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Wednesday, 14th October 2026

(The House met at 9.30 a.m.)

*[The Temporary Speaker
(Hon. Peter Kaluma) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

QUORUM

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, I have confirmed that there is no quorum in the House. Serjeant-at-Arms, ring the Quorum Bell for 10 minutes.

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

We now have quorum to start business.

PAPERS

Deputy Whip of the Majority Party.

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

1. National Government Constituencies Development Fund Board Report for the First Quarter of the 2026/27 Financial Year.
2. Reports of the Auditor-General and Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2025 and the certificates therein in respect of the following:
 - (a) Moi Nyabohanse Girls' Senior School.
 - (b) Kwale High School.
3. Reports of the Auditor-General and Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2026 and the certificates therein in respect of the following:
 - (a) Danida Primary Health Care (PHC) Support Program – State Department for Medical Services.
 - (b) Kenya Industry and Entrepreneurship Project (IDA CREDIT No. 6268-KE) - State Department for Industry.
 - (c) Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project (IDA Credit No.6768-KE) – Information and Communications Technology Authority.
 - (d) Eastern Africa Regional Transport, Trade and Development Facilitation Project (IDA Credit No. 5638-KE) – Kenya Revenue Authority – Information and Communications Technology Authority.
 - (e) European Widows' and Orphans Pension Fund - National Treasury.
 - (f) Kenya Devolution Support Programme II (Grant/Credit No. IDA - 7447-KE - County Government of Vihiga.
 - (g) Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Project Grant/Credit ID 6072 – Ministry of Health.

- (h) Kenya Secondary Education Equity and Quality Improvement (SEEQIP) Program IDA Loan Credit Number 7642-KE and Grant No. E376-KE - Teachers Service Commission.
- (i) Global Fund Project - to contribute to achieving Vision 2030 through universal access to comprehensive HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Care Grant Number: KEN -H-TNT-4147 – National Syndemic Disease Control Council.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS

(The Temporary Speaker consulted with clerks-at the Table)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Feisal Bader.

PAYMENT RATES FOR INVIGILATION OF 2025 NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Hon. Feisal Bader (Msambweni, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to request for a Statement.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Education regarding the payment rates for supervision and invigilation of the 2025 national examinations and assessments.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, teachers and other professionals, including security officers, play a crucial role in the administration of national examinations and assessments across the country. They serve as centre managers, supervisors, invigilators and security personnel, ensuring the integrity and smooth conduct of examinations. However, the payment rates for these activities remained stagnant despite the rising cost of living. Notably, the payment rates provided for supervision and invigilation of the 2025 national examinations and assessments replicate those applied during the 2023 examinations, despite the fact that the rates utilised in 2024 were slightly higher than those of 2023. Centre managers are often compelled to seek temporary accommodation near examination collection points to ensure timely collection of exam materials, while supervisors have to make financial sacrifices to oversee multiple sets of examinations at designated centres.

Despite such dedication, the current remuneration remains grossly inadequate and no longer commensurate with the magnitude of their responsibilities. Although the slight upward adjustment in payment rates over the years is commendable, the rates still fall far short of providing fair compensation for the duties performed.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, it is against this background that I request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Education on the following:

1. Measures put in place by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Kenya National Examinations Council, to sustainably review the remuneration structure for supervision and invigilation of the national examinations and assessments.
2. The steps undertaken to ensure equitable compensation for personnel involved in the supervision and invigilation of national examinations, including mechanisms to motivate them and enhance their efficiency.

I thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Education, Hon. Melly. Do we have any senior Member of that Committee?

Hon. Rebecca Tonkei (Narok County, UDA): Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is that Hon. Tonkei? Do you serve in that Committee? When are we getting the response to this request?

Hon. Rebecca Tonkei (Narok County, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, we will bring the response in two weeks. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Feisal, you will get a response to your Request for a Statement in two weeks. Is that satisfactory?

(Hon. Feisal Bader nodded in agreement)

Hon. Dorothy Ikiara, what is the matter?

Hon. Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I just want to add my voice to that important Request for Statement.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Unfortunately, we have passed it. The Temporary Speaker is now *functus officio* in law. We cannot go back to it. I regret that. I ought to have noticed you in good time. I thought you were standing as a Member of the Departmental Committee on Education, not to piggyback on the Statement. The rules of the House are such that when a matter is done with, the House cannot go back to it.

Let us now have the second Request for a Statement by Hon. Mohammed Adow.

PROLONGED POWER BLACKOUT IN HABASWEIN AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Hon. Mohammed Adow (Wajir South, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)C, I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Energy regarding the prolonged power blackout in Habaswein Town and surrounding areas served by the Habaswein hybrid power plant in Wajir South Constituency.

The plant, constructed by Hypertech Electricals at a cost of approximately Ksh639 million and Kenya Power Company, was commissioned on 1st June 2026. However, barely four months later, three of its four engines developed mechanical faults and were taken to Nairobi for repairs where they remain to date. The situation worsened following an explosion and fire at the plant's solar farm on 28th of September 2026, which reportedly destroyed several solar panels and DC converters.

The blackout affected Habaswein Town and surrounding communities served by the plant across Wajir South and Wajir West constituencies in Wajir County; Lagdera Constituency in Garissa County and Isiolo South Constituency in Isiolo County. The outage also disrupted water supplies because many boreholes depend on electricity for pumping, leaving households, hospitals, schools and other essential institutions facing acute water shortages.

Concerns have also arisen over equipment quality, contractor accountability, and the reliability of similar projects undertaken by Hypertech Electricals in Eldas in Wajir County, Elwak in Mandera County, and Merti in Isiolo County.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, it is against this background that I request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Energy on the following:

1. What are the causes of the prolonged power blackout affecting Habaswein and surrounding areas in Wajir South and Wajir West constituencies, Lagdera

Constituency in Garissa County, and Isiolo South Constituency? When will power be restored and what emergency measures are being undertaken to maintain water supplies and essential services?

2. Were the engines and other equipment installed at the plant new and compliant with contractual specifications? Why did the three engines fail shortly after commissioning? Where are they being repaired? The Statement should include verification reports on whether repairs are being undertaken at a *jua kali* workshop in Babadogo, Nairobi, rather than an authorised parking service centre.
3. Investigations being undertaken concerning the engine failures and the solar farm explosion and fire on 28th of September 2026; if an independent technical and forensic audit can establish the causes, determine whether the equipment defects or negligence were involved; and identify those responsible for the resulting losses.
4. What contingency measures are in place to independently inspect similar projects being undertaken by Hypertech Electricals in Eldas, Elwak and Merti and what action will be taken against any parties found responsible, including enforcement of warranty obligations and recovery of public funds spent on rectifying contractor related failures?

I thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon Peter Kaluma): Hon. Adow, what is the source of power in Habaswein, Wajir? The last time I was in Wajir, I was told the national power grid terminates somewhere in Garissa.

Hon. Mohammed Adow (Wajir South, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, the national grid, at the moment is at Dadaab. Anywhere beyond there relies solely on diesel generated power and a bit of solar. So, hybrid stations are now becoming common, but they are few and far in-between. We are seeing a situation where contractors may have brought us not new engines, but refurbished ones. According to reports from workers on the ground, the engines make very strange noises and use a lot of oil. They have to replenish oil in between scheduled services, something that has created concern that they might have not brought new engines to the hybrid station.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon Peter Kaluma): Thank you for the information. The Chairperson, Departmental Committee in charge of energy.

Hon. David Gikaria (Nakuru Town East, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

Because of the sensitivity of the matter, particularly if it is affecting some very important public institution and more so when he talks about the quality of the generators, it is important for the Ministry to give a response within a week so that we can address some of the very pertinent issues that he has brought up.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon Peter Kaluma): Hon. Adow, are you satisfied with the timing?

Hon. Mohammed Adow (Wajir South, ODM): Yes, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon Peter Kaluma): The response to the Request for a Statement, Chairperson, shall be in the House within a week from today. Within means, even in the afternoon today, if it is ready.

