



**THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT**  
**THE SENATE**  
**OFFICIAL REPORT**



**Fifth Session**

**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 at 9.30 a.m.**

# PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

## THE SENATE

## THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

### Morning Sitting

*The House met in the Senate Chamber,  
Parliament Buildings, at 9.30 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)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Serjeant-At-Arms, please ring the Quorum Bell for a further 10 minutes.

*(The Quorum Bell was rung)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Order, Honourable Senators, let us take our seats. We have quorum now. Clerk, you may proceed to call out the first Order.

*(Sen. Mandago consulted loudly)*

Order, Sen. Mandago.

## QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

### QUESTIONS

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Honourable Senators, before we start the business of the day---

*(Sen. Beth Syengo consulted loudly)*

Sen. Beth Syengo---

Just to remind you of the Kamukunji today at 1.00 p.m. So, purpose to be present so that we are taken through the details of the system we are using because as you may recall, last week, so many concerns were raised touching on the system. Therefore, kindly avail yourself so that you raise all those concerns with the technicians who will be present to take us through.

Honourable Senators, we expected three Cabinet Secretaries this morning. The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum is already in the House. Therefore, we will start with the questions that are directed to the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum. They are four questions. We will start with Question No.041, then we go to 042 and then 043. Those are the questions directed to the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum.

Clerk, kindly usher in the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum.

*(The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi) was ushered into the Chamber)*

Cabinet Secretary, once again, welcome to the Senate before plenary, for purposes of responding to Question No.041 by the Senator for Kajiado County, Question No.042 by Sen. Hamida Kibwana and Question No.043 by the Senator for West Pokot, Sen. (Rev.) Julius Murgor.

Senator for Kajiado County, Senator Seki, you may proceed to ask your question.

**Sen. Seki:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I think we also have Question No.040. I will start with No.041, and then I go to 040 later, as you have guided.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Yes, honourable Senator, you may start with Question No.040.

#### *Question No.040*

#### COMPENSATION OF LAND OWNERS ALONG KAJIADO-NAMANGA-SULTAN HAMUD-LOITOKITOK AND UMMA UNIVERSITY WAYLEAVE CORRIDOR

**Sen. Seki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Cabinet for Energy and Petroleum the following Question-

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(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary disclose the number of landowners along the wayleave corridor of the Kajiado-Namanga-Sultan Hamud-Loitokitok and Uma University-Konza transmission line project and provide details of how many among them have been fully or partially compensated as well as those who are yet to be compensated?

(b) What has occasioned the delay in finalising the compensation?

(c) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide the payment schedule for all outstanding claims and outline the measures in place to ensure timely disbursement, partially for landowners whose parcels have free of any encumbrances and who possesses the necessary documentation?

Thank you, honourable Speaker.

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

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Thank you very much, honourable Speaker. I beg to reply.

(a) The total number of project-affected persons on the Kajiado-Namanga Sultan Hamud-Loitokitok and Umma University-Konza transmission line projects is 836.

The breakdown of the compensation status for the project-affected persons for each transmission line project is tabulated in table 1, 2 and 3, which is attached. The number of persons not compensated is 108 from the Kajiado-Namanga project, 37 from the Sultan Hamud-Loitokitok project and 18 from Isinya-Konza project.

Hon. Speaker, the summary in the tables I have referred to is self-explanatory. For instance, in the Kajiado-Namanga wayleave corridor, 400 persons have been fully compensated, representing 79 per cent of the total number. In the Sultan Hamud-Oloitokitok wayleave corridor, 120 persons have been fully paid, accounting for 76.43 per cent. Similarly, 144 persons have been fully compensated in respect of the Isinya-Konza transmission line project wayleave corridor, representing 83 per cent.

(b) The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum confirms that as of 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2026, 163 Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) had not been compensated across the three transmission line projects due to several reasons. These include budgetary constraints, missing documentation, absentee landowners, unreturned offer letters and rejection of offers. The attachments provide further details on these non-compensation cases.

(c) Finally, the Ministry is committed to ensuring that all PAPs are compensated. To meet this commitment, the Ministry, through the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Limited (KETRACO), has been encouraging PAPs who have not returned the requisite offer letters or submitted the required documents to do so promptly to help conclude the process. To ensure those who meet the compensation criteria are paid without delay, the Ministry is in constant engagement with the National Treasury to provide the necessary resources for this purpose.

Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Seki, do you have any supplementary questions?

**Sen. Seki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give this chance to my colleagues if they have any. If they do not, I am done with it, since I will go through the documentation.

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

**Sen. Maanzo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the Cabinet Secretary to confirm something now that he is talking about budgetary constraints delaying the compensation. Since the power sector is interconnected and the Kenya Power and Lightning Company (KPLC) is generating significant revenue, is there a way to redirect those funds to ensure that everyone is sufficiently compensated and that lack of budget is not used as an excuse?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Mandago.

**Sen. Mandago:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I have heard the Cabinet Secretary say there are absentee landlords. I do not know whether in Maasai land there are absentee landlords, unless the Cabinet Secretary intends to take away private land under the guise of absentee landlords.

Finally, there is Government land for public utilities that has been designated for specific state departments and functions. These should be compensated equally, just as private facilities are, because they have been set aside for public use by the community. For example, if it is dispensary land, even though it is Government land, the community will still need a dispensary.

Therefore, I hope the Ministry is not trying to use this as an excuse by claiming there is free Government land that can be used as a way leave. Could the Cabinet Secretary clarify what is meant by “absentee landlord”? I have checked the document and have not seen anywhere that indicates an absentee landlord.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Essy Okenyuri.

**Sen. Okenyuri:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would also wish to know, from the Cabinet Secretary, the total amount pending compensation in the key project areas. What is the exact figure that has been remitted to the National Land Commission (NLC) for the compensation of the PAPs? Is it merely a commitment? Could the Cabinet Secretary come out clearly and specify?

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

**Sen. Cherarkey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. To follow up on the issue of compensation to land owners for the power transmission lines way leave corridor, the Cabinet Secretary should tell the country why there are so many delays in payments by KETRACO. For example, in Lessos- Tororo Transmission lines, there have been delays.

Apart from the Kajiado issue, how many compensation cases are still pending across the country where wayleave has been sought by Kenyans? We need to know the total number nationwide and how many PAPs have not yet been compensated.

Additionally, in relation to budgetary constraints, the Cabinet Secretary has not given us a clear commitment on whether they are now preparing the Budget Policy Statement (BPS), which will be presented before the Committee on Finance and National Planning of the National Assembly through the Committee on Energy in the National Assembly. People waiting for compensation under transmission wayleave should be assured they will be compensated.

I yield back.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Faki.

**Sen. Faki:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I would like to inquire about the Government’s decision regarding oil refineries. I understand the Government is building

an oil refinery in Tanga in the Republic of Tanzania yet in Mombasa, we are leasing our refinery, which has been in existence since Independence, to a Nigerian company. This is done without public participation from the people of Mombasa.

Could the Cabinet Secretary explain, under what circumstances, the Government is investing in another country rather than investing in Mombasa? It would be cheaper to upgrade the existing refinery than to build a new one all together in another country?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Faki, that is not a supplementary question because it is not related to the primary question. However, Cabinet Secretary, if you are in a position to respond to it, you may. If you are not, you may undertake to provide the answer at a later date.

Sen. Mundigi, you have the Floor.

**Sen. Munyi Mundigi:** Asante, Bwana Spika. Swali langu kwa Waziri wa Kawi na Petrolini linahusu Kaunti ya Embu, Mbeere South. Kampuni ya KenGen inajenga Kathenge Dam mahali ambapo kuna shule. Je, umepanga kuondoa shule ile lini na watu waliopo shuleni watalipwa vipi ili waondoke na KenGen iweze kujenga bwawa hilo?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Mutinda.

**Sen. Tabitha Mutinda:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Bwana Waziri, you have provided in your response giving the total amount of pending bills. The issue of compensation for the people at Konza City has been ongoing for over ten years. I would like to understand the schedule that is in place from the National Treasury. Are there agreements on how these payments will be made and the timelines for disbursement? Was there any effort during the supplementary budget to present this case as far as the pending bill is concerned?

I raise this because the matter has been pending for long. Is this simply a document presented before this House for the sake of presentation or is there a factual commitment by the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning to ensure that these payments will, indeed, be adhered to?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Mungatana.

**Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, just briefly. When the Government was undertaking the connectivity project, they must have set aside some money for compensation of the people in Kajiado.

The question I want the Ministry to clarify to us is this. How much was the money and what is the problem? If the money had been set aside, there should be no problem in giving it to the people of Kajiado. You should not take their land and fail to compensate them only for stories to begin. What is the project budget that was put aside for compensation of the people of Kajiado?

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Thank you once again, Honourable Speaker. To start with the question by Sen. Maanzo, of course, our agencies and entities work closely together. However, these entities or agencies have got clear mandates in the sector. The mandate of the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) is different from the mandate of the Kenya Electricity

Generating Company PLC (KenGen) and Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO) and so on and so forth.

The particular transmission lines we are talking about are under the purview of KETRACO which is the implementing agency. Therefore, the compensation we are talking about is being undertaken by KETRACO through the National Land Commission (NLC) as required by law.

The matter of absentee landlords may sound remote but the fact is that this is a reality. There are land buyers, not just in Kajiado County alone, but all over the country who once they have bought land parcels do not live there. In this particular case, absentee land owners are persons who have ownership of land parcels but since they are not present, they have not made any effort to contact KETRACO for purposes of effecting compensations.

The figures I have mentioned, in respect to various lines, are the actual ones. All compensations are undertaken by the implementing agency, which is KETRACO in this particular case, through the NLC. It is the implementing agency that acquires land, goes ahead and provides the budget for land compensation then avails the money to the NLC for purposes of effecting compensation. The acquiring entity is the procuring entity under the law.

Let me also say this. It is, indeed, true that it is not just these four or so lines that have some challenges to do with land compensation. There are also a number of transmission line projects, including the one that was mentioned by Sen. Cherarkey, where land owners have not been fully compensated but we are in the process of effecting compensation.

It is good to combine that question with the question by Hon. Mungatana. It is logical that we have budgetary provisions for compensations at commencement of projects. However, the reality is that many a time, if not all the times, we depend on exchequer releases from the National Treasury. After providing for the budget as is customary, what follows is the exchequer release. Until that happens, you cannot say for sure that you will do full compensation. We do that knowing fully well that we have a duty, as a country and as a Ministry, to continually upgrade or improve our infrastructure, not only for transmission but also distribution. Therefore, it is a delicate balancing act.

There was also a question regarding Konza City. It is the same situation. We are working tirelessly, as a Ministry, to ensure that in the fullness of time all these cases of compensation are completed.

There was also a question concerning Katheke Dam Project in Embu County. That project is at a preliminary stage and engagement by KenGen with affected communities will take place in due course. Proper and complete feasibility study is going to be undertaken to determine the extent to which communities will be affected, including the school, and how they can be addressed.

Finally, even though it is not related to Sen. Mohamed Faki's question about refinery, I will confine myself to the refinery in Changamwe. A refinery business is a matter of commercial logic. Therefore, it must make commercial sense for one to undertake it. Due to the economics, the refinery in Changamwe was found not to make

business sense. That is why as a matter of fact, operations at the facility were discontinued. However, even with the impeding drilling in South Lokichar---

Honourable Speaker, let me say this from this podium. For the first time, Kenya is going to commercially produce oil before the end of this year. We have gone through all the necessary processes. In the past two weeks or so, I was in Lokichar to undertake ground-breaking for operations in that region. We are sure that by the end of this year, we shall be producing crude oil from South Lokichar.

