public to promptly report crimes, suspicious activities, or emerging mob situations;

(iv) The service is strengthening the use of communication technology through integrated command, control and communication framework to enhance quick response to incidents such as mob justice.

Measures being implemented by the Government to address public mistrust of law enforcement agencies and the judicial system, which are key drivers of mob injustice.

To address public mistrust of law enforcement agencies and the judicial system, the Government is-

(i) Conducting prompt and thorough investigations to ensure that suspects are arraigned in court, before the court of law within the prescribed timelines;

(ii) Intensifying community engagement initiatives as a proactive measure;

(iii) Through structured forums, Barazas, Nyumba-kumi meetings, and regular consultative sessions, the Government officials sensitize members of the public against taking the law into their own hands and encourage the use of established criminal justice mechanisms to address grievances and report offenses;

(iv) Establishing accessible and structured mechanisms through which members of public can lodge complaints or report misconduct. These include reporting to the Public Police Quality Assurance Department and the Internal Affairs Unit of the National Police Service.

The service is implementing digital systems for police records, including the occurrence book, to improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency in handling incidents. This enables the public to monitor cases, in real time, ensuring prompt police response, and helps minimize delays and mistrust in the police.

Madam Temporary Speaker, the other factors that have contributed to overall increase in mob injustice incidents across the country and the actions being taken to address them. Other factors that may have contributed to these incidents include-

(1) Mistrust in the criminal justice system, as some members of public perceive investigations and the court process to be slow, ineffective, or biased. The release of suspects often reinforces this perception, prompting communities to take law into their own hands.

(2) Circulation of crime-related content and instant justice videos on social media platforms triggers copycat incidents and normalizes violence as a dispute resolution mechanism.

(3) Abuse of hard drugs, impairing judgment, and increases impulsive and violent behavior, contributing to mob-related incidents.

(4) High levels of poverty and unemployment, particularly among the youth, coupled with limited economic opportunities, contribute to increased petty crimes and youth involvement in criminal activities, which often provoke mob retaliation and subsequent mob justice incidents.

(5) Groups engaged in organized illegal activities such as theft, robbery, and drug trafficking, whose actions can provoke mob retaliation and escalate violence in communities.

To mitigate these factors-

(1) The Government is strengthening the community policing and enhancing investigative capacity, improving collaboration with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and increasing public engagements to restore confidence among the members of the public.

(2) Conducting targeted public education campaigns and sensitization forums to discourage violent responses.

(3) Conducting a crackdown on drug use and illicit substance circulation to reduce associated violent behavior.

(4) Engaging youth through community programs, mentorship, and advisory sessions with local administrations and religious leaders.

(5) Conducting a crackdown on criminal gangs through targeted operations, arrests, and disruptions of their activities.

I thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Wakoli, do you have supplementary questions? We have quite a number of follow-up questions, and I request the Senators to go straight to the question so that we can give everyone a chance. Sen. Chute, please proceed.

Sen. Chute: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Our Cabinet Secretary has been in this House before and I wanted him to tell this House how we can communicate with him. We have issues of abduction and extrajudicial killings in Marsabit County. I sent a letter to him, a statement that I had made to him on---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Chute, the question is supposed to be related to this question that has been asked.

Sen. Chute: Yes, it is a communication. This issue has been raised earlier by even Sen. Eddy. I sent a letter to him on 8th August, 2025. No reply; that is on the abductions. Then, on extrajudicial killing, I sent a letter to him on 27th January, 2026, which was received in his office on 28th.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Chute, you risk me actually calling you out of order because the question is about mob injustice. So, you are supposed to ask a question that is related to what the Cabinet Secretary was asked.

Sen. Chute: Madam Temporary Speaker, what I am trying to ask is if there was mob justice, for example and I want to ask the Cabinet Secretary, how do I communicate with him if there is a problem in Marsabit County? He is here today before us.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): It is noted.

Sen. Chute: Thank you. So, again, that letter was received on 28th January, 2026. Today is 25th February, 2026. There is no reply up to date. You have many officers working in your office. You cannot ask one officer to reply to my letters. I speak on behalf of all the Senators who are here today.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Seki, please, proceed.

Sen. Seki: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. A question to the Cabinet Secretary, I think you are very much aware about the police brutality in Kitengela most of the times. This brings issues of this question that is on the table and we have been wondering, why are these issues of police brutalities and killing occurring in my county particularly? Is it just because probably you had been given some instructions some time back that people should be killed? That is what I wanted to know.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Order, Sen. Seki. Please follow the rules of question time. The question is about mob injustices.