Hon. Makali Mulu, you did not request to say something before we dispensed with the matter. Because of rank, I will indulge you.

Hon. (Dr) Makali Mulu (Kathiani, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I just want to remind you that before we went on recess, the Speaker directed that we have a session with the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, CEO of Kenya Power Company (KPC) and the

CEO of the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC). The Members have many issues related to electricity that I do not think a specific Question can solve. I just want to remind you that it is now time you acted on that, so that we can sort out these issues once and for all.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon Peter Kaluma): The matter is on the desk of the Speaker. When necessary directions are made, the Cabinet Secretary, under the Standing Orders, will be here for additional information and questions from the Members. The matter of energy is very personal across the country, Chairman.

Again, because of rank, I want to indulge Hon. Robert Mbui, the Deputy Leader of the Minority side to ask his Question.

Question 026/2026

STAFFING OF TEACHERS IN THE COUNTRY

Hon. Robert Mbui (Kathiani, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 42G, I rise to ask Question 026/2026 to the Teachers Service Commission. Could the Commission:

1. Provide a report on the staffing requirements in each of the 290 constituencies in the country, indicating the number of teachers required, the number that have been posted, the staffing deficit or surplus, and the deficit as a percentage of the required staffing levels?
2. Explain the factors contributing to the uneven distribution of teachers across schools whereby some schools have been noted to have excess teachers, while others experience severe shortages despite having comparable staffing needs?
3. State the immediate measures being undertaken to address regional disparities and inequality of teacher distribution, including the skewed teacher allocation, and very importantly, the alleged political interference in teacher recruitment and deployment?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon Peter Kaluma): Hon. Charles Nguna.

Hon. Charles Nguna (Mwingi West, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I want to ride on the Question by Hon. Robert Mbui.

Most counties, especially around Nairobi, are overstaffed, but in the eastern region, Kakamega or upcountry, you find that most schools have, say, three teachers against nine classrooms. This disparity should be addressed appropriately to ensure that every child has access to education, as enshrined in our Constitution. We need this Question to be answered. I am sure most Members of Parliament are interested in ensuring that schools are adequately staffed so that every student, or rather pupil, has access to proper education.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Member for Nandi County will be followed by ranking Member for Naivasha, Hon. Jayne Kihara.

Hon. Cynthia Muge (Nandi County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to add my voice to this very important Question sought by Hon. Mbui. The disparity and inequality are deeper than what is being painted right now. The Question should explore the nitty-gritty of this matter. There are other constituencies, especially where I come from, where every director, even non-classroom teachers, come from a specific constituency. Every promotion has to go to a specific constituency!

I support this Question so that we can achieve greater equality and uniformity in the distribution of teachers. You can hardly explain how a school with 78 students has 24 teachers, while a school with 1,400 students has only 14 teachers. It does not make any sense, and this matter has to be looked into. We will provide the exact and detailed information regarding the

schools experiencing these disparities. Unfortunately, the students who attend populous institutions are the ones that come from very needy backgrounds. Because of this situation, they are further disadvantaged by the allocation of inadequate skilled teachers to those institutions.

This is a matter that we have not responded to adequately for the sake of the people back at home. I am grateful that Hon. Mbui has raised this issue so that it can be looked into conclusively. You must put your foot down properly on this matter so that, first, we receive the response in time and, secondly, the response is adequate and conclusive thus enabling us to address this disparity altogether.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): This is a grave issue. Let us now grant audience to Hon. Jayne Kihara to contribute.

Hon. Jayne Kihara (Naivasha, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I congratulate Hon. Mbui because this is a very pressing issue in our schools. We also need to find out whether there is a policy governing the posting of teachers. Teachers are sometimes posted to schools, and when they assume that the place is remote, they refuse to go, thereby leaving the schools understaffed because of its location. Even as I support, I wonder why he did not ask whether it is the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) or State House that recruits teachers. We heard from our own Hon. Speaker that he takes Members to State House to be given appointment letters, which they eventually sell. That question should also have been raised so that we can get to know exactly what happens.

Hon. Charles Nguna (Mwingi West, WDM): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Charles Ngusya, what is out of order?

Hon. Charles Nguna (Mwingi West, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, the issues of recruitment and appointment of teachers lie strictly on TSC. I have never heard of any teacher receiving an appointment letter from State House. I, therefore, request Hon. Jayne Kihara to withdraw that statement because State House is a State organ and a public office that is not mandated to recruit teachers.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, as I have said, this is a grave matter. Let us avoid introducing extraneous issues. I currently have four secondary schools that are sitting examinations without principals. Several of them have only one TSC teacher, yet they are sitting the same examinations as other schools with about 30 teachers, most of whom do not have work to do. The media recently reported on a school where 14 teachers were teaching a single student. What we are discussing here is equity and fairness for all the children of Kenya. I request that we stick to the Question at hand.

(Hon. Dorothy Muthoni spoke off the record)

Hon. Dorothy Ikiara, this is not a debate.

Hon. Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I agree with your sentiments. Let us not politicise matters education. The issues raised are very pertinent. We need equity and fair distribution of teachers across the country, so that every child in every school is given equal opportunities. I support this sentiment. The State pays teachers, but it is TSC that employs, distributes, and disciplines teachers. That is their mandate under Article 237 of the Constitution of Kenya.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Why is there so much interest in this matter of education?

(Hon. Hilary Kosgei spoke off the record)

Hon. Hilary, what is it? I will allow two more Members.

Hon. Hilary Kosgei (Kipkelion West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, what you are saying happens across all constituencies. The TSC is not making matters any better because we have regional and county directors. Most of the time, when you ask them to post principals to these schools, they say they have to prepare a matrix and send it to the headquarters. This then has to wait for the TSC Board to sit and approve those changes, yet time is passing, students are suffering, and help is not reaching our schools. When devolution was introduced, it was supposed to be a mirror for every other function to be devolved and action being acted upon on the ground. This would make it easier for these institutions to get principals, deputy principals, and an equitable share of teachers.

I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): There is the Member there whom I cannot see clearly. Member for Ganze.

Hon. Kenneth Tungule (Ganze, PAA): Ahsante sana, Mhe. Spika wa Muda. Nampongeza Mhe. Mbui kwa kuleta hili swali hapa Bunge. Kusema kweli, hili ni jambo ambalo limetatiza sana sehemu nyingi.

Nikiongea kuhusu Ganze, kuna shule nyingi kule ambazo hazina walimu wa kutosha. Ukitembea katika maeneo mengine, utapata shule zina walimu wengi kushinda wanafunzi. Wakati mwingi, tumejaribu kutafuta suluhisho kwa kujaribu kuuliza ni kwa nini mambo kama haya yanafanyika, lakini TSC haijakuwa ya msaada kwetu. Naunga mkono vile Mheshimiwa amesema. Kwanza, tupate zile *staffing gaps* katika kila shule na zaidi ya yote, pia tupate mwelekeo ni njia gani ambazo TSC itatumia kuhakikisha kwamba shule zote katika maeneo Bunge 290 zinapata walimu inavyostahili. Ahsante.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is that Hon. Edith Nyenze? You are recognised to make your contribution.

Hon. Edith Nyenze (Kitui West, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for this opportunity. The TSC should ensure that systems are in place and that teachers are distributed equitably throughout Kenya. There is a lot of discrimination, especially in some areas even when it comes to the employment of teachers. You find that someone who left college in 2009 or 2010 is not yet employed, while someone who graduated a few years ago is already employed. The TSC has a lot of work to do to ensure there is equity in recruitment because some of these teachers may reach the age of 45 before they are employed. There is no equality. The TSC should do its best to ensure there is equity in schools.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): I cannot see that Member. Is that the Member for Kigumo?

Hon. Joseph Munyoro (Kigumo, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. That Question by Hon. Mbui has come at an opportune time.