That notwithstanding, the quantities envisaged from South Lokichar basin are not adequate to run a commercial refinery. At the beginning, we shall be producing about 20,000 barrels per day, which will progress to 50,000 barrels per day.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, petroleum economists tell us that you need 300,000 to 500,000 barrels per day to viably run a refinery. Therefore, that informs the reason, justification and the basis for the plan to establish a refinery in Tanga that will serve not only Kenya, but also serve the other neighbouring countries such as Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan. It is basically business logic.

Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): We will now move to Question No.041.

You may proceed, Hon. Senator.

*Question No.041*

STATUS OF NATIONAL ELECTRICITY GRID  
CONNECTION IN KAJIADO COUNTY SINCE 2022

**Sen. Seki:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum the following Question-

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary state the number of households in Kajiado County that are currently connected to the national electricity grid and explain how the electricity connectivity rate in the county compares to the national average?

(b) How many of these households were connected to the grid in the financial years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2025/2026 and could the Cabinet Secretary provide a breakdown of this data by county and ward?

(c) What are the planned interventions by the Ministry to enhance electricity connectivity in the county and could the Cabinet Secretary disclose the specific targets and the associated timelines?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The total number of households connected to electricity in Kajiado County is 365,277,000, while the total number of connections in the country as a whole is 10,346,947.

However, let me also put this in context. That, by the time this administration was coming into office, that is August or thereabouts of 2022, the electricity connectivity in

the country covered 8.9 million households. Since that time up to now, the electricity connectivity has tremendously increased due to deliberate action and steps taken by the Government. Consequently, in just under three years or so, this number has shot up to 10.3 million households. It is a jump of about 15 per cent in just three years or so. That goes to underscore the very deliberate steps this Government is taking to ensure that the country is electrified, obviously, with attendant benefits to the economy and to the society generally.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have had an occasion to visit Kajiado County a number of times. I have been to Kajiado East, Kajiado Central, Kajiado West, Kajiado North, and other areas. To enhance electricity connections or connectivity in Kajiado County, the Ministry is implementing 53 schemes distributed across the constituencies as indicated in the succeeding paragraph. A detailed list of the schemes is also attached for reference in Appendix 1.

(b) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry, through Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) and Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) has been implementing various electrification projects in Kajiado County. Table 1 shows the total investment in electrification and the number of customers connected to the grid from the FY2022/2023 to FY 2025/2026. This is broken down for each of the five sub-counties or constituencies in the county.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, REREC has funded electrification projects worth Kshs1.415 billion, connecting a total of 4358 customers in the past four financial years. In addition, 310 high masts and streetlights have been funded, thus impacting thousands of households or customers in market centres and key streets, in addition to enhancing security and longer business hours with a positive enhancement to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Annex 1 contains the detailed summary of these projects, and is self-explanatory.

(c) the Government through KPLC and REREC, continues to implement various electrification programmes in Kajiado County, with a key focus on the Last Mile connectivity project. As I have said, many times before, in some of these counties, it is the first time they are seeing these enhanced electrification programmes. It is a first and only in this administration. There are very many parts of this country that have been in darkness, for all these years, since we attained Independence. Thanks to the deliberate measures taken by this administration headed by His Excellency President William Ruto, that situation is changing for good.

The budget allocation and scope under the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), European Union (EU), and European Investment Bank (EIB) Last Mile connectivity project is Kshs165,762,491.10. There is a total of 53 schemes which are under implementation in Kajiado County comprising of five new schemes and 48 maximization schemes targeting a total of 1,750 customers.

The Ministry is adopting a multi-pronged strategy of fast-tracking the ongoing projects in various ways as follows-

(1) Equitable allocation of budgets to each constituency in Kajiado County, leveraging on connectivity and access rates to ensure fairness based on available budget.

We are stressing on equity, not just countrywide, but also within the counties, to deal with historical disparities.

(2) In order to further enhance electricity connectivity, REREC is engaging the Members of Parliament in Kajiado County. I, personally, continue to engage with them directly, to collaborate on the matching fund programme where the cost of electrification is shared, shilling for shilling, subject to availability of budget. One constituency, Kajiado West, has already benefited from this programme to install solar street lights worth Kshs10 million. I was privileged to visit Kajiado West Constituency and was hosted by the honourable Member.

(3) Provision of full complement of critical land construction materials for all ongoing projects to ensure that they are completed on time.

(4) The Ministry is also encouraging a close collaboration between REREC and Kenya Power officers to jointly inspect and commission completed projects and to ensure they are meted on time.

We hold weekly progress meetings with various contractors undertaking various projects in Kajiado County to measure progress and sort out any bottlenecks that may hinder completion of these very important projects.

The REREC will continue to work with stakeholders in Kajiado County to prioritise electrification of public facilities and installation of transformers subject to availability of budget. The full implementation of these strategies gives a definite chance of completing all ongoing projects by the end of 2026.

This is a journey. We are sure, as a Ministry, working closely with all our stakeholders, including Members of Parliament (MPs), that we are on course.

**Sen. Seki:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to thank the Cabinet Secretary for the response. However, more importantly, I want to inform him that on question (a), I wanted him to clarify, in comparison to national average. This is because he has just indicated in Kajiado---

We wanted to know where we are as a county. In the entire county in the three mentioned financial years, we have just connected 1,750 customers. That is why we wanted to know where we are as a county. This is because we have 21,000 square kilometers as a county, with a population of two million Kenyans, and only 1,700 customers are connected to electricity in the three years of this Government. That is what we wanted to know in comparison to the national grid, national average.

**The Speaker (Hon. Kingi):** Hon. Senator, you just want to know for the past three years or for the time this programme started running? This is because the Cabinet Secretary has given you the answer in paragraph (i) of his response that the total number of households connected in the country stands at 10,346,947. Out of those, 365,277 are in Kajiado. So, he has given the total number for the entire country and the total number of households in Kajiado. You can draw the comparison from there.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, note that you will explain it further.

**Sen. Seki:** The last question is that, the Cabinet Secretary indicated that there was an engagement of the MPs with REREC. Where is the engagement of this honourable Member, Senator for Kajiado? Why are they not engaging the Senator of this county in issues of connectivity? Is it because I am a one-term Senator?

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): You are not seeking re-election, hon. Senator?

*(Laughter)*

**Sen. Oketch Gicheru:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your indulgence. My question was actually in the previous question and I tried to seek your attention.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Unfortunately, we have already passed that bridge.

**Sen. Oketch Gicheru:** It is a very important question, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): I know but time is of essence. We are dedicating these minutes for purposes of this question.

**Sen. Oketch Gicheru:** May be then, you could allow me the next question because--

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): I will do that, hon. Senator.

**Sen. Oketch Gicheru:** Thank you.

**Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the visionary President Mwai Kibaki had a vision that by the year 2030, connectivity in the country, would be at 100 per cent. Could the Cabinet Secretary inform us where we are as a country and whether we are on track to achieving 100 per cent connectivity by 2030 as envisioned by the late President Mwai Kibaki?

**Sen. Beth Syengo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to request the Cabinet Secretary to clarify. He prides himself in the increase of connectivity to 15 per cent by the current administration. How much increase of numbers of connectivity are in Kitui County and specifically Mwingi North? Or is it perceived that Kitui County and Mwingi North, in particular, is an opposition zone and that is why the connectivity is not happening?

Let the Cabinet Secretary clarify.

**Sen. Mbugua:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Cabinet Secretary, could you tell this House how the power sector is going to benefit from the infrastructure fund in terms of connectivity?

**Sen. Veronica Maina:** Hon. Cabinet Secretary, welcome back to the Senate. Could you confirm to the nation how many homes across the whole country you have connected so far through this programme?

**Sen. Okiya Omtatah:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you have touched on solar energy. We know that great powers like China are shifting strongly towards solar energy. What policy efforts is the Ministry making to make sure that Kenya makes use of the solar energy that we have in this country, instead of waiting for the sun to convert things into bio carbons that we can tap or into waterfalls?

How is the Ministry ensuring that this abundant sunshine that we enjoy in this country is convertible into electrical power? I am talking about the tax regimes that we have on solar energy and what efforts the Ministry is making to ensure that Kenya becomes a major manufacturer of solar panels and solar technologies.

**Sen. Dullo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mine is on Isiolo County, a place called Oldonyiro where there are donors from Middle East who sponsored that particular project. I hope the Permanent Secretary (PS) is here. This is because we have had several

discussions where part of the town has been electrified. However, the other town which is a sub-county, does not have electricity and this is an area prone to insecurity. More specifically, part of the Isiolo County has insecurity issues. I know the Last Mile Connectivity is going on but I would appreciate if the Cabinet Secretary can tell us what he is doing to make sure that the projects that have been started are completed because the estimate for Oldonyiro has been done. What is lacking is budget. Could he kindly fast track that process and make sure that the project is completed? This is because some of the Government institutions like schools in Oldonyiro have while others do not have electricity.

**Sen. Wafula:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mine is to request our good Cabinet Secretary to avail to each one of us, Senators of the Republic of Kenya, the statistics of the increment of households in our counties *vis-a-vis* what we found under the regime of the former President so that the doubting Thomases can equally see that figures do not lie.

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

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Thank you, hon. Speaker. Let me proceed to respond as follows in no particular order. We are on course not just to meet the target set out under Vision 2030, but also our obligation under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No.7 on access to energy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of the Republic of Kenya and especially this administration, is not just committed to ensuring universal access to electricity by 2030, but is actively working towards that, day-in, day-out. As we speak, we have an average of 75 per cent access rate. However, that natural average could mislead in the sense that some parts of the country have far much higher levels, while some parts of the country are still very low.

That is the kind of historical disparity and imbalance that this administration is correcting. That electricity, under this administration, is no longer a luxury; it is a basic human right. His Excellency the President has directed us to ensure that we extend electricity to every corner of this country, without any form of discrimination, so that as the national average increases, it also increases across the country.

Coming back to Sen. Wakoli's question, I agree with him that we shall endeavour to provide a detailed response in terms of the increase in number of households connected to electricity from the time this administration took over, up to now, county by county, and if possible, constituency by constituency. I am delighted that Bungoma County, where Sen. Wakoli comes from, has made big progress. I have had the occasion to visit a number of constituencies in Bungoma County a number of times and had a number of meetings with the Members of Parliament (MPs) from Bungoma County.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the question by Sen. Seki on engagement of Senators, we endeavour to engage all leaders, especially, elected leaders. A number of times, I call for these meetings county by county. My appeal is that when such meetings are called, kindly assist us by having the Senators also attend, alongside the Members of the National Assembly. This is so that we collectively address these issues and plan together.

Sen. Seki has had the occasion to visit me in my office to address some of these issues. I am sure one of the projects in Kajiado County, especially the project under the name of Olepolos that is costing some Kshs17.5 million, is covering areas of concern to the Senator.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me go back and say that once I provide the statistics about the connectivity rates and the increment in number of connections per county, it will then help us determine, collectively, which areas to address on a priority basis. I will also do this to cover the issue that has been raised by Sen. Beth Syengo in respect of Kitui County. I have also had occasion to visit Kitui County a number of times. I have been to Kitui East, Kitui South, Kitui West and Kitui Central in the last two years, pushing this electrification programme and working closely with all the MPs.

As we do so, we do not do it on the basis of who is supporting who or who belongs to which faction or which political formation. No, that is not part of our consideration. We deal with all leaders at all levels, regardless of their political persuasion.

Sen. Mbugua has asked about the role that the National Infrastructure Fund will play in helping us push forward the agenda of electrification, if I got him right. It is indeed true that this National Infrastructure Fund is Godsend in the sense that for the first time, we are going to be able to free the national budget as conceived and approved by the Parliament of Kenya, from undertaking major infrastructure projects. It will then allow this National Infrastructure Fund to deal with such projects, especially those projects that are viable, which are many in the energy sector, starting with generation, transmission and distribution. So, the answer is, yes. This historic fund is going to be very useful going forward, and I am sure it will make a very big difference.