Sen. Seki: That is where---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): No, what you have asked so far has nothing to do with that.

Sen. Seki: It is about mob---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): No, it has nothing to do with that.

Sen. Seki: It is about that. I am asking the Cabinet Secretary to tell us why. Is it because of that instruction that you have given out that people in Kajiado are being killed?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Seki, please, order. Sen. Mandago, what is your point of order?

Sen. Mandago: Thank you very much, Madam Temporary Speaker. First, the people at the dispatch box must always ensure that when the chair asks a Senator to sit, they switch off the microphone. I just wanted to ask under Standing Order No.105, whether the Senator for Kajiado---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Cherarkey, you do not have the right to just speak, okay? Let us follow the rules. Sen. Mandago is on a point of order. Could we listen? Could we hear that point of order?

Sen. Mandago: I rise under Standing Order No.105 to ask whether the Senator for Kajiado is in order to allege that the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration issued a shoot-to-kill order. Could he substantiate or provide evidence? This is a House of records and we cannot allow people to make sweeping statements that are alarming.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Seki, you actually made reference as to whether the Cabinet Secretary had instructed the killings. Do you want to substantiate that? Sen. Wambua, please, allow me to coordinate this. He stood on a point of order. Let Sen. Seki respond and then you can raise your issue.

Sen. Seki: Yes, Madam Temporary Speaker. I can substantiate that, given time. If you could allow me to finish my question. My people are---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Chute, what is your point of order?

Sen. Chute: Madam Temporary Speaker, let me refer you to Standing Order No. 51 (6)(c). Let me start with, first of all (a).

‘6) A Cabinet Secretary—

(a) shall appear, in person, on the day on which the respective Question is listed for response;

(b) shall respond to the Question; and

(c) may, with the permission of the Speaker, make a statement on any other matter pertaining to the Department.’

So, Madam Temporary Speaker, you can allow the Senator to ask questions, because it says “may”.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): “May” with the permission of the Speaker, I have not granted that permission. Please, Sen. Chute---

Sen. Chute: Let me finish, Madam Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Chute, I have actually responded to you. “May” with the permission of the Speaker. Sen. Wambua, what is your point of order?

Sen. Wambua: Madam Temporary Speaker, and I want you to hear this, because I want to address the Chair. Mine is a very simple plea to the Chair; that you rise on a point of order, like the one that Sen. Mandago asked, on substantiation of facts in the absence of the subject of the question being raised. The Cabinet Secretary is here. The Cabinet Secretary has capacity to respond to the question that Sen. Seki has asked. I do not see why a Senator should rise on a point of order and seek substantiation when the subject of the question is in the House. I mean, it does not make sense.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Wambua, you are out of order. Substantiation is a point of fact. Sen. Seki, you have asked for more time. The next sitting is this afternoon. Please, you will have the opportunity to substantiate. Can you finalize your question, please?

Sen. Seki: Madam Temporary Speaker, I wanted the Cabinet Secretary to clarify why these killings. We have been having public engagements and rallies in Kajiado. My people are being killed like rats and he is in the office.

In one incident, he gave instructions. Is it because of that? He needs to clarify to this House. If it is not because of that, then he needs to apologise to Kenyans why my people in Kajiado are being killed like rats by the same Government.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Proceed, Sen. Maanzo.

Sen. Maanzo: Madam Temporary Speaker, now that the Cabinet Secretary has provided data on mob injustice killings, does he also have data on mistaken identity killings? This is because a lot of times, mob justice or injustice scenarios are cases of mistaken identity.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Next is Sen. Kisang.

Sen. Kisang: Madam Temporary Speaker, I would like to find out from the Cabinet Secretary whether there is any plan between his Ministry and the Ministry of Roads and Transport. This is because some mob injustices arise as a result of road accidents involving *boda boda* riders and vehicles. Is there a plan or policy in place to ensure continuous sensitisation and training of *boda boda* riders on the laws?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Proceed, Sen. Nyutu.

Sen. Joe Nyutu: Madam Temporary Speaker, the Cabinet Secretary has admitted that mob justice or injustice is happening because people have little trust in law enforcement agencies.

He has said that one of the steps that the Ministry is taking is under No.4; that is, establishing accessing and structured mechanisms through which members of the public can lodge complaints or report misconduct. That includes reporting to the Police Quality Assurance Department and Internal Affairs Unit.