Another issue I would like us to address is who should be held responsible for determining the number of students in a class and how many students should a teacher teach in each class. The reason is that this kind of distribution where some schools have few students and many teachers while big schools have few teachers is very prevalent. I have a school where I am trying to get teachers because they have all disappeared because of the location. This is very unfair to those students. That Question must address responsibility. If there is unfair distribution of teachers, who is responsible? Is it the Regional Director of Education or the TSC? Who is answerable?

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Sabina Chege.

Hon. Sabina Chege (Nominated, JP): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I would like to support what my colleagues have raised. The big question we need to look at is the work of the TSC. I am not sure whether they sorted out the issue of leadership, particularly the position of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

When we used to go to school, the Ministry of Education worked very closely with the TSC. We even had school inspectors who would come and check how teachers were teaching. They would look at all these issues we are talking about like the number of students and teachers in a school. However, once TSC became an independent commission, there has been a problem. This House needs to address TSC. It is unfair to have students without teachers in some schools while others have excess teachers.

We need the Departmental Committee on Education to summon TSC. Perhaps, we can have a committee of the whole House where Members can raise the real issues happening in their constituencies. The TSC seems to be very far removed from the reality on the ground. Initially, when teachers performed very well, they earned promotions and could replace a headteacher who had left a school. However, the TSC has now made it very difficult to be promoted and to replace headteachers. It has become a very hard task which opens up room for corruption.

I request the Departmental Committee on Education to take this matter seriously. If possible, we can have a committee of the whole House where Members can come and put some sense into TSC, so that they can know what is happening on the ground.

I thank Hon. Mbui for bringing this Question.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): I will give the opportunity to Hon. Julius Sunkuli because of rank.

Hon. Julius Sunkuli (Kilgoris, KANU): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I would like to emphasise the matter raised by the Member for Kigumo because it affects staffing. Can the Ministry tell us the policy on the number of students per class? As the Member for Nandi said, some schools have 1,400 students while others have 100.

This creates chaos because some schools over-enrol students. This denies other schools the students they need. This disparity, where one school has 1,400 students while another one has only 20 or 100, should be addressed through the Ministry's policy. We should also not allow overstaffing in some schools which kills other schools. It is good to balance the number of students enrolled in particular schools.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, we all agree that this is a very serious matter. Where is the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Education? Hon. Kiplagat, do you want to say something?

Hon. David Kiplagat (Soy, UDA): Yes, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Please do. There is a problem with the technology. Try to locate a functional microphone.

Hon. David Kiplagat (Soy, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Although this microphone seems to be a bit short, I will use it.

It is very important for the TSC to employ teachers equitably. You will realise that in some counties, the recruitment of P1 teachers has only been done to those who graduated in 2013 or 2014. However, in some counties, recruitment is being done to those who graduated in 2025. Some teachers are ageing. Some of them are 45 years old and above, yet they are still waiting to be employed and get a payslip. It is high time the TSC recognises that teachers have a retirement age and develop a policy to ensure that old teachers are absorbed so that they can enjoy their profession before retiring.

Secondly, TSC needs to ensure that recruitment across the country is equitable. If teachers who graduated in 2025 have been employed, this should be the case across the board. There is no way that Uasin Gishu County is employing teachers who graduated in 2016 and 2017 and some other counties are employing teachers who graduated in 2025. It is very unfair. We call upon the TSC to style up and ensure equity in the recruitment of teachers, taking into account their age and distribution, so that all counties are at par.

It is not a crime to be born in Kisumu County and Uasin Gishu County. You have to wait for 10 years to be employed in Uasin Gishu, but you wait for one or two years to be employed in other counties. That is the unfairness that needs to be addressed.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Do we have the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Education? Because of the seriousness of this matter, including the additional issues raised by Hon. Kiplagat, I would like to emphasise some things.

Hon. Kiplagat has talked about teachers who have not been employed from 2014. In Homa Bay Town Constituency, I know some teachers who graduated in 2008 and 2009, but have never been employed. We have teachers who graduated last year and are already serving under the TSC. This is a very grave matter. It is not only about recruitment, but also promotions. Some teachers retire at the entry level, while others are promoted to the next grade, although we allocate money for promotions each year. Because of the seriousness of this matter, I direct that the Question be handled by the Departmental Committee on Education. We need a response on the Floor of the House within two weeks.

I urge all the Members of the House to attend the Committee sittings to deal with this matter. Ideally, if our Standing Orders allowed it, I would have directed the TSC to appear directly before us. However, Hon. Members, you are aware of our limitations. The TSC is an independent commission. If we were to call the Cabinet Secretary here instead, he might not answer many of the questions regarding the TSC. Therefore, this committee arrangement provides us with the best opportunity to represent our people and effectively address this issue.

On the day you designate to handle this matter, please, notify all the Members who are interested in attending. If you require additional seating space or facilities, the House will make the necessary arrangements so that we can sit in these chambers and address this matter conclusively. I hope I am making myself clear to Hon. Tonkei, who is standing in on behalf of the Committee Chairperson.

Hon. Rebecca Tonkei (Narok County, UDA): Sure, Hon. Temporary Speaker. We will take up the matter.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Within two weeks, we require a joint sitting with the Teachers Service Commission and the Cabinet Secretary, to which all the Members must be permitted not only to attend, but also to participate actively. This will ensure that pressing issues such as why teachers are not employed on a first to graduate, first to be-recruited basis can be addressed conclusively. Deputy Leader of the Minority Party.

Hon. Robert Mbui (Kathiani, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. In view of your Communication, it implies that we would need to extract the relevant *Hansard* records so that the comments of all the Members are taken into consideration. The matter has been extensively expanded. Members have truly done justice to it. Therefore, by the time we meet with the Committee to hear from them, they will be prepared with a broader response that incorporates all the issues raised by all of you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): It is so ordered. This is a matter affecting the entire country. Hon. Tonkei, I have given my directions. What do you still want to comment on?

Hon. Rebecca Tonkei (Narok County, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I wish to comment on the issue concerning the Teachers Service Commission. It is, indeed, true that the mandate to recruit, discipline, and promote teachers rests with the TSC as provided under Article 237 of the Constitution. Furthermore, we should acknowledge that there is currently no leadership vacuum at the Commission, as an acting Chief Executive Officer is in place. The TSC has also officially advertised the position of a substantive Chief Executive Officer.

However, you will be surprised to learn that some of us speaking here represent constituencies or counties that are drastically overstaffed, while other regions face severe teacher shortages, a reality many people remain unaware of.

As a Member of the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education, I have seen schools, particularly C1 schools in Central Kenya, appear before us. While some of these institutions are heavily overstaffed, others are left with no choice, but to hire teachers independently through their Parents Teachers Associations (PTA). This issue will be handled properly because we will have the Teachers Service Commission appearing before us, as well as the Ministry of Education, so that these issues are brought to book. This will ensure that all counties in the country get the right representation, leadership and teachers, so that all our children are taught fairly.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Did you say you sit in the Departmental Committee on Education or the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education?

Hon. Rebecca Tonkei (Narok County, UDA): I sit on both.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Oh, you sit on both?

Hon. Rebecca Tonkei (Narok County, UDA): Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): So, the undertaking you make is on behalf of the Chairperson?

Hon. Rebecca Tonkei (Narok County, UDA): Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, we will leave it at that. We intend to attend the Committee sitting to address this issue, which affects the entire country and the proper education of all our children, wherever they are. We will go back to requests for statements. Hon. Fatuma Masito will now put forth her request.

REQUESTS FOR STATEMENTS

ARBITRARY DISCONNECTION OF ELECTRICITY IN KWALE COUNTY

Hon. Fatuma Masito (Kwale County, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker for giving me this opportunity to raise a Statement regarding the arbitrary disconnection of electricity in Kwale County.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No.44(2)(c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Energy regarding the arbitrary disconnection of electricity in Kwale County.

Access to electricity is a critical enabler of socio-economic development, particularly in rural areas, where it supports small businesses, enhances security and facilitates essential services.