I will also address the issue of Sen. Maina when we bring the statistics about connectivity by county. Again, allow me to provide specific answers to Sen. Dullo in respect to that particular project in Isiolo later.

On the question by Sen. Omtatah, as a country, we are alive to the fact that the world is transitioning, energy speaking. Kenya as a country, is in the lead in terms of energy transition in this region. Our national grid is supported by about 93 per green energy, with solar playing a key role in this. As we speak, our installed capacity of generation is about 3,300 megawatts, with solar contributing some 210 megawatts, wind 435 megawatts, and so on and so forth.

Whereas it is our intention to continue to implement solarisation of our grid, we take cognisance of the fact that solar, just like wind, is an intermittent source of energy. Therefore, we must strike a delicate balance between base load and these intermittent sources. So, the answer is, yes, we shall continue to adopt solar technology as we move along.

Beside the 210 megawatts that is installed, there are a number of households and private entities that have installed their own solar panels, which in our estimation accounts for about some 600 megawatts. Solar is here to stay and we have to harness this technology to continue to light up our country.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): We now move to Question No.042 by Sen. Hamida Kibwana.

*Question No.042*

CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGE IN  
NAIROBI CITY COUNTY

**Sen. Beth Syengo:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Sen. Kibwana, I beg to ask the CS for Energy and Petroleum the following Question-

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary explain the cause of power outages experienced in several estates in Nairobi following the heavy rains and flooding of 6<sup>th</sup> May, March, 2026 and indicate the areas affected and the duration of the outages?

(b) What measures has the Ministry, together with the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) Plc and other relevant agencies, put in place to ensure that electricity infrastructure is able to withstand heavy rains, flooding and other advanced weather conditions?

(c) Has the Ministry undertaken an assessment of the vulnerability of substations, transformers, power lines and related infrastructure in flood-prone urban areas and if so, what are the findings?

(d) What plans are in place to modernize and climate-proof Kenya's electricity infrastructure as is the case in countries with advanced weather resilient energy systems such as in Japan, Singapore (where we are going) and South Korea?

(e) What alternative and innovative power solutions is the Ministry considering for the continuity of electricity supply during extreme weather conditions, particularly for hospitals, water installations, security facilities and densely populated residential areas?

Thank you.

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

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The following were the causes of outages following the heavy rains in Nairobi and the environs-

(1) Flooding: The sub-stations in areas where surrounding built environment has constrained or obstructed water paths are vulnerable and storm water overflows to the substations. The affected substations in this particular respect were Nairobi West, Industrial Area, Ridgeways, Kimathi and Syokimau. The substations mentioned supply power to South C, Langata Road, Upper Hill, South B, Industrial Area, Ridgeways, Jogoo road, Mlolongo, Mavoko and Katani areas.

Further, the flooding caused damage to power equipment and water ingress in above ground medium voltage switchgear leading to total failure and damage to electrical cables.

(2) Fallen trees on power lines: Due to the storms and strong winds during this time, trees growing near power lines fell on the lines leading to damage of both high and

low voltage power lines and transformers, thereby causing extensive outages. The areas affected by falling trees were within Dagoretti North, Langata, Westlands and Ngong.

The Ministry would like to state that since the network needed full reconstruction before the customers were powered back, the duration of the outages was between 12 hours and 72 hours. To ensure that the customers remain connected to power, the outages were urgently attended to by correcting the defects occasioned by the heavy rains where possible, transferring customers to alternative power sources and other short-term measures, to ensure customer supply was restored in the shortest time possible while major repairs were being undertaken.

(b) Following the floods, comprehensive assessment of the power infrastructure was undertaken and on the immediate term the following remedial measures have been lined up –

(1) Improve the drainage tunnels around substations in liaison with county governments.

(2) Engage other entities like the Nairobi City County, the Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) and the Kenya Urban and Rural Roads Authority (KURRA) to clear storm water passages.

(3) Engaging the road authorities to consider enhancing storm waterways when doing design and construction.

(4) Cutting down of trees in the way-leave trails in collaboration with the Nairobi City County and customers with trees in own land but which encroach the wayleave corridor.

The Ministry through Kenya Power undertook an assessment on the effect of the floods and vulnerability of the substations. Indeed, the threat posed by floods on the power system is immense and cannot be just wished away. Therefore, from the assessment, the following medium to the long-term initiatives are being considered –

(1) Reconstructing the older stations affected by changing drainage patterns caused by newer developments to raise substation levels several metres above ground.

(2) Undergrounding of power infrastructure to reduce interaction with weather elements.

(3) Use of concrete poles in place of wooden poles to reduce damage to the power network while ensuring the lines are more robust and resilient to climate impacts.

To make our electricity grid more climate-proof and resilient, it requires a combination of infrastructure upgrades, smart technologies, policy reforms and risk-informed planning to ensure the power system can withstand and quickly recover from climate-related shocks such as floods, droughts, heat waves, storms, wildfires and extreme winds. Therefore, there is a need to modernise our grid.

Modernisation of the grid is a continuous process and energy sector agencies have been investing heavily in this regard. Further, to improve our network resilience and reliability, the Ministry and her agencies have been investing on a smart grid.

A smart grid is more reliable, resilient and easier to maintain as the operators can easily detect a fault and restore it. A smart grid will enhance proper maintenance scheduling to avoid blackouts.

To conclude, the resilience of a grid is not only enhanced through the hardware upgrade, but also having a competent and well-trained personnel. Therefore, the Ministry has continually been training officers across the sector to ensure they have the right skills to run and manage a complex grid.

Kenya Power has been leading in this and working very closely with the Ministry of Energy and petroleum, Nairobi City County, KURRA and other relevant agencies working in the built environment. They have worked steadily to achieve stable and reliable electricity supply.

Thank you.

**The Speaker** (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Betty Syengo, do you have any supplementary question?

**Sen. Beth Syengo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Cabinet Secretary's first response was to talk of floods in Nairobi. The other causes of floods are buildings erected along the riparian land. Water will always look for its way and that is why we end up with flooding. How will the Ministry ensure that waterways are open? Thank you.

**Sen. Abass:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker, Sir. My question is part of the previous question. Hon. Waziri, thank you for your passion and commitment in connecting power to all Kenyans. The last time you were in Wajir with His Excellency the President, we were promised that Wajir will be connected to the national grid. So, what is the plan of connecting Wajir to the national grid and how soon or how fast will that be done?

**Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am not sure whether the Cabinet Secretary is aware that Samburu County, particularly Maralal, is experiencing the worst power outage in the country. Could the Cabinet Secretary explain why Maralal Town and several parts of Samburu County continue to experience persistent power outages despite hosting critical national infrastructure? What long-term measures will be put in place to ensure reliable and stable electricity supply in the county?

**Sen. Cherarkey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the indulgence. My question is on the faulty transformers. The Cabinet Secretary has alluded to faulty transformers that at times cause power outages or blackouts. A transformer in Kipsamoite, Mosop Constituency, has been faulty for the last four years. My question is, how long does it take for the Kenya Power and Lighting Company to intervene for us not to keep on having blackouts? On average, we have a power outage two to five times a day in this city.

In Mosoriot, Nandi County, where I come from, we have blackouts that run up to three weeks. It is embarrassing because I live in that area. Can the Cabinet Secretary tell us his concrete plan apart from holding political meetings with Members of Parliament?

I yield back, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Sen. Wakili Sigei:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker, Sir. My question is related to the question asked by Sen. Cherarkey. It is on the maintenance and management of transformers across the country for purposes of controlling power outages. I ask this question because the transmission line in Bomet and Narok, which is currently undergoing an upgrade, has largely been a cause of a power outage across Bomet, Narok and a section of Kisii that the line serves.

An upgrade of that line is ongoing. Can the Cabinet Secretary tell us when that line will become operational to ensure that power outage during high traffic time, which is in the night, is stopped or at least is reduced? Is the Cabinet Secretary aware that the environment, including the land hosting the Bomet-Narok transmission substation, which is going to be the holding station for this line, is forever dark? The surrounding area does not have power.

I have been in that area with the Cabinet Secretary and he knows that. I have sought for an intervention but nothing has happened. The people of Kapkwen, Bomet County, will appreciate an indication of any action taken or to be taken. They are the people hosting the substation yet they have no power.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

*(An hon. Member spoke off record)*

Yes, we will take the first set of questions.

**The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Mr. Speaker, Sir---

*[The Speaker (Hon. Kingi) left the Chair]*

*[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei) in the Chair]*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you may proceed.

**The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Allow me to start with the question raised by Sen. Beth Syengo. As I initially indicated in my response, the Ministry together with our agencies can only work with relevant Government bodies and agencies. I mentioned here that we are working with the Nairobi City County, Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) and the Kenya National Highways Authority, (KeNHA) to ensure that waterways remain open. We cannot do it alone.

The area around Bomet, Kisii and parts of Kisumu County have had challenges of adequate supply of electricity over the years. That challenge will be addressed, to a large extent, by the completion of the Narok-Bomet transmission line. You recall, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, that we did some short stopgap measure through the Kenya Power. The ultimate project, which is underway, is being undertaken by the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Limited (KETRACO). The project will be completed in the next 12 months. That will, to a large extent, help address the issue of power outages in that region.

Above all, it will allow us shut down the Muhoroni gas turbine, once and for all, because as you know, is not true cost effective. The completion of this line will be instrumental in helping us make that decision.

We have had a problem with wanton vandalism of transformers and other critical energy infrastructure in some parts of Nandi County. We are working very closely with security agencies to stem the vice and ensure that we deal with these cases promptly. I request Hon. Sen. Cherarkey to provide my office with more details.

It is not our practice to take long to repair or replace faulty transformers. If there are such cases, they need to be reported promptly for appropriate actions to be taken. Again, I know we have got challenges in Samburu and we are working very closely with our relevant agencies. Samburu is one of the counties that is supposed to benefit from the Kenya Off-Grid Solar Access Project (KOSAP).

I will be seeking to engage directly with Sen. Lelegwe outside here to see what we can do jointly to address the issues affecting Samburu, especially areas around Maralal. Wajir County will be hosting us for Madaraka Day celebrations on 1<sup>st</sup> June. We are taking some stopgap measures to deal with the matter of Wajir Town and environs. However, in the fullness of time, we want to see Wajir County connected to the national grid.

As we speak, feasibility studies have been completed. We are basically now working on the financing mechanisms to ensure that we extend the grid from Garissa to Wajir. Again, I will be seeking to engage Sen. Abass and leadership of Wajir County, including the Governor and the other Members of the National Assembly, to see how fast we can move with this project collectively. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Hon. CS, for those responses. I have got a long list of Members, I believe, asking supplementary questions. The time allocated for this question is since past by two minutes. I will add another five minutes for those questions. I have got Sen. Maanzo. Go straight to the question so that we keep time because we need to strictly comply with the next timeline for the next questions.

**Sen. Maanzo:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, in Kibwezi West, when a transformer is spoiled and takes a month or two without being fixed, the KPLC officials based in Emali remove a working transformer from an existing line and then take it to another. Is there a way the Cabinet Secretary will make sure that we have reliable, long-lasting transformers that are easy to repair so that we do not have people on power outage for a long time?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Mandago, please proceed.

**Sen. Mandago:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. My question goes to Cabinet Secretary on ensuring that funds that have been set aside for projects in particular regions are utilised for those regions. I ask because the Cabinet Secretary is keen to ensure there is equitable connectivity in the country. What happened with the funds that were set aside for a number of counties in the Rift Valley that was disbursed to Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC), but apparently, the money has been spent in other areas?

Finally, just a small thing. The issue of wayleaves---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Mandago, you know you are entitled to ask one supplementary question.