The other day, there was an attack on Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Witima in Nyeri and very few people in Kenya had heard about the Internal Affairs Unit within the police. The question then to Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Murkomen, is this. Exactly where is it based or where can our people report to and can they trust the Internal Affairs Unit of the police, where the police are the ones investigating fellow police officers who commit injustices?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Proceed, Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Madam Temporary Speaker, this is a very serious matter that we are discussing because mob justice in many occasions leads to death and we have been given the statistics by the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary should pay very close attention to this subject, particularly those that are politically instigated.

For example, I have just seen a video of a young man who was attacked by a mob this morning; people carrying machetes and *rungus* somewhere in Nyamira because I think he had a contrary view to the ongoings by a section of the political faction in the country.

There is a connection between politicians and their political activities and some of the mob justice incidences which perhaps the Ministry needs to give policy direction on and the desire to hold to account political players who incite young people to violence and things of the sort. They should be brought to book as a lesson because it may not be possible to arrest people who commit those acts at that particular time. At least, it should happen to politicians who instigate them, if they are known, particularly those that actively engage young people to engage in such activities. What plans does the Ministry have?

Madam Temporary Speaker, why it should be of concern to the Cabinet Secretary is because in 2021 when we were in the opposition with him, we were victims of political mob justice in London Ward in Nakuru. The only reason - perhaps he may have forgotten - is because he is quicker than me therefore, he ran faster and so he did not fall victim to the gangs like I did.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Cheruiyot, I want to cut you short because of the time left.

We have four more Senators. Ask your question quickly because we only have 10 minutes for all those questions to be asked and answered.

Sen. Hezena, you have the Floor.

Sen. Lemaletian: Madam Temporary Speaker, I welcome the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Murkomen, to the House. Just to remind him this: Kindly be picking our calls. Like

I said in the Statement that I made on the Floor of this House on gangs across the whole country, recently, there has been a rising menace and Samburu is not an exception because in Maralal Town---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sorry for rushing you. Please just go straight to the question because the time is short.

Sen. Lemaletian: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I would like to know what the Ministry has done to ensure that police at the grassroots are strengthened and facilitated enough to deal with criminal gangs that are mushrooming across the whole country especially in urban centres. In Maralal, we had a case of a boy being stabbed---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Senator, you have asked your question. Proceed, Sen. Veronica.

Sen. Veronica Maina: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity.

Cabinet Secretary, on this question of mob justice, I do not know whether you have put focus on the conflict between the *boda boda* sector when there are accidents because some of mob justices occur as a result of those incidences.

Secondly, from politically instigated public gatherings, Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you should have the freedom to even ban public gatherings if people are going to be clobbered, beaten and killed in the name of politics---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Veronica, please, just ask your question.

Sen. Veronica Maina: Let me then ask the specific question. Why are you not working closely with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to ensure that politicians who overstep their mandate in public gatherings which turn violent are brought to book and punished for those actions? Women are no longer addressing those gatherings.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Proceed, Sen. Mundigi.

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Asante, Bw. Spika---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Mundigi, sio Bw. Spika.

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Samahani, Bi. Spika wa Muda.

Swali langu kwa Waziri ni kuhusu joto la kisiasa tunapoelekea kwenye uchaguzi wa 2027. Je, utafanya nini ili tukifika wakati huo mambo ya usalama yatakuwa sawa ndio tusiwe na shida? Inaonekana kuna vyama vingi na watu wanapigana na kulaumu Serikali---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Umeshauliza swali lako.

Proceed, Sen. Beatrice Ogola.

Sen. Ogola: Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Murkomen, so far you are doing well.

Madam Temporary Speaker, last weekend I was at home with members of the public---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Sen. Ogola, please, ask your question.

Sen. Ogola: Cabinet Secretary, Kanyikela Ward was gazetted and people are asking when it will be operational. That is in Ndhiwa Sub County.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): I do not know whether that is related to the Question.

Next is Sen. Mandago.

Sen. Mandago: Madam Temporary Speaker, I would like to ask the Cabinet Secretary a question in relation to his response to part (c) of Question No.004 on mistrust of the public to law enforcement agencies. What is he doing to law enforcement officers who coordinate with goons like in Eldoret where 300 goons are roaming the city while it is well known to the Officer Commanding Station (OCS)? What is being done so that public trust can be restored?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you have six minutes.