In recent weeks, several villages across Kinango, Lunga Lunga and Matuga sub-counties in Kwale County have reported abrupt disconnection of electricity without prior notice, as required under the law. The Kenya Power and Lighting Company has indicated that the disconnections have been occasioned by intensive inspection exercises aimed at curbing illegal connections.

While this mandate is important for safeguarding the integrity of the national grid, concerns have arisen regarding the arbitrary manner in which the disconnection exercise is being implemented. The KPLC is reportedly penalising entire communities at the expense of isolated rogue customers with suspected meter irregularities.

In addition, residents have reported widespread exploitation, where unscrupulous staff and rogue contractors allegedly demand unofficial payments to restore power or regularise legitimate rural electrification connections installed under Government schemes.

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

1. A detailed report on the extent and reasons for the ongoing mass disconnections of electricity across villages in Kwale County.
2. Clarification of the criteria and verification mechanisms used by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company to distinguish between genuine and illegal power connections, including those installed under various Government programmes.
3. Measures being taken to investigate allegations of extortion by the Kenya Power and Lighting officers accused of demanding money from residents as a condition for restoring electricity supply.
4. The immediate measures being put in place to restore electricity supply to the affected villages and fast-track the regularisation of informal or irregular grid connections.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Yes, nobody wants to ride on this one. The Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Energy.

Hon. David Gikaria (Nakuru Town East, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. True to the fact, I want to commit that we will provide that response in a week's time. I also want to mention that illegal connections are one of the problems affecting electricity supply. However, the response will be provided here.

Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai (Kitui South, JP): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): What is out of order, Hon. Rachael Nyamai?

Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai (Kitui South, JP): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker for your indulgence. I would like to ride on this matter raised by Hon. Masito.

I have a very serious matter in my constituency. Mutomo and Ikutha are the biggest towns in Kitui South Constituency and we have been without electricity for two consecutive days. We do not know what has happened. I have tried to speak to the regional director. I have also spoken to the director in Kitui, and they have said that they are trying to change their systems. *Wananchi* cannot understand why they do not have electricity in Mutomo, Ikutha, Ikanga, Kamutei, Kanziko and Mutha. It is total darkness. It is not sustainable. The KPLC must act as soon as possible because members of the public have started engaging in activities that require power, and we cannot do without it.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Woman Representative for Taita Taveta County, Hon. Haika.

Hon. Haika Mizighi (Taita Taveta County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I also want to joyride on the same because I have a big problem with frequent power blackouts in Taveta. Business people are really suffering. I think Kenya Power should up their game. In most cases, I think the substations are overwhelmed. We need new substations. I thank Hon. Fatuma Masito for raising that issue which we are also experiencing in Taita Taveta. As the Committee considers the issue of Kwale, I also beg them to look into the same in Taita Taveta, especially in Taveta.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Member for Turkana East.

Hon. Nicholas Ng'ikor (Turkana East, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I also want to ride on this because of the seriousness of this matter of electricity in this country. My constituency, Turkana East, which borders Turkana South, has the issue of electricity affecting three sub-counties, that is Aroo Sub-County, Turkana South Sub-County and Turkana East Sub-County. This electricity issue has affected the morgue at the Turkana South Sub-County hospital and people are no longer taking bodies there because of electricity blackouts. They are confused about where to take bodies because the Lodwar County Referral Hospital is about 300 kilometres away from my constituency.

As the Committee looks into the issue in Kwale, they should also look into the issue of electricity blackouts in Turkana South and Turkana East constituencies, so that those facilities can get electricity to keep those bodies as the families arrange to plan for the burial of their deceased kin.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Energy, did you undertake to bring the response within one week?

Hon. David Gikaria (Nakuru Town East, UDA): Yes, Hon. Temporary Speaker. As you directed, the Cabinet Secretary should come here and address some of these very pertinent issues that Members are asking.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Yes. That will be reviewed and it will be good for all of us. I can tell you that there are schools in my constituency that are older than me, which do not have electricity to date. They were established before I was born. I have mentioned a number of them to you. The response will come to the House within the time prescribed as the possibility of the Cabinet Secretary coming before the House to address as many of these issues as possible awaits direction from the Speaker.

Next is the Member for Kigumo, Hon. Joseph Munyoro, but Hon. Members, allow me to first welcome Emerald School from Dagoretti South Constituency. That is the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation, Hon. John Kiarie's, constituency, Nairobi City County. They are in the Public Gallery. They are welcome to the House to observe the proceedings of the National Assembly.

The Member for Kigumo will now speak.

REVENUE LEAKAGES, TAX BASE EXPANSION AND TAX FRAUD IN KENYA

Hon. Joseph Munyoro (Kigumo, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning regarding the magnitude of revenue leakages in Kenya and the effectiveness of measures undertaken by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to expand the tax base, enhance compliance and combat tax evasion, fraudulent Value Added Tax (VAT) claims, Excise-Duty fraud and illicit trade.

The Government's capacity to finance public services, infrastructure and national development programmes depends on effective domestic revenue mobilisation. It is, therefore, crucial that legally due taxes are collected efficiently and that existing revenue leakages are sealed, without imposing an undue burden on compliant taxpayers. Despite measures such as the Electronic Tax Invoice Management System (eTIMS), digital tax administration, data analytics, taxpayer mapping and enhanced enforcement, revenue leakages remain a concern reported that its Tax Base Expansion programme generated Ksh24.9 billion in the 2024/2025 Financial Year, while its iWhistle Programme facilitated the collection of Ksh6.8 billion from 821 cases during the same period. Nevertheless, national revenue collections for the 2025/2026 Financial Year amounted to Ksh3,198.8 billion against a target of Ksh3,259.0 billion, largely due to shortfalls in ordinary revenue.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, of particular concern are alleged fraudulent VAT claims arising from the use of fictitious invoices and irregular input-tax credits, alongside Excise-Duty fraud characterised by counterfeit stamps, unlicensed production, under-declaration and smuggling. In 2021, KRA estimated that Ksh70.3 billion had been lost to excise-sector tax evasion over the preceding five years. These challenges underscore the need for Parliament to establish the current magnitude of revenue losses and evaluate the effectiveness of existing interventions in delivering measurable and sustainable results.

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

1. Estimated magnitude of revenue leakages and tax compliance gaps over the last five financial years, disaggregated by principal tax heads and distinguishing tax fraud and evasion from administrative weaknesses and revenue foregone through tax exemptions and incentives.
2. The progress and sustainability of KRA's tax-base-expansion initiatives, including the number of new and reactivated taxpayers, additional revenue generated and the sectors that remain inadequately covered by the tax system.
3. The effectiveness of various tax collection and customs technologies and other digital systems, including (eTIMS), Tims, iTax and eRITS in detecting and preventing fraudulent VAT claims, Excise-Duty fraud, customs evasion and illicit trade, including the value of fraudulent claims disallowed and revenue recovered or protected.
4. The measures undertaken to strengthen investigations, enforcement, inter-agency information-sharing and anti-corruption mechanisms, including the effectiveness of the iWhistle Programme, and to address any administrative weaknesses or collusion facilitating revenue loss.
5. The estimated additional revenue that could reasonably be mobilised by sealing identified leakages, the cost-effectiveness of existing interventions and the measures in place to ensure that enforcement targets non-compliance while protecting compliant taxpayers, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises.
6. Info sharing between KRA and other Government institutions.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning? He seems not to be in. Is there any ranking Member of the Committee? Can the leadership commit? Hon. (Dr) Canon Naomi Waqo, can you commit to a date when the response will be issued on their behalf?

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Yes, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I commit and I am sure that the Chairman will give a response in two weeks' time.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Thank you. Hon. Munyoro, your response will be before the House in two weeks. Hon. Joyce Kamene, seek your Statement.

DELAYED SETTLEMENT OF DEFINED
BENEFIT PENSIONS SCHEMES DUES

Hon. Joyce Kamene (Machakos County, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I wish to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning regarding delayed settlement of defined benefit pension scheme dues for Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) retirees.