**Sen. Mandago:** Allow me to ask this because it affects the whole country. Just one question. What is the Ministry doing about your agencies in terms of utilising the road wayleaves? We have situations where KPLC erect poles in the middle of the roads, even when the corridor is 90 metres, and when we want to develop the roads, they ask us to pay to relocate those poles, and we have said categorically we are not paying. We want electricity. We have given you a free wayleave on our roads in the counties. You certainly cannot ask us to pay to relocate a pole you deliberately put in the middle of the road.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Oketch, please, proceed.

**Sen. Oketch Gicheru:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I believe the issue of outages in the country, seeing from my colleagues, certainly not only during weather times, because in Migori County, and the CS is very well familiar with Migori County--- We have travelled with them to deal with the issue of electricity. The issue of outages is humongous, and especially it appears like there is an overloading in the grid in Migori.

Despite the fact that there is Masaba substation that was established, there is still a very high demand of electricity because of the ongoing mining activities, both in Kehancha and the larger Nyatike area. Those outages, it seems like the system cannot sustain the capacity, and the issue of transformers in that regard has been a major one. Transformers are blowing time without number, and the outages in Migori are outrageous. What can be done about these transformers and that issue of overloading?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, just directly to you, I had sought the indulgence of the substantive Speaker, because I think the system was not registering me in the first question, but it is of national importance that if the CS might get time just to address the issue of shortages in fuel. Most of our petrol stations, despite the fact that the National Standards Council did allow for the issue of standard quality to be lowered of Sulphur, down from 10 milligrams per kg to 50 milligrams per kg, we still have shortages of fuel in most of our petrol stations. What is going on, and how can that issue of shortage in petrol and diesel be addressed?

I thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Lastly, Sen. Chesang', please proceed.

**Sen. Chesang:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I have heard the Cabinet Secretary talking about many other counties like Samburu, Bomet, Kisumu, but not Trans Nzoia, where we do not even talk about the outages, but places where there are no transformers at all. I would like to ask the Cabinet Secretary what plans he has with Trans Nzoia. I want him to consider Trans Nzoia as a matter of urgency in terms of the plans that he has.

Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): I have seen Sen. Wakoli's hand up. I have not allowed you to speak. I just wanted to take note of the fact that I am aware you have made a request. Similarly, Sen. Mariam, I indicated that I am giving five minutes extra time. If you can ask within 30 seconds, I will allow you. If you go beyond, I will stop you.

So, I will start with Sen. Mariam.

**Sen. Mariam Omar:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for your generous understanding. My question is about the power outages in Mandera County. When the President---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Well, I was very intentional. That is why I wanted you to ask the question. We do not need stories anymore. Allow her another moment so that she can ask the question.

Proceed, Senator.

**Sen. Mariam Omar:** When the President came on 18<sup>th</sup> of last year, there are some generators that came to Mandera and those generators' status is unquestionable. Up to now, Mandera is in blackout. So, CS, what is the way forward so that Mandera County has electricity?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you. You see, you have managed. You still even got seven seconds.

Sen. Wakoli, under 30 seconds.

**Sen. Wafula:** Thank you. Mine is the bulk power plant at Nabuyole Falls that is in Webuye. What is the current status and when are we launching the project?

Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Sen. Wakoli. Hon. CS, you may respond to those questions. We have got 11 minutes to release you from here, so you may know how to utilise that time.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I will address the issue raised by Hon. Oketch. I am not going in any particular order.

On the matter of power outages, it is indeed true that Migori County and its environs' power demand is increasing by the day, especially in view of the expanding mining activities in Nyatike and the environs. We are clear in our minds as a Ministry that working closely with the leadership of Migori County, this can be addressed.

How? Honorable Speaker, we have already energised the Sondu-Homa Bay-Awendo transmission line with a modern substation at Masaba in Kuria West, which has brought tremendous relief. However, this relief will be felt more once the Narok-Bomet line is completed, as I mentioned earlier on.

So, in 12 months' time, we expect to see marked change in terms of power supply in Migori and its environs once the Narok-Bomet line is completed. But above all, Migori County is privileged to host the famous Gogo Hydropower Plant, which the Government under President William Ruto, has now undertaken to upgrade from the former 2 megawatts to some 8.6 megawatts. A project will be financed by the KfW, that is, the German finance, to the tune of more than Kshs5 billion. That project, again, once completed, will help us stabilize the grid in terms of power. Not to forget to mention the completion and energising of the Sondu-Ndhiwa transmission line, which has helped address the issue of power supply in Homa Bay and parts of Migori County. So, the Government is very conscious that Migori and its environs need to be supported, and we are doing exactly that.

Trans Nzoia County is not left out. Very soon, I will be visiting Trans Nzoia County. I will be contacting Sen. Chesang so that we can go together with the other MPs.

The Government has allocated some Kshs1.2 billion for electricity connectivity alone in Trans Nzoia County. This will help us connect some 12,000 households. By the time we get to December this year, you will see the number of households having really gone high on account of this intervention by the Government. We cannot divert funds earmarked for a particular county or region elsewhere.

I undertake after this to take the matter up with honourable Sen. Mandago to clearly understand where this could be coming from, and if there is any such attempt, rest assured that I will not allow it. All funds earmarked for specific regions must be used for projects in those regions.

With regard to Nabuyole Falls in Webuye, Bungoma County, we are currently undertaking a feasibility study, of course, under KenGen. This will be the first hydropower plant in what was then Western Province, if I am not wrong. We are very keen as a government to see to it that this project sees the light of day.

Again, the issue of power in Mandera, I know there are challenges in Mandera, and especially Mandera East Constituency. I am in constant engagement with my friend, the Honourable Hussein Weytan, the MP for Mandera East and the Governor of Mandera. We have taken some measures. I know there was a change in the contractor, the supplier of the generators. There was a change, and because of the change, there have been teething problems, which we are sure we shall be able to surmount in the fullness of time. Otherwise, we continue to engage closely with the leadership of Mandera. I will be inviting Sen. Mariam to also come along as we address these issues.

Let me conclude by dealing with the issue of fuel, as was raised by Honourable Sen. Oketch. From the outset, we have got adequate fuel supplies in the country. We have got adequate fuel supplies in the pipeline system; all the products, petrol, diesel, kerosene and jet fuel. This has been made possible in spite of the challenges that the world is going through, especially following the turmoil in the Middle East. This country has been lucky to survive that turmoil on account of the very robust government-to-government fuel importation system or framework. The government-to-government fuel importation framework is what has enabled this country to be where it is.

Otherwise, we would be talking of something different. Many countries, without mentioning even some neighbouring countries, have had serious challenges that you cannot believe. Having said so, the latest challenge that was experienced yesterday and part of today was occasioned by a technical and administrative hitch, which we have since resolved. That hitch curtailed the normal uptake of fuel by some of our oil marketing companies. It has since been resolved and normal supply is resuming today. I am sure by the end of today, when you go to the filling stations, you will be able to get a supply of all the products of petroleum.

We continue to monitor the happenings in the Middle East very, very closely. We continue to engage very closely with our international oil company suppliers, the IOCs, together with their local agents, that is, the oil marketing companies that work with them closely. We have no doubt, as a government, that even in the worst case scenario, this country will not suffer any fuel shortage. I just want to appeal to Kenyans to be patient and bear with us as we address some of these small hitches. I must thank all the

stakeholders, especially the oil marketing companies, for remaining cooperative and working very closely with us, to be able to navigate these very challenging times.

Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Honourable Cabinet Secretary, there is a question by Sen. Maanzo. He is already raising concerns that you have not been able to respond to it. Also, the last one by Sen. Mandago, as regards the poles which are normally erected along or in the middle of the roads when they are required to be paid for, for relocation. You have not answered those two.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Yes, it is about the one Sen. Maanzo talked about ---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): His question was about repairs of transformers and the efficiency or the effort that the Kenya Power and Lighting ---

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Correct, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. As I have said earlier on, we endeavor as a Ministry, and of course, working closely with our relevant agencies, especially the Kenya Power, first and foremost to ensure that the quality of transformers which are procured are up to date and reliable.

Secondly, whenever there are cases of breakdown or malfunction of transformers, our appeal is that such cases be reported promptly. We are deploying specialised officers to respond in good time whenever such incidents are reported.

There was also the question of KPLC poles required to be relocated during road construction. These are issues that can be addressed on a case-by-case basis. As we continue to modernise and improve our infrastructure, working closely with relevant agencies, including road agencies such as KeNHA, KURA and the respective county governments, we can minimise future relocations. This will be achieved if, from the outset, poles are placed in the right locations.

Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, before I let you go, there are certain commitments you made before this House that I would like to remind you of. First, on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025, you made a commitment in response to a question by Sen. Mwenda Gataya, CBS, MP, regarding data on the level of electricity connectivity in each constituency in Tharaka Nithi County. That information is yet to be availed despite the commitment made when you appeared before the Chamber.

Secondly, on the same date, you equally committed to provide information to Sen. Boni Khalwale, CBS, MP, on the projects being implemented to enhance power reliability in the western region of Kenya. That commitment also remains outstanding.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, these two undertakings are yet to be honoured. As a House, we must enforce the commitments made whenever you appear before us. I kindly urge you to undertake, within the timelines set, to avail these two pending commitments.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Hon. Temporary Speaker, first, let me apologise, if there was some sort of inaction on my part. I have had extensive engagement with Sen. Khalwale since then in other fora, but let me undertake to provide those responses and statistics in the next two weeks.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Cabinet Secretary, I will not allow you two weeks. This was 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025. We are in May, 2026. I do not want you to be interpreted as inefficient. I will give you one week.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): I am well guided, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. Members, your officers know the channel this communication will be facilitated through. Sen. Boni, I will not allow you to intervene at this point. I expect that within the next one week, your responses and information will be made available. If they are not, then you know what steps to take. Equally, I know what steps to take.

Similarly, with respect to the matter raised by Hon. Mwenda Gataya, I will not allow you to intervene further. I have granted the Cabinet Secretary one week to respond.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, I would like to appreciate your appearance before this House and your responses to the questions raised.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum** (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi): Hon. Temporary Speaker, what about the last question?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sorry, I did not indicate that the last question was not taken because Sen. (Dr.) Murgor is not in the Chamber and did not nominate anyone to ask on his behalf. In light of the Cabinet Secretary's responses already provided, the procedure is that we will transmit the response directly to the Hon. Member. Therefore, there is no need for the Cabinet Secretary to respond in the Chamber, since the information is already with us.

Other than that, there are no further questions to the Hon. Cabinet Secretary. You are now free to leave the Chamber.

*(Loud consultations)*

I will allow any interventions only after I have formally released the Cabinet Secretary.

Hon. Members, the question is dropped in the absence of the Member, as a transmitted response has already been provided by the Cabinet Secretary.

*Question No.043*

HUMAN RESOURCE RECRUITMENT CHALLENGES  
AT TURKWEL HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATION  
AND KEN GEN'S CSR INITIATIVES

*(Question dropped)*

*[The Cabinet Secretary Energy and Petroleum (Hon. Opiyo Wandayi) was ushered out of the Chamber]*

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

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Give the microphone to Sen. Eddy.

**Sen. Oketch Gicheru:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to express my concern. This is a very delicate matter, since I would never wish to be in the bad books of the Speaker by appearing to vary your decision in this House. However, in the interest of the House, once a Member has asked a question, it ought to become the property of the House. Some of these questions affect many of us variably. Indeed, you have seen that the questions asked affect you as well. There were queries touching on Bomet as well.