Hon. Senators, pursuant to Standing Order No.34(2A), I will extend the time by 10 minutes. Therefore, we will end the session at 1.10 p.m.

Cabinet Secretary, you may answer the questions.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Madam Temporary Speaker, starting with the first question by Sen. Chute regarding abductions and extrajudicial killings, yes I received his letter. The question is still with the Inspector General of Police to respond to because investigations related to security issues are done by them and I believe he will respond accordingly. There is also no harm if the Senator would ask the Question formally through this House so that we can bring the answer to the Chambers, because there is nothing private about the issue that he has raised.

Madam Temporary Speaker, on the question by Hon. Seki on police brutality, I think he came late. I served as his Vice-Chairperson for a few days in this Chamber before I was appointed to the Cabinet.

Sen. Seki knows who I am, or ought to know that I cannot order any killing of anybody. He is referring to an incident that happened when the Kikuyu law courts were banned and I asked a rhetorical question to the public as to whether if a man comes with guns, to steal guns from a police officer, whether the police officer should not use force. I also moved forward later, on 18th July, 2025, to provide a policy document that I can be held into account, that spells out incidences where the police officers can use force and their firearms. I do not mind sharing the same letter to Sen. Seki or through the Senate social WhatsApp group, which has now been made public that I am a member, previously by the Senate Minority Whip.

Madam Temporary Speaker, Kitengela is facing a serious challenge. In my opinion, the Senator should not simplify that issue. Kitengela is a serious hotspot for criminal gangs that are utilized by politicians, particularly that share very close relations with the Senator. Kitengela's problem has not just happened yesterday. It has been an issue for the last 15 or so years. It was more serious when Michuki was the Cabinet Secretary or the Minister at that point in time and it was one of the areas that was full of Mungiki sect players that caused havoc in both Kajiado and Nairobi, from as early as 2000. So, that effort that the police have done so far has improved the status of Kitengela.

However, politicians and particularly those who want to incite the public against the Government have been hiring young boys and goons and criminals in the name of protests. I do not want the Senator to provoke me to say more than that, because of mutual respect. However, it is important for the political actors on both sides of the

divide, but specifically those who held rallies recently and organized *maandamano* last year, to stop utilizing young people and arming them to cause violence with *rungus* and machetes, provoking police officers.

In fact, in our national police security strategy, we have a particular plan about Kitengela. The President recently told us to think about the Nairobi metropolitan security sector. Kitengela, together with some parts of Nairobi, Machakos and Kiambu, are actually hot spots that we need to really look at criminal gangs. I am not saying goons but criminal gangs that operate from Kitengela itself.

This is a threat to national security. I do not wish the Senator to think that the people of Kitengela are his people. They are the people of Kenya. They are our people. That is our country. There is no particular section of this nation that should be left to criminals in any manner. I wish the Senator would use the same spirit in helping us to dismantle these gangs.

There is the Standing Order that Sen. Chute read. It is your discretion to give the Cabinet Secretary to respond to something that you may give directions as the Speaker. It is not to divert from the subject matter that we are dealing with and move to other subjects that the Cabinet Secretary is not prepared to come and respond.

On Sen. Maanzo's question, mob justice is definitely a mistaken identity, or it is the wrong way of doing things. You cannot say this is the criminal until there is evidence. So, one is actually innocent until proven guilty. It is true that there are cases where mob justice target people who are absolutely not related with the suspected crime at all, or even somebody who was only present there as a passerby. In some instances that have been reported, innocent people have been attacked by the mob.

Both Sen. Kisang' and Sen. Veronica, have raised similar issues on *boda boda* riders and the issues of mob injustice. I think we may have to discuss measures we are putting in place, but already, we are working with the Ministry of Roads and Transport to see if they can make mandatory identification for *boda boda* riders, including their area of operation and code of conduct. We expected that there was going to be better self-regulation. However, now crimes are being perpetrated by criminals riding motorcycles and hiding behind *boda boda* business. It is really causing havoc in this city and other parts of the country, because the *boda boda* can easily access *panya* routes and other areas that make it very difficult for law enforcers to identify them quickly because of their sheer numbers and the people they carry.

We have a plan to deal with also the ones who have been causing havoc in the city, muggings and robberies, where three criminals are riding in one motorcycle, others are robbing people, and the one who is riding is aiding, abetting and enabling that crime. So, the *boda boda* sector remains a challenge. Some work is being done by our county security teams, but we need to upscale that work with the Ministry of Roads and Transport. Those are issues that were raised in our *Jukwaa la Usalama*, and we are looking for ways to make sure that this is sorted. However, this is not happening without political support.