The KEMRI Staff pension scheme was established on 1st July 1983 as a contributory defined benefits scheme, meaning members contributed five per cent of their basic salary while their employer contributed equal to the cost securing the balance of pension ultimately payable to the members. In 2008, the Government directed that both employees and the employer make joint contributions towards pension schemes in all State corporations. As a result, KEMRI closed the contributory defined benefits and members of the pension scheme at the time were transitioned to the new defined contribution scheme.

Unfortunately, the transition to the new defined contribution scheme was beset by challenges, particularly the failure to transfer assets of the former defined benefit scheme.

Consequently, former employees and members of the scheme have been left without access to their retirement benefits, with payments that remain long overdue. This has caused significant financial hardship, particularly among retirees and beneficiaries who depend on these benefits for their basic needs and medical expenses. Some beneficiaries have sadly passed away while awaiting payment of their benefits, while others continue to endure prolonged financial, emotional and psychological distress.

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

1. Steps taken by KEMRI in collaboration with the National Treasury to establish the extent of the outstanding liabilities and facilitate the settlement of all dues owed to former members and beneficiaries of the defunct defined benefit scheme.
2. Timelines within which the retirees and beneficiaries of the defunct defined benefit scheme under KEMRI will be paid their outstanding amounts.
3. Measures put in place to safeguard the interests and rights of members and beneficiaries of the scheme, including mechanisms to ensure that outstanding benefits are settled expeditiously, especially to vulnerable beneficiaries such as persons living with disabilities and those suffering from chronic or terminal illnesses.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Jayne Kihara can go first because of rank.

Hon. Jayne Kihara (Naivasha, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. My concern regarding these promises to respond within two weeks is whether it is merely standard phrasing or if it translates into actual results. Hon. Waqo has stated that the response will be tabled in two weeks. However, is this realistic given that the House is heading for recess? Just yesterday, while Hon. Ochieng' was in the Chair, I raised a query regarding a road before our recess. I was assured a response within two weeks, but to date, I have received nothing. Therefore, are these two weeks' timelines a mere formality, or do they actually yield results?

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Naomi Waqo.

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Hon. Speaker, it is true that we are going on recess, but we are resuming on 2nd. I believe we will give the response in time. The two-week period is meant to ensure that chairpersons take this seriously and give the response within two weeks as promised.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): A two weeks' deadline implies a response within that timeframe. That is why I previously noted that this period could even include this afternoon, provided the response is ready. And for whatever reason a committee cannot deliver within two weeks, there is a mechanism under our respective Standing Orders for them to approach the House and seek an extension. However, committee chairpersons and members are strongly urged to ensure that responses are brought to the Floor exactly when they have undertaken to deliver them to the House. Hon. Suzanne Kiamba.

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to support the same issue. I previously requested for two Statements, but several sessions have now passed without a response. In fact, I was even forced to request for an additional Statement. One of the Statements concerned affordable housing, while the other addressed the 18 girls who were unfairly dismissed from Kiganjo Police Training College. I have pursued these matters relentlessly, rising five times on points of orders and repeatedly approaching the clerks-at-the-Table in search of answers. I have exhausted every possible avenue available to a Member of Parliament, all in vain. It is clear that this two-week timeframe has become a serious joke. I call upon you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, to rule that if committee chairpersons refuse

to provide responses, the matters should simply be closed. We ask these questions on behalf of our citizens, and they deserve answers.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Suzanne Kiamba, to which committee was your request for Statement directed?

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): One was directed to the Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works, but it has taken more than two weeks to bring a response. I was requested to rewrite the Statement and submit it at the close of the last Session.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Order! Where is the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works? Is there any Member of that Committee present in the House? Hon. Member, when was the response to your Statement due?

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): It has now been over six to seven months. Regarding the issue of the 18 female recruits who were discontinued from the Kiganjo Police Training College due to pregnancy, I have risen three times on a point of order...

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Order! Was the latter one also addressed to the committee in charge of housing?

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): No. It was addressed to the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security. However, I have just been ignored. I feel so bad about it.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Give me a minute as I seek a solution to the concern that you have just raised.

Hon. Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security, there is a request for Statement from Hon. Suzanne Kiamba. Are you aware of it?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Yes, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Where is the response?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, it is important to acknowledge that there are a few Statement responses that we have not yet received from the Ministry. However, I undertake that we will deliver them next week. Nevertheless, we have already covered significant ground on these matters.

Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): It is being indicated that the House may be on recess next week. However, until it does, it has not. Remember, we can even extend the Session. So, there is no problem.

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba, the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security is well known to me. Hon. Chairman, please, commit. Issues that Hon. Members raise on the Floor are matters affecting Kenyans. Within a week, you will get your response.

(Hon. Suzanne Kiamba spoke off the record)

Order! Hon. Suzanne Kiamba. I am giving you a solution under my authority as the Speaker, but you appear to be countermanding it. Did you still want the response or are you withdrawing it?

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): Do you want me to speak? Hon. Temporary Speaker, with all due respect, I am telling you that this Statement crossed over recess last time, and I had asked about it for a whole Session. I raised three points of order in this House after the two-week lapse. Now, I can see that I am still being taken back to after recess. Now, when the concerned...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Suzanne Kiamba, when is the recess?

Hon. Suzanne Kiamba (Makueni, WDM): Anytime. Thank you.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Yes, so we are not going on recess this week. The response to your request for a Statement will be made within one week. I never give directions in vain. The House knows that. Hon. Suzanne, if the week lapses and the response to the Statement is not before the House, please, wherever you are seated, stand and raise the matter with the Speaker. It will be so made. I know the Chairperson of the Committee we are talking about. In the afternoon, Hon. Kiamba, if you will notice, the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works, please, raise your earlier request for commitment.

Hon. Jayne Kihara, which Committee was yours directed to?

Hon. Jayne Kihara (Naivasha, UDA): It was directed to the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure concerning the road from Maraigushu-Kinungi, that is, the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA). The Chairperson was here himself, and he said he would respond in two weeks. That was way long before recess. We then proceeded to recess and came back, but I still have not got a response.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Yes, unfortunately, this is a concern. The Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure, Hon. George Kariuki, appears not to be in the House. Hon. Jayne Kihara, raise the matter in the afternoon when you see the Chairperson in the House so that appropriate directions can be given. I want this to come from the Chairperson, not any other Member of the Committee.

Hon. Members, I have not given directions on the request for a Statement No.5 by Hon. Joyce Kamene. Do we have the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning? Hon. Naomi Waqo?

(Several Members spoke off the record)

I will come back to that. Let me dispense with this one for the sake of neatness. Are you on this one going to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning? Then the Member of Parliament for Nandi will have a say.

Hon. Cynthia Muge (Nandi County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Of course, listening to the frustrations Members have about responses to Statements, I sometimes feel some Statements are directed, perhaps, to the wrong committees. For instance, the matter Hon. Kamene is raising regarding KEMRI members who have not received their pension has been before my Committee, the Departmental Committee on Health. We have actually held discussions with KEMRI.

I am a little confused about who should handle it. Budgeting and everything else that happens fall under the Departmental Committee on Health, as it is a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency (SAGA) under the Committee. We probably need to clearly define this so that Hon. Members can get responses from the right quotas at the right time.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Pension matters are addressed through the National Treasury and Economic Planning.

Hon. Cynthia Muge (Nandi County, UDA): Sure.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Since the Committee could address this for effective resolution, Hon. Kamene, I think this should go to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning. So that, if there is a firm resolution, there can also be positive action to direct the release of these delayed pensions. So, this one in particular will go to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning.

Hon. Naomi Waqo, since the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning is not in the House, please, undertake to inform the House when the response will be brought.

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I will give the undertaking. However, we must also push the chairpersons to take this matter seriously. Members seem frustrated, and we need to address the questions.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): I will not say more. Hon. Joyce Kamene, you will receive your response within two weeks. Luckily for you, I also sit in that Committee, so the response will come. The Committee is headed by a very competent and hardworking Chairman, Hon. Kuria Kimani.