For that reason, I would have preferred that even if the Member is not present and the transmission has already been done, for the interest of the public, in the future, you could perhaps invoke Standing Order No.1 to allow the Cabinet Secretary to give an adequate response to the entire House and to the country. These questions are not just for the benefit of the individual Member, but for the best interest of the House and the nation. That is my humble plea to you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Wakili Sigei): I appreciate the concerns raised by Sen. Eddy. Unfortunately, the application of Standing Order No.1 is limited to circumstances where there is no express provision in the Standing Orders as to what action can be taken by the Chair.

In this case, the Standing Orders are clear; a Member must nominate someone to act on their behalf in their absence. The same principle applies to statements and even motions. Therefore, we must adhere strictly to the Standing Orders as they are.

Hon. Members, this is a House of records. If we fail to apply the Standing Orders as they stand today, it will set a precedent that undermines the integrity of our procedures. This is indeed a concern that we should consider how best to deal with. For purposes of additional inquiry, Members may look at the response provided by the Hon. Cabinet Secretary so that supplementary inquiries can be made.

Hon. Members, with that, I believe we can now move to the next question. The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry is here. We can usher him into the Chamber.

*[The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry  
(Hon. Lee Kinyanjui) was ushered into the Chamber]*

*[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei) left the Chair]*

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

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Hon. Senators, the Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry is here.

Bw. Waziri, karibu to the Senate. We will go straight to the Question by Sen. (Prof.) Ojienda.

*Question No.024*CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE  
MARKETS MANAGEMENT

**Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I will proceed to ask the Question as follows-

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide details on the forms of support the Ministry extends to county governments to build capacity for sustainable market management and to ensure uninterrupted operations in key markets, and explain how the Ministry monitors the effectiveness of such support?

(b) What oversight mechanisms exist to facilitate National Government intervention whenever recommendations for operational improvements are not implemented fully and promptly or whenever county-level decisions adversely impact local economic activity, and could the Cabinet Secretary provide details on any instance where such mechanisms were invoked?

(c) What proactive strategies is the Ministry implementing to ensure the continuity of market operations, promote economic resilience and protect traders' livelihoods, particularly in high volume trading hubs across the country?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Cabinet Secretary, you are welcome.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry** (Hon. Lee Kinyanjui): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, let me begin by expressing my gratitude to you and hon. Senators for the opportunity extended to the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry concerning the national Government support towards sustainable markets management in the counties.

In line with the letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2026, Reference No. SEN/4A/COR/17, allow me to proceed and make submissions in respect to the above issues raised by Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda.

To begin with part (a), the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry provides technical and institutional support to county governments to strengthen sustainable markets management and ensure uninterrupted operations in key market. Our key forms of support include-

(i) Providing business development services. This is in the form of market intelligence and advisory services to market operations and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This is informed by the fact that the most important part in the citation of a market is information on where people want to trade, what they want to trade at what price, what is going on where and if there is a deficit. All these provide useful information that county governments can use, including understanding matters to do with packaging, food processing, consumer trends and others.

(ii) Supporting capacity building through institutions such as the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) which conducts feasibility studies, market assessment, technology needs assessment and enterprise development training. These

initiatives help county governments improve efficiency in the management of local trading spaces.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, allow me to say that whenever an entrepreneur or any business person wants to set up any business, we offer specific training. For example, when you want to do soap making so that you avail soap into the market.

Every month, we train young people on how they can process that. Counties have an opportunity to facilitate so that in our markets we not only have raw materials but also processed or semi-processed products. We can tailor-make some trainings to suit needs of individual counties. If it is a pastoralist county, we can work along that. If it is a fish dominated economy, we can also align our training to support the predominant economic activity.

(iii) The Ministry, in collaboration with the State Department for Housing, developed policy guidelines for development and management of markets. The State Department for Housing monitors the implementation of guidelines in collaboration with county governments.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as you may be aware, we have markets being developed across the entire country. They are meant to offer decent housing for business people and traders, so that they can have a place where they can trade their goods. More importantly is to also give them an opportunity to participate in dignified trade.

It should be recalled that a good number of our Jua kali business people work by the roadside. They have to face the sun until late in the evening. Their wares are exposed to the sun. You can imagine if they are perishables like tomatoes, it means that post-harvest losses become very high. Therefore, for markets that the Government is currently building, our main target is to give dignity and honour to traders while at the same time reducing post-harvest losses.

(iv) The Ministry is collaborating with county governments in developing infrastructure such as the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) that provide facilities for aggregation, processing, storage and marketing of agricultural produce. For CAIPs and other market support initiatives, the Ministry is keen in undertaking baseline studies and market assessments as well as periodic progress reviews and field monitoring.

We have about 17 counties that have signed to CAIPs. I want to confirm that some of them have developed very well and are almost at the tail end. In line with this, we have about five that are due to be commissioned. His Excellency the President will launch some of them from June. We invite the Senate to participate in this because it is a ground-breaking initiative that is going to bring value addition closer to the people.

The idea behind the CAIPs is to make aggregation possible, so that if it is an avocado or macadamia-growing area, we can have a place where they can be taken for grading, packed and stored and also buyers can have a one stop place where they can buy. More importantly, we are also working to align with financial institutions and buyers to ensure that there is a seamless flow of commodities to our markets.

We also have an intervention on policy and regulatory support. Through the State Department for Trade, we formulate and review domestic trade policies in collaboration with county governments.

(iv) Supporting counties with markets planning, legal and regulatory framework and advisory on sustainable trade practices. From time to time, when a county seeks support of our Ministry, we are able to provide support on regulatory and advisory on sustainable markets and basically all other issues relating to the market.

(v) Through the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KeBS), Weights and Measures and the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC), the Ministry promotes standards, packing, quality control, weighing and measuring of products and distribution systems of essential products to improve market competitiveness.

The Ministry also works with counties to stimulate investment and business activity in markets, by promoting value addition and branding, linking county enterprises, that is the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to domestic and international markets.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, allow me to say that the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KeBS) is an extremely important entity in ensuring that the commodities that are sold conform to the standards set for the country. Weights and measures allow us to confirm that when we are talking of a kilogramme of maize or rice, it is indeed a kilogramme. All these are facilitative support we give to the counties.

The Ministry also coordinates with various state corporations, such as the Warehouse Receipting System, the Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency (KEPROBA) and the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC). They are collaborating with development partners to support counties through trade promotion programmes, market development initiatives, access to trade information and export opportunities. The multi-agency approach ensures that counties receive comprehensive support for market sustainability.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, allow me to say that all this multi-agency approach is brought together through my Ministry, to ensure that all the problems relating to our markets are solved. On the invitation of any county government that wants support, even a clinic, to ensure that we sensitise them, we are always available.

The Warehouse Receipt System, established under the Warehouse Receipt System Act, 2019, supports the Ministry in strengthening sustainable agricultural market systems and enhancing the capacity of county governments to ensure efficient and uninterrupted operations of key commodity markets through capacity building and technical assistance, certification, licensing and regulations of warehouse operators, development of structured agricultural markets, policy guidance and regulatory frameworks, and undertaking monitoring and evaluation for effectiveness, among others.

Further, the joint National County Coordination Mechanisms, the Ministry engages county governments through intergovernmental trade forums and technical committees. These platforms allow the Ministry to access and review trade and market programmes to address implementation challenges and align national and county initiatives. The Ministry, through its domestic trade function, monitors the impact of trade policies and practices on domestic trade, including markets.

(b) Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, secondly, the question by the Hon. Senator was—  
“What oversight mechanisms exist to facilitate national government intervention whenever recommendations for operational improvements are not implemented promptly

or whenever county government decisions are adversely impacting local economic activities, and could the Cabinet Secretary provide details of any instance where that has happened?”

The existing key oversight mechanisms that facilitate the national Government intervention whenever recommendations for operational interventions are not fully implemented, include the following-

(1) The investment trade and industry sector intergovernmental coordination framework.

In collaboration with the Council of Governors (CoG), the Ministry has finalised development and is soon launching the investment trade and industry sector Intergovernmental Coordination Framework (IGCF). The trade IGCF is a structured co-owned platform anchored in the Constitution, Articles 6, 2, 10, 174, 175, and 189; the Intergovernmental Relations Act, 2012 and the principles of subsidiary mutual accountability and cooperative governance.

Further, the framework provides an important foundation for strengthening collaboration between the national and county governments in the investment, trade and industry sector. The framework focuses on coordination, consultation and information sharing in a timely and aligned manner with the constitutional objectives and economic development priorities.

Further, the framework is yet to be formally inaugurated and endorsed for us to proceed to the next steps. However, at least, for planning, that has already been done.

(2) Secondly is on policy and regulatory oversight.

The national Government develops national trade and economic policies, sets standards and regulations, provides guidelines for county governments and, for instance, the national trade policy, the national trade standards, consumer protection laws, weights and measures, regulations for counties, and many others.

Part (c) of the Question is-

“What proactive strategies is the Ministry implementing to ensure the continuity of market operations, promote economic resilience and protect traders' livelihoods, particularly in high-volume trading hubs across the country.”

First one is through the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) as the anchor of state initiatives to create a price stabilisation for essential products. To this end, we address the rise in the cost of living. The Cabinet approved a framework to position the KNTC as the anchor of state initiatives to create a price stabiliser for essential products. As such, KNTC, as a trading company, has always supplemented other state initiatives by creating strategic reserves for staple and essential food items, vital farm inputs, including fertiliser and any other goods necessary for endorsing – for ensuring stability in the prices of core goods consumed in the country.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, it will be remembered that in areas such as Mwea where we produce rice, we have been having a programme to buy from the farmers. This has been very useful in helping us to create stability.

Secondly is modernisation of wholesale and retail markets across the country. The Ministry is working with the national and county governments to develop and modernise wholesale and retail markets across the country. This will ensure smooth market

operations and accommodate growing trade populations through identification of areas where new markets can be constructed, and also expanding the existing ones.

One important matter around the modernisation of markets and creating dignity around the trading community is that when you have businesses or traders who are mobile and, therefore, do not have a particular station where you can find them tomorrow, it becomes difficult for financial institutions to support them. However, when you localise them and are able to give their specific address, we have found that even financial institutions are ready to come. We believe that through this modernisation, we will create dignity, growth and employment.

Third is integration of markets to the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPS) to link production with trading centres. This will reduce congestion in major hubs such as Gikomba, Eastleigh and Kamkunji, and it will also improve on storage distribution and logistics for traders.

I have already mentioned about CAIPs, and again, I want to say that this is going to be a big game changer in terms of even sourcing. One of the areas we are trying to work on is availability of information at the national level. So, you have a company that wants to source groundnuts, avocado or macadamia. When you have the information at the national level, we direct them to the specific counties where they can find that. This is because of the realisation that the information gap is very big. There will be a huge demand on one end and a surplus on the other, but because the two people are not connected, they do not get to benefit from that market situation. Therefore, the use of Information Technology (IT) is going to come in very handy.

The Ministry has undertaken route to market studies, a strategy meant to strengthen market access and ensure trade continuity. This will also expand opportunity for traders beyond local markets and also strengthen supply chains and export readiness. This study is particularly important because a good number of Kenyans will engage in the production or growth of a particular product and then look for the market later. We strongly believe that a market-driven approach is very useful. This is where you identify the market then you come back reverse and plant or engage in the production of the commodities where the market is going to be.

That cannot be made when we do not have sufficient information on what the market needs. So, this route to market strategy is very important. Every county has its own unique circumstances. So, we must align it to the counties. Also, more importantly, to ensure that the actual business people know what is required in terms of standards, quantities and so on.