There are politicians that own and support these groups, use them for their political events. They come gladly knowing that once they are in these political events, apart from what they are being paid to come and do, because many politicians pay them,

they will also rob people around the city and other parts of the country. I agree with the Senate Majority Leader that we must be seen to be enforcing the law, regardless of who you are or who the person is, by arresting these people.

We will need a more lethal force to deal with these gangs. Unfortunately, there is no consensus in the environment that we are operating in, as to whether we should deal with these gangs using lethal force. Since some of them are armed, if they engage police officers, some people will die. As soon as somebody dies, I will be brought here, and it will be said, “Oh, the Government is killing our people and youth.” Even when we do something to someone who burnt a police station, wanted to steal ammunitions, attacking police officers, burnt their court, somebody's business, we are told that the Government is killing the youth, and that becomes their political slogan for our competitors. So, it is important that there is national consensus. Let us stop paying lip service to this conversation. There must be a national consensus to support the Inspector General (IG) and the National Police Service.

If Cabinet Secretary Michuki had not carried a very painful exercise to get rid of Mungiki, we would not be where we are. In the same way, recently in my county and the neighbouring counties, we had to support the police to carry out serious operations against the bandits.

We could not have collected 1,300 gangs without proper political support, from both my office and that of the local community. So, there must be a consensus in the city that we need to clean the city.

Despite their political differences, political leaders must agree. You cannot allow these muggings that are happening here; robberies, people occupying people's property, threatening people and hurting men, women and children. I hope we will close ranks when the Inspector General (IG) announces further measures in this area.

On the question of internal affairs units, I agree with Sen. Nyutu that maybe the internal affairs unit needs to publicise its operations or cases so that Kenyans can understand that there is a mechanism. However, there is a constitutional mechanism, of course, in the national Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), which has a constitutional duty to investigate all police officers.

The internal measures that are put in place for the police are to make sure that you quickly take administrative action and disciplinary action on the part of the police officer as you wait for the criminal investigations by IPOA. In some cases, the DCI will just arrest a police officer and charge them in court. You do not have to wait for IPOA. So, those mechanisms are there.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you have about 3 minutes.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): I am almost coming to the end. On the political activities, I will reiterate what the Majority Leader said about political players. Yes, some gangs are properly and fully utilised by politicians, 100 per cent.

You saw some of the challenges we had in Kisii this weekend courtesy of political activities in that area. Both those who are campaigning and their competitors are mobilizing young people. Some of them have unique uniforms in light of the political

side they support. It is an area that we must also work together to get rid of. As we continue enforcing the law, I believe that the people of Kenya will support us even when the political leaders do not.

I agree with Sen. Lemaletian on the question of Samburu-Maralal. You know very well that we have done a lot in Maralal. We changed security recently and tried to bolster the security team. The IG is working on deploying more police officers who are more agile and newly trained, as soon as we complete the current training in September-October.

I hope that this will help us. As you know, in Samburu, we have various challenges. We are still dealing with bandits and we are told in town that these people are causing havoc. There are gangs and goons and mob justice in the town.

I know you have asked me to pick up my calls. I am sure when I leave this Chamber now--- A Member of Parliament or a Senator is complaining that I have not picked up their calls. The nature of the job I do is very busy. Between now and 1.00 a.m., I will still be working and I am still expected to wake up the next day to do some work. So, even when I do not manage to respond to your calls, there are established procedures in the office.

I have come to establish that many people who come to my office will not leave their issues with the officers in the office. They just insist that they want to see the Cabinet Secretary. If they can utilise the resources in the office, then they can be responded to, like Sen. Chute said.

Lastly, on Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), we will support. The National Police Service (NPS) is ready to support IEBC to make sure that political activities are done within the law. If I pronounce myself here that we are doing it on behalf of IEBC or that we are banning public rallies, the IEBC should take the legal steps. It is for us then to support them, whether it is policy from my office or the IG. Once they pronounce a certain gathering to be illegal, then it is for us to enforce the law.

Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I look forward to coming here again.

*[The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration,
Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen) was ushered out of the Chamber]*

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Mumma): Hon. Senators, it is now 1.10 p.m. Having concluded the business for which I extended the hours of sitting pursuant to Standing Order 34(2)(A), the Senate stands adjourned until today, Wednesday, 25th February, 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 1:10 p.m.

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