Hon. Tim Wanyonyi.

Hon. Tim Wanyonyi (Westlands, KUP): Hon. Temporary Speaker, about two months ago, I sought a Statement from the Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture regarding the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Secretariat. The Chairperson committed to including them and even asked us to propose a name, which we did. However, up to now, nothing has happened. I wanted to seek clarification on whether the Chairperson is aware that no action has been taken and why there is still such a delay.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is Hon. Wanyama, the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture, in the House? The leadership of the House, what is happening? Have chairpersons travelled to Bondo, or have they started campaigning for re-election? What is happening? I mean, the House cannot proceed this way. Are they in Bondo? Bondo is more understandable. I do not think we should stop committee business for the House.

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): We are aware that many Members are away. Some are in the Rift Valley and others in Bondo attending to some issues. However, that does not mean that the House cannot continue. Therefore, I urge all chairpersons who may be in Nairobi to, please, attend and respond to all the questions as required.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Tim Wanyonyi, be in the House in the afternoon, and if you see Hon. Dan Wanyama, the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture, anywhere within the plenary, please, draw it to the attention of the Speaker, so that the commitments and undertakings he made can be addressed in respect of the request for a Statement you mentioned.

Hon. Tim Wanyonyi (Westlands, KUP): I will. Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Some requests for Statements were approved on the Floor. Hon. Mwalyo.

WASTE DUMPING AND POLLUTION IN RIVER TANA

Hon. Joshua Mwalyo (Masinga, Independent): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to request for a Statement regarding waste dumping and the pollution of River Tana. Pursuant to Standing Order 44(2)(c), I wish to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining regarding the dumping of avocado waste and the resultant pollution of River Tana.

Concerns have been raised about the pollution of water resources from the disposal of avocado waste along River Tana, particularly in the adjoining areas of Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Embu, and Machakos counties, since March 2026. This prompted the National Environment

Management Authority (NEMA) to conduct a field inspection to establish the source and nature of the reported pollution and devise appropriate remedial measures.

During the inspection, NEMA identified an avocado waste disposal site at the quarry operated by Tebere Concrete Co Ltd. in Karuku area, Mwea Ward. Following the inspection, NEMA issued the company an environmental restoration order. However, the company has reportedly failed to comply with the order, thereby posing a continued risk of pollution to the river and the communities that depend on it.

It is against this background that I request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee of Environment, Forestry and Mining on the following:

1. A report on the findings of the NEMA into pollution along River Tana in Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Embu and Machakos counties, including the nature and extent of pollution and the impact on the quality of water in River Tana.
2. Clarification on whether Tebere Concrete Co Ltd. possesses the requisite environmental licences and approvals for the disposal of the avocado waste at the quarry.
3. A report on the compliance of Tebere Concrete Co Ltd. with the environmental restoration order issued by NEMA and the enforcement action taken against it for any non-compliance.
4. The measures being taken to cease the dumping, rehabilitate the affected areas and safeguard the health and the livelihoods of communities that depend on River Tana.

I thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining, Hon. Vincent Musyoka.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. If you allow us, we can provide a preliminary response in a week. However, considering the serious nature of the issue of irresponsible waste disposal into water bodies, after the preliminary response, the Committee may need to undertake further inquiry into the matter. This issue also affects other communities and rivers, such as River Athi, and we could then offer a more comprehensive response within three weeks.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Tom. Odege.

Hon. Tom Odege (Nyatike, ODM): Thank you. When we talk about pollution in our rivers and its relation to mining in our country, I urge the Chairperson to investigate the new, highly toxic technology being used in mining. It appears that no one is monitoring it. The NEMA seems not to have the capacity to check this. In my constituency, all rivers can no longer serve my people because they are contaminated with very dangerous chemicals. As you look into this matter, please, expand your investigation so that we can receive a report covering the entire country.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Mwalyo.

Hon. Joshua Mwalyo (Masinga, Independent): I believe the tentative answer is acceptable in one week, as the people are currently unable to drink the water they depend on. At present, the water cannot be relied upon for drinking. Even the animals cannot drink it because they are dying.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Chairperson, on this specific question, please, provide a preliminary response within one week. I understand you are familiar with the area. Beyond the preliminary response, please, investigate what is happening across the country. As Hon. Odege rightly pointed out, expand your inquiry to include other regions.

I have noticed some very dangerous happenings on River Yala, Wath Ong'er, and the rivers across Nyatike. Even the rivers flowing into Lake Victoria, such as River Kuja and River Rangwena, are very polluted and contain hazardous chemicals. Please, address this matter

within one week, and broaden your investigations to include the entire area and other affected rivers across the country. Can you provide us with a report in two weeks or one month?

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Given the expanded scope of the investigation, under your direction, this can, indeed, be conducted as an inquiry. It appears to be affecting many people. I, too, am affected by irresponsible waste management and the emptying of effluents into rivers in my region. I am certain other areas face this problem. For the Committee to do thorough work and present a comprehensive report to this House, it may need to visit some of these areas. Therefore, for a serious inquiry, we may need three months to complete such an investigation.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Mwalyo, your preliminary response will come within one week, and it will substantially address the issues raised. The Committee will then conduct a comprehensive inquiry and report to the House within three months for consideration.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Most obliged.

STATEMENTS

INSECURITY IN LAISAMIS CONSTITUENCY

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): We will now deal with a few responses to Statements. Is Hon. Joseph Lekuton in the House? Hon. Lekuton is away on other engagements. The Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security, Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo, will table the response concerning the armed banditry attack in Laisamis Constituency for access by him and other interested Members. Is the response ready?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Table it.

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): For the record, Hon. Temporary Speaker, as you have guided, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

(Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo laid the Document on the Table)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, this is the procedure. When you raise an issue of concern for the people of Kenya, which is one of our core mandates, ensure you are present in the House. No business is conducted here that is not on the Order Paper. Ensure you are here. Otherwise, you deny the people you represent the necessary representation needed to interrogate the response further.

Now we move to the response to the Statement request by Hon. John Kaguchia. Is Hon. John Kaguchia in the House?

Hon. Kaguchia John (Mukurweini, UDA): Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security, do you have this response? If so, proceed and deliver it.

STATUS OF THIRD-GENERATION ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. This is a response to the Statement regarding the production, distribution, and regulation of third-generation alcoholic beverages, sought by the Member for Mukurweini. In particular, the

Member wanted to know the licensing and regulatory status of Diamond brand third-generation alcohol, known as *Kadaya* and other similar alcoholic beverages, including the approval issued for the manufacture, distribution and sale by the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the county governments and other relevant agencies.

Secondly, he wanted a report on the lab test conducted by the Government Chemist, KEBS, and other relevant agencies to determine Kadaya's stability for human consumption and its compliance with prescribed safety and quality standards and, if not, the reason for its continued production and sale.

Thirdly, the measures the Government is implementing to strengthen regulation, surveillance, and enforcement against the unlawful manufacture, distribution, and sale of the said illicit brands. Lastly, the Member wanted to know the interventions and consumer protection measures being undertaken to address the prevalence of the abuse of the third-generation alcoholic drinks among the already listed ones. I wish to state as follows:

The Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2010 provides the legal framework for regulating all alcoholic beverages in the country, and the Act establishes the National Alcoholic Control Committee as the primary body responsible for issuing licenses for the manufacture, distribution, and sale of alcoholic drinks. A preliminary review indicates that the licensing status of the Diamond Ice brand, third-generation alcoholic beverages and other similar products, including Jambo Ice, Sweet Berry and Dallas Brandy, raises serious concerns.

Section 7 of the Act prohibits any person from manufacturing, selling or distributing any alcoholic drink except in accordance with a licence issued under the said Act. In Nyeri County, the County Liquor Committee has declined to approve the distribution licence for Zheng Hong Limited, a manufacturer of the implicated products. Furthermore, Patiala Distillers Limited was directed to cease distribution for 90 days after it was discovered that its products were counterfeit. This action suggests potential violation of the Act and indicates that these products may not have been lawfully approved by NACADA, KEBS, or the Ministry of Health as required by law. The licensing status of all third-generation alcoholic beverages must be reviewed to ensure compliance with the Act.