On trade facilitation and regulatory harmonisation, the Ministry is working towards harmonisation of trade regulations and standards to reduce barriers that affect traders. There is also simplification of business licensing, coordination with other State agencies to address trade issues such as counterfeits, taxation, customs and import procedures affecting traders. This will protect traders from unfair competition and ensure compliance with quality and safety standards.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, on trade facilitation and regulatory harmonisation, I want to confirm that a number of our products are actually on sale, even across the border. In my own home county, we produce a lot of carrots that are actually sold in

Kampala. Therefore, to ensure that our traders are able to harvest from Mau Narok and transport all the way to Kampala, Dar es Salaam and other markets, it is a responsibility that we share with the counties. Just to also confirm that there are deficits even within markets in the larger East Africa, including places as far as Djibouti and Addis Ababa. Therefore, when we give this information to our traders, instead of selling their products at a throwaway price, they can connect. We are able to reduce the cross-border challenge or bureaucracy that would otherwise intimidate them. Also, connecting them with the markets helps us to deal with the logistics, so that they can come together, build the necessary volumes and seek partnerships with the markets across the border.

On prioritisation and protection of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the Ministry prioritises inclusion and protection of MSMEs operating in high-volume markets through giving support such as access to trade finance through our financial institutions, but also through Government interventions, including through the Kenya Development Corporation (KDC), among others. Also, business advisory services noting that not all of them may have the necessary knowledge especially in engaging in formal business. That information gap, sometimes, has been a hindrance. So, we need to provide the necessary advisory services, so that even as they engage banks, markets within and also outside the country, they have all the knowledge required. We also do training on standards, packaging and market requirements.

Lastly is that the Ministry is equally facilitating the formation of producer and trader business groups to strengthen bargaining power. So, taking one ton of carrots all the way to Kampala may not be economically viable. So, we need to find a way of bringing them together, benefiting from the economies of trade and also being able to help them to negotiate. This is because at the international level, we also need some of these skills that are necessary.

We also have initiatives by the warehouse receipting system. The key strategies undertaken by the Ministry through the Warehouse Receipt System Council include expansion of the warehouse receipt system. This is expanding the network of certified warehouse operators across key agricultural producing regions to support a structured commodity trading.

To clarify on warehouse receipting, we are trying to deal with the previous situation where farmers were forced to sell their produce in duress. This is because they need money urgently, the markets may not be favourable at that particular moment and they need money to meet their bills. Therefore, through this warehouse receipting system, the Government has licensed a number of warehouse receipt operators.

When you take your produce there, you get a document that is bankable. You can hold this document, it is one that banks are also ready to cash. We believe this is a game-changer especially for commodities that are not perishable, in other words they can stay for a month or two. Through this, a farmer or trader can get 30 or 40 per cent of the value then they can be able to meet their immediate needs. In the long run, they will not have sold their produce under desperation. The image and desperation arising from perishable commodities and lack of market solutions should not be allowed to go on. We believe that this is one of those systems that deserve the support of all of us.

Allow me to go to the issue of promotion of structured agricultural markets and reduction of post-harvest losses through a certification and regulation of warehouses and strengthening market access and financing through linkages between farmers, traders, financial institutions and commodity buyers, is one very important thing. So, when the farmer grows a commodity and they have no idea where to sell it, we have a big problem. When you have no financial institutions to support as we wait for the produce to be sold then, another problem comes in. So, the Ministry comes and provides that.

So, digitisation and market transparency are key instruments that can help us have information across and also to create transparency. This is so that a farmer does not end up getting the least while other players who have come in between get everything. I think protection of the producer is extremely important, so that they can produce more in days to come. The council operates through the use of electronic warehouse receipt system for tracking commodity deposits withdrawals and transactions. This enhances transparency, improves market information flow and strengthens confidence among market participants.

One of the known trends especially in agriculture is that when people produce a commodity wholeheartedly hoping to make a lot of money and they do not succeed in making money at that particular time. In the next season, they tend to reduce because of the dented confidence in the market. So, if we are able to have a continuous support for farmers, so that you can have access to the market then, we will be able to up production across the board.

Lastly is on strategic partnerships and stakeholder coordination. Through the warehouse receipt systems, we collaborate with county governments, farmer cooperatives, financial institutions and development partners to strengthen aggregation storage and market infrastructure. These partnerships enhance the resilience of agricultural markets and protect the livelihoods of traders and producers across the country.

I submit. Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

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

**Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda Odhiambo, SC:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I have one supplementary question that arises from part (a) of the question that I asked this year. CS, at response No.4, you state that the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) so far, five out of 17 have been completed. That rounds off to 29 per cent completion rate. Waziri, please, explain to us the current status of the other 12 CAIPs that the national Government partnered with the county governments to fund.

You have also stated that CAIPs are meant to provide facilities for aggregation of processing and marketing agricultural produce. Then, you referred to your county, Nakuru, as manufacturers of carrots. Waziri, I think carrots are grown.

Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Cabinet Secretary, you can respond to Sen. Ojienda's supplementary question.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Trade Investments, Trade and Industry** (Hon. Lee Kinyanjui): Thank you, Professor.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I think the point is that five of the 17 are ready for commissioning; we will share the dates. Some of them include Meru and Kirinyaga. I think they are a good case study of how the Government can align with the market and provide a solution. It does not mean the others are not complete, they are at various stages of completion.

Just for information, the CAIPs were a joint effort between the national Government and the county governments. The Government has provided 100 per cent of all the funds for the 17; the counties are to provide the balance. A similar question has been asked before the Senate. We will be able to provide a detailed answer on this issue regarding where each particular CAIP is, what the Government has disbursed and maybe the way forward. The lessons that we have learned over time will also be very important moving forward.

With respect to the carrots; I did mention that the CAIPs stands for County Aggregation and Industrial Parks. Aggregation simply means bringing the different farmers and produce together and for packaging. I think we need to review our understanding of manufacturing. Really, at the CAIPs level, what you are looking at is value addition such as packaging, sorting and all that. As we said, in a county that produces say, avocado or macadamia; one farmer will produce half a tonne, while another produces a quarter a tonne. We need a centre where they can all bring their produce for grading and packaging. This now makes it easy even for buyers to know where they can go to get for example 20 tonnes, whether it is Kirinyaga or Embu counties. The idea is to create mini or cottage industries.

Just for your information, we are also introducing cold rooms. For example, in a county such as Migori and many others that are in the fish space, that is perishable, we know that whenever fishermen catch their fish, they are desperate because there is nowhere to store their fish. Through these CAIPs, we will be able to manage the markets because you can have your produce for a week before the market regulates itself.

In areas such as Meru where we do other commodities such as vegetables, we have a fully functional cold room which can be run by a cooperative. Instead of you throwing your produce to the market when the prices are not favorable, you can go store it for a week or a month and then bring it later. Indeed, it may not be the hardcore manufacturing that we have, but in a way, it is part of the agro-processing that is necessary to help our farmers add value.

We have found that with very minimal processing, you are able to double or even sometimes triple the value. I think this is really where we are going. Also to encourage, instead of selling the potato, maybe you can do crisps; instead of selling just carrots, you can package them in long life form where they can stay for a month and so on. This is a conversation we want to have with our cooperatives, our farmers and our business people because the opportunity is with us here.

Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Cabinet Secretary. I take this opportunity to thank you for schooling Professor Senior Counsel Ojienda on the meaning of aggregation.

Sen. Boni Khalwale, proceed.

**Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Allow me to congratulate the Cabinet Secretary. Not many members in this House know that he was my colleague in Parliament from 2002 to 2013. Yes, now they know, especially junior people such as Sen. Kinyua.

Before I raise my question, I draw the attention of the Cabinet Secretary to the provision of the Constitution of Kenya, the Fourth Schedule, that divides functions between the national and the county governments. In the Fourth Schedule, the function of markets falls squarely with county governments. In Article 187(2), the Constitution goes further and tells you that-

“(2) If a function or power is transferred from a government at one level to a government at the other level—

(b) Constitutional responsibility for the performance of the function or exercise of the power shall remain with the government to which it is assigned by the Fourth Schedule”.

Now, as legislators, we have seen that the national Government, your Ministry, the Office of the President and the President himself, have taken the lead role in this particular CAIPs exercise and to a large extent, most of the markets in the country. Could you explain why the Cabinet is not abiding by the Constitution and is attempting to take away a function given to county governments?

Cabinet Secretary, you have been a very successful governor in Nakuru City County. You have just told us that the President is inviting us to join them when he will be launching other such functions. Why do you want us to come to be witnesses when you are breaching the Constitution of Kenya?

Last but not least---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Khalwale, you are only allowed one supplementary question.

**Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale:** Yes, it is the same question---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): But in a different format?

**Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale:** It is the same question---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): That question has been well understood.

**Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale:** That was (a) of that question, now I am going to (b).

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): (b) will be a second question, Sen. Boni Khalwale.

**Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale:** Most obliged, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Senator.

Sen. Eddy Oketch, proceed.

**Sen. Oketch Gicheru:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I will straight away go to the Cabinet Secretary. He has mentioned a number of areas that concern me in Migori County, which I will condense into the issue of market access, particularly on two commodities that you have mentioned maybe by passing, not specifically going to how they are currently manifesting in Migori County.

Bwana Waziri, the first commodity that I would like clarity on is how your Government is supporting market access on the issue of cottage industries on potatoes

that you just mentioned. In Getongonya, Mabera, there is a 100-tonne daily production potential for a potato factory that was built by the European Union (EU) and partly, your Government, that is not functioning. We have 6,500 farmers that are experiencing serious losses because of middlemen in Kuria. They produce these potatoes that you are talking about that can make crisps very well. However, this has been a pipe dream for the last five years. Could you please give us a status report on that particular commodity, the potato in Getongonya in Kuria West Constituency?

Then other commodity that you have also touched on, but has continued wallowing in Migori County, is actually gold, which is very important in the country. The Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs has been doing well in providing technical support to our artisanal miners. It has, to some extent, provided the technical assistance and support that is needed. However, Cabinet Secretary, I would like a status report from your Ministry. How are you supporting miners in Migori County, be it Kehancha, Masara and Nyatike in centralisation and value addition? Address the establishment of a joint refinery, as well as centralised export systems.

You indicated these will be key in terms of cottaging area. This will ensure that gold prices in Migori County are not left to middlemen and are not making money. Most of the miners are artisanal and lack the capacity to access better markets and infrastructure to make money out of their sweat in the gold mines.

Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Proceed, Sen. Mariam Sheikh.

**Sen. Mariam Omar:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary, Speaker, Sir. First, I thank the Cabinet Secretary. There are 13 county projects that have been flagged out under the CAIPs and Mandera County is among them. As the Cabinet Secretary alluded, the status of most of these projects is not known. As a House, we ask that he report the status of all the listed projects.

My question is this: Is the Cabinet Secretary aware that most of the completed CAIPs projects are not in use? This is due to lack of essential services such water and electricity and poor accessibility to markets. So, what is the way forward and measures to ensure these completed markets are put to use?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Sen. Mariam. You realise that the county governments also have a role to play, but we will allow the Cabinet Secretary to reply.

Proceed, Sen. Syengo.

**Sen. Beth Syengo:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. In the response to the primary question, the Cabinet Secretary mentioned that the Ministry helps county SMEs by linking to domestic and international markets. Can the Cabinet Secretary give examples of counties and SMEs that they have linked to international markets and the success rate of this initiative?

As he responds to that, in Kitui County, we produce a lot of ndengu. I would like to know the strategy the Ministry is using for value addition and marketing of ndengu from Kitui and other ndengu growing counties.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Senator. Maybe we can allow the Cabinet Secretary to answer the four supplementary questions and then we will take another four.

Proceed, Cabinet Secretary.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industrialisation** (Hon. Lee Kinyanjui): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Allow me to start with the questions as raised by the hon. Khalwale, and to confirm that we were together in the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

First, the responsibility of markets lies with the county governments. That is correct and is well articulated in the Constitution. However, we must also acknowledge what counties have achieved. Whenever county governments seek support to deliver a particular function, they can enter into an agreement with the national Government, which is the case with this market scenario.