Under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, functions related to alcohol and drug control are unbundled between the national Government and county governments, and set out in the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC). Gazette Notice No.16480 provides that the national Government is mandated to develop legislation and policy on the demand and supply of alcohol and drug abuse, and to licence exporters, importers and manufacturers of alcoholic drinks. The NACADA exercises this national mandate, accordingly licensing importers and exporters of alcoholic drinks and clearing manufacturers ahead of county-level licensing. Under the same gazette notice, county governments are mandated to licence alcoholic outlets and under Gazette Notice No.16482 on cultural activities, public entertainment and public amenities, to licence the sale, distribution and business premises of alcoholic drinks within their respective jurisdictions.

The NACADA also discharges its policy-formulation function, exemplified by the Alcoholic Drinks Control (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which is currently before Parliament. The Bill seeks to, among other things, raise the minimum legal age for alcohol consumption from 18 to 21 years of age; require registration of every alcoholic drink with NACADA before sale; establish a digital track-and-trace system for importation and manufacture throughout the consumer chain; define and penalise alteration; and impose a solatium compensatory levy on manufacturers and importers to fund enforcement and rehabilitation programmes.

On the second issue of laboratory tests, a multi-agency report from the Government Chemist, KEBS and the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has revealed alarming findings. The Government Chemist laboratory test on Jambo Ice liquor revealed an ethyl alcohol content of

25 per cent v/v and 20 per cent v/v, significantly higher than the 15 per cent declared on the product label. More concerning, some samples contained 20 milligrams of methanol. Methanol is a toxic substance, and its presence in alcoholic beverages poses a serious risk to public health. In addition, over 30 bottles of Jambo Ice contained suspended foreign matter.

The KEBS compliance analysis established that Sweet Berry, Dallas Brandy, Diamond Ice and Jambo Ice all failed to meet the respective Kenyan standards. An annex supports this. This indicates that these products do not conform to prescribed safety and quality requirements and violate Section 27 of the Act, which prohibits the manufacture, import, or distribution of alcoholic drinks that do not conform to the Act's requirements.

The ACA findings identified products from Patiala Distillers Limited, Best Guinea and Diamond Ice as counterfeit. Annex 3 of the Report lists these products. Physical parameters of products from Zheng Hong Kenya Limited, namely Sweet Berry and Jambo Ice, complied with the proprietor's specifications. Still, the chemical composition must be cross-checked against results from other Government agencies. These findings demonstrate widespread non-compliance with safety and quality standards, underscoring the urgent need for stronger enforcement action to protect consumers' health and safety.

On the measures being taken to strengthen regulation and surveillance, the Government is committed to intensifying the fight against illicit alcohol and drug abuse. The following measures are being implemented to achieve the same.

In line with the presidential directive of December 2025, a multi-agency team has been established at the county level to coordinate enforcement and operations. On 11th April 2026, officers from the Nyeri Police Station impounded a vehicle with registration number KDA 205Y, which was transporting suspected counterfeit alcoholic drinks. Officers arrested the driver and the distributor from Zheng Hong Limited. Officers from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) confirmed that of the 290 bottles scanned, only 58 had genuine stamps, while 232 had counterfeit stamps.

The court case regarding substandard alcoholic drinks recovered from the club worker in Ruringu is ongoing. This legal action is crucial to hold the perpetrators accountable and deter future violations. In Nyeri, a multi-agency team led by the Regional Commissioner, the County Commissioner and the Governor is working to ensure that enforcement actions are coordinated and effective. The Commissioner, as chairperson of the multi-agency team, has been tasked with submitting a report to the National Alcoholic Control Committee for guidance and further action where necessary. The KEBS, the ACA and Government agencies are expected to conduct further analysis of the said product in Nyeri on 12th April 2026. That was then.

Lastly, on consumer protection, the Government is implementing the following interventions:

1. Seized counterfeit and substandard alcoholic drinks will be destroyed in accordance with the law. The Government has preferred to bring charges against all persons found to be in contravention of the Act.
2. The NACADA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has intensified public awareness campaigns on the dangers of consuming adulterated and counterfeit alcohol.
3. The Government has strengthened treatment and rehabilitation programmes for those addicted to or dependent on alcoholic drinks by ensuring that only accredited and professionally run rehabilitation centres are allowed to operate.
4. Section 67 of the Act mandates the integration of alcohol-use education and information dissemination into healthcare services provided by healthcare providers.

Though not in this Report, we all know that the Anti-Narcotics Unit (ANU) of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), which is attached to NACADA, has been

expanded and given more personnel and other resources to help curb the menace of illicit brews.

I submit, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Kaguchia.

Hon. Kaguchia John (Mukurweini, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. First, I thank the Chairman, Hon. Tongoyo, for presenting this Report. I would also like to ask him to table the annexes he mentioned in the Report, namely Annexes 1 to 5. I request that these annexed documents be presented.

When I look at this Report, I am asking myself whether the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) read through it before it was submitted. I am also asking myself if the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration has set his eyes on it. It is evident that this is a damning Report. It is confirming what we have been thinking all along. It is confirming what Kenyans have been suspecting. What is more worrying is that we have the Government Chemist analysis reports showing that these third-generation alcoholic drinks, as they have been enumerated in this Report, do not in any way meet the standards required. It is indicated on the label that we have 15 per cent per volume of ethyl alcohol content, but when the Government Chemist does the analysis, they find 25 per cent. We have methanol, which is very poisonous, and you have also seen that they have also found suspended foreign matters in these alcoholic drinks. Taking this into consideration, do we have authorities that have been charged with protecting Kenyans' health in this country? It is very worrying.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I look at the kind of information that is coming from the laboratory, the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) and the recommendations and actions that have purportedly been taken. While a manufacturer is producing substandard alcohol, authorities in Nyeri only managed to arrest a vehicle which was carrying bottles of that illicit brew — third-generation brew. There is totally a disconnect between the problem and the kind of solution that is being offered.

I listened to the Deputy President yesterday speaking from Mukurweini Constituency where he told the people of Mukurwieni and Kenyans at large to give him six months for them to see action being taken. How many people must die for us to take action? This action cannot wait for six months. It cannot wait for tomorrow. We must take action today. Therefore, I am requesting my friend and the very honourable Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Tongoyo, to take...

Hon. Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Order, Hon. Kaguchia. Hon. Maina Mathenge, what is out of order?

Hon. Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, if Hon. Kaguchia wants to discuss the Deputy President, then it is appropriate that he tables a substantive Motion. The position by the Deputy President and the fight against illicit alcohol should not be personalised. There are legal gaps that require even this House to make and amend the laws, and that takes time. I am interested in this matter. In fact, all the leads mentioned are in Nyeri Town Constituency. Therefore, if Hon. Kaguchia wants to drag the position and the name of the Deputy President, he should, in accordance with the Standing Orders, bring a substantive Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Kaguchia, would you keep to the Report, so that we do not take away focus from this important issue?

Hon. Kaguchia John (Mukurweini, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, what I have highlighted are the utterances on the action being taken from the Executive.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): No. Those utterances were made outside of the House. We cannot verify them. If you were to go that direction, then somebody may also ask you why it took you this long.

Hon. Kaguchia John (Mukurweini, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I am very well guided. I will stick to the issues because this is a very important Report. I agree with you. We must ensure that we get to the bottom of this Report.