When we say the markets are complete and we will commission them, this is in collaboration with county governments. In fact, governors have written to us to say they are complete and they want to launch these markets. Since the national Government contributed half the funds and county governments contributed half, we also have a responsibility to ensure that resources put by the national Government are put to good use. We must ensure the projects are complete. Most importantly, we must appreciate that although there are clear distinctions between national and county governments, the ordinary mwananchi wants service delivery and there are many components within the CAIPs that are delivered by the national Government. Example are power, water and roads. If you build a market that is logistically inaccessible, you may need a national road to access it, even though markets are a county function.

In our first phase of CAIPs implementation, we found many issues that involve both the national and county governments. In our second phase, we will incorporate the lessons we have learned. For example, we allocated Kshs500 million to all CAIPs, regardless of existing services yet some CAIPs already have power, roads and sewer systems. How do you compare that to one with none of those facilities?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, it is not possible to have a uniform allocation for all of them. These are some of the lessons we have learned in the course of this discussion.

The invitation by the national Government is in collaboration with counties. My Ministry's responsibility of ensuring government resources are used well and there is no wastage of public resources.

Allow me to move to Migori West. The hon. Member alluded that we have nearly 100 tonnes of potato potential. First, we must diversify our definition of food security. For the longest time, food security meant maize. If we lacked sufficient maize, we were deemed food insecure yet Migori, parts of Kisii, Nyandarua, Nakuru and many other areas have excess potatoes.

Working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, we are addressing one market challenge. The varieties grown in most areas have a very short shelf life. After harvesting, they last only two to three weeks. Therefore, farmers are always desperate. Other varieties have been introduced to the market. They may be slightly more expensive, but they are more productive and resilient. They can also serve

specialised markets, including big international franchises such as Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC).

What we need, first, is to help our farmers grow the right varieties. Secondly, connect them through contract farming to these big international companies. In the past, potatoes and oranges were imported. We are now working to identify which varieties need to be grown and how to connect farmers to markets.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, in my conversations with manufacturers in the potato sector, we are still importing potato paste from Egypt. It is required as a critical ingredient in making tomato paste. So, we are now working to identify the particular tomato that can be grown in some of our regions, link it to the farmers; to manufacturers and work together.

In the case of Migori, we are also encouraging business people to recognise the potential in our counties. Migori is an extremely rich county with gold, food and access to neighbouring countries. The main drive is to ensure that capital found in big cities is also channelled there. Through that, we have organised several business forums. These include one we held in Nyanza in 2023 that brought together five counties. We would be glad to hold one specific for Migori.

On artisanal miners, Mr. Temporary Speaker---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Just a moment, Cabinet Secretary. What is your point of intervention?

**Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC:** My point of intervention is on a statement by the Cabinet Secretary. Mr. Cabinet Secretary, please clarify how potatoes can be used to make tomato paste.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Ojienda, I can reply to that. You were not paying attention.

**Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC:** We are dealing with counterfeits. Is the Cabinet Secretary saying that Kenyans are using potatoes as tomatoes?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): No, Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda.

**Sen. Kinyua:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we are following what the Cabinet Secretary is saying, but as we do so, I am sure the good professor is busy on his phone getting instructions you know from who. So, please allow us to listen to the Cabinet Secretary.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you. Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, I agree with Sen. Kinyua. You did not listen to what the Cabinet Secretary was saying. Can I answer for the Cabinet Secretary? What he said was very clear. He said that potato paste is a requirement in making tomato paste. So, we are importing tomato paste from Egypt.

**Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda:** So, are we selling tomato paste?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): It is part of the ingredients.

**Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC:** Potatoes for tomatoes?

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): No, potato paste.

*(Sen. Okiya Omtatah spoke off record)*

It is a base ingredient. Thank you, Sen. Okiya Omtatah. Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, we will school you after the Senate session.

Cabinet Secretary, please proceed.

**The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry** (Hon. Lee Kinyanjui): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Allow me to say this for the benefit of my good professor. We were trying to say that there are gaps in the market and our role is to connect those market gaps and tell our farmers. If it is potatoes, we get the right potatoes that the industry is asking for and we do the same for tomatoes.

Some countries such as Thailand and others do not eat cassava. They use those products as a base in pharmaceuticals. That is where we want to take our potatoes and all the other products. In short, we want to bring value addition, so that we can move forward.

Lastly, allow me to respond to the question by the Hon. Member on Migori West. He asked a specific question on refinery for our miners. One of the biggest challenge we continue to face in Africa and Kenya in particular is that we have not developed the necessary infrastructure to do the testing and refining. We, therefore, end up selling our minerals to the big markets and fetch 30 or 40 per cent of their true value.

Kenya is trying to position itself as the refining hub for the region; the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and all the others. If you listened to the speech by our President in Tanzania, you will realise that these are some of the conversations that we want to entrench. There will be huge opportunity given the gold reserves that we have found and the rare minerals that have been identified in Kenya. Towards this front, we are working together with the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs. We intend to use our technology, people and necessary finance.

Kenya recently joined the prestigious group of countries that are recognised in mining. We now need to move from the artisanal mining category to professional and large-scale mining. This is going to be a game-changer.

Lastly, there was a question on the status of markets as being unknown. Our markets are not unknown. I only said that a specific question on the status of County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) has already been presented to us from the Senate. We are waiting for the right date to present it together with all the evidence required. Together, we will fill the gaps.

More importantly, we are learning a lot from these CAIPs. We have learnt that we need to align our CAIPs to reflect livestock as a key value chain in pastoralist counties. We also have to do the same for areas that are largely agricultural. We, therefore, cannot have one design for all of them. These are lessons and we cannot claim to be perfect in all these.

That we have certain markets and other government projects that have been built, but are not yet complete, therefore the Hon. Member was asking what we can do. I think this is where we were talking about working together with the counties because more often than not when we decide to build a market, we just look at the structure. We do not look at the sanitation. We do not look at the roads accessing there. We do not look at how far it is from the main road because markets are also about convenience. It is for that reason sometimes when you geographically misplace a market, people will leave that

grand market and go to trade outside because the geography is not aligned. Those are the issues or lessons that we have learnt. What we have encouraged our county governments and the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development is that we do a feasibility study before any market is placed to reduce chances of misalignment.

Also, there was a question from Hon. Syengo on specific examples of cooperatives or saccos that you have been able to connect across. We have Gatanga Tea Factory which has been visited by major tea buyers, Grammy Tea and Herbal Association from France and they are producers of the orthodox tea.

One of the things I would want to mention specifically about this orthodox tea is that Kenya is also positioning itself not just to do the traditional teas, but the high value teas and also to change the use of tea from merely being a beverage to also being a fine dining item. To this effect, we will be launching some of these products during the French Africa Summit that will be held in Kenya from next week. I believe some of these issues will be also be put across.

We also have Vivo Activewear, which is now expanding apparel to the USA and this has been facilitated through Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency (KEPROBA). I was specifically answering the question of providing examples. Allow me to inform the Hon. Member that in the general area of Machakos, Makueni and those regions, the mango pulp that comes from that region has been found to be very good. In fact, it has no comparison within the larger East and Central Africa.

Talking with the major manufacturers and processors, we would want to have this region producing the mango pulp for Coca-Cola and others. Therefore, our work is to try and see how we can work with the counties, increase production, have the right varieties and build linkages that can provide support to our farmers. I submit.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Cabinet Secretary. We will take the second set of questions. Sen. Kinyua, please proceed.

**Sen. Kinyua:** Thank you, Cabinet Secretary. My observation is this, I think from where you sit, you have an aerial view of what is happening in the whole country, but then you can map out. This is because in many of our counties, we have become a jack-of-all-trades, but master of none. Would you, from where you sit, because you can quickly see, you have data plus monitoring, you say which county is best for what.

Like, for example, Laikipia, we are best in beef production. Would we then have a situation like that where you classify these counties? Like, for example, you go to Cuba. Cuba is known, and they know they are not producing anything, but they know their cash crop is exporting doctors. As in our country, you as a Cabinet Secretary, because you have an aerial view, what would you recommend?

In your answering part (c), you have indicated you are collaborating with the Department of Housing. Can you confirm that our housing levy fund is the money that is used to construct the markets? Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Omtatah Okoiti, please proceed.

**Sen. Okiya Omtatah:** Hon. Secretary, thank you for your presentation. My main concern is these County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) that have come up in almost every county. Hardly have any feasibility studies been done. I have not seen a

single feasibility study. I have tried to get one from the CAIPs in Busia, in Nasewa. I have not seen a single feasibility study. I have tried to get one for Busia, the CAIPs in Busia, in Nasewa. There is no feasibility study. There is an industrial park there, I have tried to get a feasibility study for the industrial park, there is none. I have tried to get a spatial plan, there is none. I would have wanted to see a feasibility study whereby I am able to gauge the viability of the project before public money is invested in.

It is very good to talk about aggregation parks and talk about this, to talk about all those things I have spoken about, but where there is no scientific study showing me that one plus one equals to three, as Professor says. One plus one equals to two. I find it difficult to follow your presentation because you have reduced this thing to a very academic exercise. When I go to Busia CAIPs, I have been there, what hits me is that what is this thing going to do? How is it, where is the ecosystem within which this CAIPs is going to work? I visited the CAIPs in Ethiopia and they had very clear thematic areas, they were not one-size-fits-all, they were integrating regions in a very clear thematically organised park. When you looked at it, you would see that driving industrialisation, they have got incentives, such as in taxation. They also have incentives even in power provision to these positions.

So, I do not know---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Haji): Sen. Omtatah, please, put your question forward.

**Sen. Okiya Omtatah:** Yes, I am coming there.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Haji): Avoid debating the issue.

**Sen. Okiya Omtatah:** I have laid the background, so I do not know whether we have any feasibility study for any of those CAIPs, and what is this, if there are any, what is the scope of those feasibility studies, especially in terms of what incentives do they give to the producers, and what incentives do they give to the investors, and how do they integrate the country as a whole in terms of pushing the industrialisation project?

Thank you.

**Sen. Joe Nyutu:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity. My question to the Cabinet Secretary, but before I ask the question, allow me to also build a foundation on it. I have seen very many market buildings coming up in Murang'a, but most of them, and I can assure the Cabinet Secretary, especially storeyed ones, are not in use, because there is nobody to use them.

So, I join Sen. Omtatah in saying that if there is any feasibility study that is done, as the Cabinet Secretary claims, then I think there is a gap somewhere, because these structures just come up, even when they are not needed yet we have more needs. I drew the CS's attention to the lower region of Murang'a, where we grow a lot of mangoes and the county has interventions, but it is not able to mop up all the mangoes that are produced.

Therefore, what is the Ministry doing to see to it that it intervenes and supports the county government in mopping up mango production in lower Murang'a; the wards of Kakuzi, Mitubiri, Ithanga, Makuyu and Kambiti? This is because the past season there were loads and loads of mangoes rotting along the roads. As he does that, he has mentioned something very important, that they are assisting in providing business

advisory services, where they train on standards to, especially the common mwananchi. Do we have a structure? This is because I have not seen anybody in Murang'a being trained on this.

Mr. CS, what are you doing to see to it that avocado farmers are assisted? They have a region of Murang'a, Kandara, Gatanga, Maragua and parts of Kiharu.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is my question.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you. Sen. Mandago.

**Sen. Mandago:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. My supplementary question to the CS is on the issue of CAIPs. Allow me, Honourable Speaker, to just say this question would have been comprehensively answered if the CS had honoured the invitations and the summons of the Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industrialisation. I also wish to inform him that we are fining him Kshs500,000, which he should pay.

Consequently, we are summoning him to appear in the next session. This is because there are statements that have been pending since 2023, 2024 and 2025, to which the Ministry has not responded. These statements touch on the issue of County Aggregated Industrial Parks (CAIPs). Generally, the rate of completion of these projects is worrying. For example, when my committee visited Kilifi County, they found contractors merely slashing forests. In my own county, the project was procured above the recommended amount of Kshs500 million, at Kshs535 million. In Wajir County, it was procured at Kshs601 million, which is Kshs101 million above the recommended amount. There are therefore many issues my committee, on behalf of the House, would want to process, so that we can submit a comprehensive report.

My question to the Cabinet Secretary is this: while he may not be able to comprehensively respond today, could he at least tell us the status of the stalled project in Uasin Gishu? The national Government had already released all the funds, the contractor was paid, yet he has not been on site for a very long time. What is the Ministry doing about this?

**Sen. Kinyua:** On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Senator. Whom are you informing, Sen. Kinyua?

**Sen. Kinyua:** The Senator.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Mandago, would you wish to be informed?

**Sen. Mandago:** Yes, he is a good neighbour.

**Sen. Kinyua:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Cabinet Secretary has been informed that he has not been attending committee sessions despite being summoned. As we speak, he has already been fined. I seek your guidance to the House on whether we can require that before the Cabinet Secretary leaves, he pays his fine. Otherwise, we can look for Sen. Sifuna, Sen. Karungo Thang'wa and Sen. Eddy, who are very good in dealing with those matters.

*(Laughter)*

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Kinyua, that matter will be handled by the substantive Speaker when he comes to the House.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, please, proceed to respond.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry** (Hon. Lee Kinyanjui): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Allow me to respond to the further questions that have been raised, beginning with Hon. Omtatah. He asked whether feasibility studies were conducted, and if so, to present one for Busia and others.

I wish to confirm that there may not have been elaborate feasibility studies undertaken. However, what is important is this; during campaigns, we traverse the entire country and engage with communities. They tell us what they need. In this particular case, the President, during the run-up to the election, met hundreds of people, including mama mboga and other citizens. One of the constant requests was to be given dignity in their work, particularly in markets and through the CAIPs programme. That is itself a form of public participation and feasibility assessment, determining whether the community wants the project and whether it is needed. Therefore, when the President assumed office, we could not afford to spend another three years conducting feasibility studies.

**Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry** (Hon. Lee Kinyanjui): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, allow me to inform Sen. Omtatah---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Boni Khalwale, ordinarily, points of order are not supposed to be raised when the Cabinet Secretary is responding.

*(Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale spoke off record)*

Go ahead, Sen. Boni.

**Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, because Parliament keeps a record of everything, the HANSARD has captured that the Cabinet Secretary stated he went around with the President asking people in the countryside what they wanted.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Let me to stop you---

**Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Cabinet Secretary did not campaign with President William Ruto. How was he there, yet at that time, he was campaigning with Raila Odinga? He is misleading the country.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Boni Khalwale, maybe we heard differently. The Cabinet Secretary did not in any way mention that he accompanied the President during those visits. He said that the President did.

Let me stop you there because you have no point of order.

**Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale:** Point of information!

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): There is no need of informing him.

*(Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale spoke off record)*

What you said is not what the Cabinet Secretary said. You are out of order for raising a frivolous point of order.

Cabinet Secretary, please, proceed.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry** (Hon. Lee Kinyanjui): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I was trying to allude to the fact that sometimes nations bury themselves in big terms like feasibility and all that and we spend all our lifetime conducting feasibility studies on what we already know. Is there unemployment? Yes, do we need to create dignity and value to our people? The answer is, yes, and the people have spoken. I think that is what we are trying to do.

Just to draw an example. In 2002 when President Mwai Kibaki came to office, we implemented Free Primary Education (FPE). When it was implemented on day one, we literally opened all the doors. I am sure Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale remembers. No feasibility study was ever done. Was it a success? Yes.

Let us also agree that there are historical challenges we have had. Again, we may not want to spend money and take a lot of time because it is time for action. We also agree that CAIPs are not perfect, but we are on a journey to perfect them. That admission means that in our second batch, we will correct where there was an omission.

We do not want to bury ourselves in too many jargons while our people are suffering by the roadside and there is no proper sanitation. If there are tomatoes the whole day, by evening, they all go to waste. I do not think we need a feasibility to confirm that potatoes or tomatoes will wither by end of the day.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, on the issue of incentives, I agree with Sen. Omtatah. Indeed, we are working with the counties to attract. That is how we get to Migori, Uasin Gishu and all the others. County governments have an opportunity to create business forums to showcase opportunities that are there. What incentives are there? They should partner with banks, so that we can have more value addition.

In the western parts of the country, including Busia, Migori and all the others, our idea was that in the East African markets, we supply to them using our CAIPs in those particular parts of the country. They were export-oriented like the one in Busia.

Just for your information, in Busia, we have an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and a CAIP both at the same place. That is just trying to emphasise that we believe that the future of Kenya is also conquering regional markets that are useful to us.

I would like to state that we should not be too academic. I acknowledge that Sen. Omtatah is known to me through his writing as a serious poet and I salute him. We went through his poems when we were in---

**Sen. Joe Nyutu:** On a point of intervention.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Nyutu, there should be no intervention.

Cabinet Secretary, you have five minutes. Please go through the questions quickly.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry** (Hon. Lee Kinyanjui): Sen. Kinyua asked why we cannot map out the whole country, so that we do not end up having industries and doing agriculture everywhere. I think there are some counties that can do well.

Just for your information, certain countries such as China take like a whole province and decide that is where they will get, for example, potatoes. It is not just

agriculture, but just one particular variety because it takes a bit of infrastructure, planning, aggregation and extension officers to make sure that a particular commodity succeeds. Therefore, this is well in order.

Since driving of the economic agenda of a county is the responsibility of a governor, that is why we need to co-operate, so that when we say we want to have like five counties as key industrial centres, it does not mean that others are not important. They can do something else, including tourism and other issues. It is good to pick perhaps two or three that are more useful and run away with them. Some counties have done very well in logistics. We can support them to become the logistical hub for the entire East and Central Africa.

With respect to collaborating with the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, yes, we are working with them, and although we are not the implementing Ministry in terms of markets for housing, we work together for information and citation of where the market will be built. We continue to deal with emerging issues as and when they come. We consider markets to be an extension of the housing agenda, because when you build a house, those people will require a place to go and buy their vegetables and a place to go and work. If you just put people in houses without providing the necessary social infrastructure, you are actually creating ghettos, which will be centres of crime.

So, it is necessary to provide associated services such as markets, social centres, nursery schools for the children, including a basketball or place where they can play some sports and a bit of a dispensary. That is what we call unintegrated living. Otherwise, we will have high crime that we cannot be able to control, and this is part of that program.

Hon. Nyutu mentioned about the markets in Murang'a, and some of them that may be empty. I would like to really encourage all of us that when you are making economic decisions, it may be necessary to remove a bit of politics. This is what I have in mind. So, you find that a market is to be built in a particular place, but the citation of that market sometimes ends up not necessarily being an economic decision. Leaders want it in this location, or where they come from. The point is, a market is defined as where the buyers, sellers and the commodities are. So, if you take the physical building outside those three parameters, then that would be a white elephant.

So, we need to work with what is already in existence. That is why you find like on your way to Nakuru, there is a place called Soko Mjinga. There was no physical market, but there are buyers, sellers and commodities. So, the Government is now just placing the infrastructure, so that they can get inside. So, we need to align to what the public wants in citation of that.

In regards to mangoes from the lower parts of Murang'a County, I would like to confirm that, indeed, that is true. As I said with respect to Ukambani, we would want to make Kenya a major producer of mango pulp. This is really where the governors can also help us, so that we create enough mango plantations. We have the right climatic weathers there. More significantly is the fact that we already have markets for mango pulp. I do not think Kenya can satisfy the global demand for mango pulp for the next even 20 years.

So, it is time for leaders to come together, get the right varieties and infrastructure. We also have a company that is coming to set up here in Kenya that will be buying most of the fruits for sale into the European market. It is one of the biggest market connections to some of our retail outlets there.

Lastly, from Sen. Nyutu, is on training of farmers. We do it, sometimes on requests specifically by a cooperative, the governor or Savings and Credit Co-operatives (SACCOs), because each region has its own needs. So, we cannot say that we want to go and teach honey processing to a community that does not do that. It has to be tailor-made to meet the needs of the members.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the last one is from Sen. Mandago. I hear that I have been fined Kshs500,000. I will be launching a fundraising for this money, because I do not have it. However, the important part is that we were in Dar es Salaam, with the President, to open markets, including for the pulp and avocado. As you know, our traders---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Eddy, there are no interventions. What clarification are you seeking?

**Sen. Oketch Gicheru:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Cabinet Secretary will be leaving and I know the House might be rising soon. However, he has talked about a scientific issue that he tried to navigate very skillfully from Sen. Okiya Omtatah. Does that same navigation apply to the decision that the Ministry made recently on fuel? The Ministry made a decision to actually increase sulphur levels in our fuel from 10 milligrams per---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Eddy, let the Cabinet Secretary (CS) conclude. We are actually out of time.

**Sen. Oketch Gicheru:** Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of national concern. I want to wrap it up.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): It is, but you have raised it a bit late. We are already out of time, Eddy.

**Sen. Oketch Gicheru:** If you do not mind, could he just give us---

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): He does not have time even to respond.

**Sen. Oketch-Gicheru:** Could he give us the impact assessment, perhaps not now, he can commit to you whether he had done an impact assessment on the damages this might have in the economy in terms of pollution and damages on our vehicles, so that we just know that these standards will not have impact in the country.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Very well, Senator. We have understood you.

Cabinet Secretary, maybe you can just make a commitment that you will respond in writing.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry** (Hon. Lee Kinyanjui): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I was just responding to Hon. Mandago that our inability to attend yesterday's session is because we were part of the Presidential delegation. We had already written a letter to that effect.

Tanzania is a key trading partner with Kenya. As you know, we have had many trading issues with Kenyans having challenges there. So, it was not possible for us not to attend and a letter to that effect had already been sent.

Lastly, on the Uasin Gishu stalled CAIP, I want to assure the hon. Member that a substantive question has already been asked. I will be able to present it as early as next week, as soon as you give me the right timing.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Cabinet Secretary, I will give you one minute to conclude because we have to rise.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry** (Hon. Lee Kinyanjui): Thank you. We will be able to provide both the evidence, pictorial and otherwise. Also, to confirm that working with the EACC, we will also be doing an audit for all the CAIPs to ensure that there is good use of public resources.

With respect to the last question asked by the hon. Member, I wish to say that the standard fuel that you are talking of was the fuel you were consuming for the last 10 years until August last year. I do not know how many vehicles went bad. So, we had just raised the standards for our Sulphur from 50. We lowered to 10, in August last year. So, we have been consuming the level we have now reverted to ever since, until August last year. So, there is nothing new we have brought. It is just that the sourcing of petroleum products across the world is a major challenge.

Also worth noting, is that refineries across the Middle East have been thoroughly damaged. So, this is not a problem that is going to be there just now, but in the foreseeable maybe one or two years, where our sourcing options have been thoroughly compromised. Between having perfect quality and availability, we chose to have availability.

I want to assure you that most of the countries within the sub-Saharan Africa are using the level we are talking about and we have not had any reported challenges. We just wanted to be a frontrunner in the area of environmental protection.

I submit.

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

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Temporary Speaker** (Sen. Abdul Haji): Hon. Senators, it is now 1.03 p.m. Having concluded the business for which I extended the hours of sitting, pursuant to Standing Order No.34(2) (a), the Senate stands adjourned until later today, Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

*[The Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry  
(Hon. Lee Kinyanjui) was ushered out of the Chamber]*

The Senate rose at 1.03 p.m.