The Chairman has clearly indicated that under the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2010, the mandate to issue licences to the manufacturers, distributors and sale of alcoholic drinks lies with the National Alcoholic Control Committee. Does this committee interrogate these reports? That is why I recommend that we have this committee disbanded and each person in that committee must take personal responsibility for the deaths that are occasioned to Kenyans across the country for their omission and errors of commission.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I am also proposing that the same be done to NACADA, because its national mandate is to license all importers, exporters of alcoholic drinks and clearing manufacturers ahead of county-level licencing. We must also take very serious action against NACADA. I am saying this because my friend, Hon. Mathenge, seems to suggest that there could be legal gaps, but we are not talking about legal gaps. We are talking about a report that is published and clearly shows what Kenyans are consuming is poison. We cannot still be debating about legal and enforcement issues. We just have to deal with this issue from the source. I am proposing, and I hope the Committee can adopt this, that the proliferation, consumption, distribution and manufacturing of third-generation alcoholic drinks in Kenya be declared a national disaster and that all the Government agencies and efforts be directed towards curbing this, so that we can stop this menace that is sweeping across the country.

Currently, I am burying two people in my constituency who have died directly from consumption of illicit brew. I am sure most Members present have experienced the same. Therefore, I would propose that this be declared a national disaster. This Report should not end here. I propose you direct that a further actionable committee be put in place so that this House can act as a protector of Kenyan people's health, particularly the young people.

Lastly, NACADA seems to be beating around the bush and having a wild goose chase. They are proposing that they want to raise the alcoholic consumption age from 18 to 21. Even if you raise the age of consumption from 18 to 60 and still sell poison, those people will still die. This will not help at all. The NACADA must get right with their action. Let us not discuss issues that are not important in this fight against alcohol consumption in the country. We cannot sit here as a Parliament when Kenyans are dying of poison as we watch. We now have a damning Report and in the name of God, let us do something. Otherwise, this House will be judged very harshly.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Kaguchia, I hear you to confirm the Report has all the information you needed. We wanted to go to other business. Hon. Sabina Chege.

Hon. Sabina Chege (Nominated, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I will be very brief because the other business also concerns me. We are speaking about this nation where we have allowed businessmen to sell poison to our people. I was asking myself: What business does NACADA have to either increase the age or even license? I have seen there is an issue regarding licensing alcoholic manufacturers in Kenya. If I am right, Hon. Temporary Speaker, NACADA stands for National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse. So, if they are supposed to do the campaign, what business do they have in either increasing the age of drinking or even dealing with issues of licensing? We have several agencies. Most of the people who manufacture these drinks...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Have you asked yourself why this is a big menace in some regions and not others?

Hon. Sabina Chege (Nominated, JP): Hon. Temporary Speaker, that is where I am driving at.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Could it be because licensing is left to individual counties? Should we, therefore, have an overall body to deal with this matter as a standard? When you go to Homa Bay, alcoholism is a problem, but not at the level I am hearing.

Hon. Sabina Chege (Nominated, JP): Hon. Temporary Speaker, what we have done is to authorise unscrupulous businesspeople to kill our people and make money, and in return they are killing our generation. Even when you talk about the issue of the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), I need not name these drinks that have already been highlighted here where somebody takes a clean sample, but when they go to manufacture, they produce the wrong product under the same or similar name. What we need to do with these agencies is that, if anyone is authorised to manufacture alcoholic drinks and then manufactures the wrong ones after being given a KEBS certificate, they should be banned from selling alcoholic drinks.

Secondly, NACADA should be helping young people, because the issue of drug abuse, apart from alcohol, is a menace. Almost every family in Kenya is affected by drug abuse. Our young people are becoming junkies. I feel NACADA should actually be under the Ministry of Health, because drug abuse is a health matter and not a criminal matter. It should not be under the Ministry of Interior and National Administration. As a House, we need to relook and review the mandate of NACADA if we want to help.

Finally, county governments are the ones who licence the outlets where these alcoholic drinks are being sold. In my own village, we have more bars than churches and schools. Some of these bars are open at 6.00 a.m. We almost have strip clubs and nightclubs in the villages. Where are we heading this country to? Why can we not cry out and save our young generation? Through the Senators, instead of what I see them doing during campaigns, they should go back to their counties and talk to their members of county assemblies (MCAs) and their governors. When I was growing up, we used to say *baada ya kazi* especially from the alcoholic drinks' advertisements. Now, it has become, *badala ya kazi* where people are drinking instead of working. We have to call out the county governments. We have to call on Senators to go to their counties and ensure their MCAs also pass laws that no bars should be open before 5.00 p.m. and that they close by 11.00 p.m., so that they can go home and be of service to their wives.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): You see, the concern of the counties is to licence more outlets so that they get more revenue; NACADA looks at control.

Hon. Sabina Chege (Nominated, JP): They are licensing for more money and people are dying.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): That is why I am saying that perhaps there may be a need to take the licensing authority from the counties to NACADA, because it is dealing with control. Maybe, I am just thinking out loud.

I want to give directions on this matter. Hon. Jayne Kihara, will you forgive me? What say do you have on the matter?

(A Member spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Who do you want to inform? Hon. Jayne Kihara has not even spoken. Wait for her to speak first.

Hon. Jayne Kihara (Naivasha UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. This is an issue of grave concern, and I wish to thank the Chairperson for revealing that they have always known that Kenyans are taking poison. The Report is here. What are they doing about it? What do they want to do about it? There is a National Alcohol Control Committee, but I do not know if it is a county or national body. I need to know what it is and what it does.

Like Hon. Sabina has said, Kenyans are suffering. Women are losing husbands and children every day. It is a grave Report and really concerning. The Report says where the problem is, but on implementation, we need to know what the Government wants to do. I am sure if there is political will from the national Government, this will be a thing of the past. We have seen it being tackled before by the former Deputy President, and he did a good job. When he left, nobody wanted to continue. This has to be done if we have to save this country and our children.

There are illicit and underground unlicensed manufacturers. We have heard of people mixing alcohol at home. There are people who have testers which do not pass the test as this is poison being mixed. This is not licensed. People are doing it underground. What is the Government going to do about it? It is a big problem. Can this Report be acted on because it now confirms they know where the problem is?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The Hon. Hilary.

Hon. Hilary Kosgei (Kipkelion West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, you asked a pertinent question as to why this problem is rampant from Nairobi going into the Mount Kenya region. When second and third generation alcohols were killing Kenyans in 2015, I was serving on the Board of KEBS. We discovered that the problem was the methanol imported for industrial use falling into the wrong hands. Unscrupulous businesses took it and tried to separate the poison by adding some syrup and making brandies out of a product they had not fully separated. In that year, we introduced a new standard of adding denatonium benzoate to the methanol imported for industrial use, so that it becomes very difficult and very costly to separate it and produce cheap alcoholic drinks. This is not an international standard; it is only a Kenyan standard. We still have methanol finding its way from countries like Zambia and Uganda, where this standard does not apply, and it is still causing harm along this corridor, which is a major industrial corridor. Part of the solution is to stick to the standards as prescribed by KEBS and enhance others. Hon. Kaguchia blaming Prof. Kindiki that he needs a solution in one day, is just playing to the gallery. Hon. Rigathi Gachagua when he was the Deputy President did this thing for two years and he achieved nothing. He went home while people were still dying of alcohol. We should take this thing seriously, consult experts, seal all the loopholes through which methanol imported for industrial use reaches the public, and ensure that Kenya licences only drinks that are brewed and not drinks derived from chemicals.

I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): I want to give directions on the matter. Hon. Mathenge, do not worry about the mention of the Deputy President. You know I have served on the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security for three terms now. For questions like the one that have been raised by Hon. Hilary, I can tell you how much money was budgeted for the former Deputy President to fight alcohol from the desk here and the results were zero. When I served in this Committee with the late Hon. Koinange as Chairperson, we travelled throughout the Mt. Kenya region. The issue of alcoholism was a worry to him, even as he was dying, not just in Mt. Kenya, but across all the regions.

Hon. Members, allow me to end any further debate on this matter because we are going into the Committee of the whole House to consider two substantive Bills.

Hon. Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Mathenge, what is out of order? I want to give a very good direction.

Hon. Duncan Mathenge (Nyeri Town, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg you to indulge me for only two minutes. This is a national crisis. It has nothing to do with who occupied, occupies or will occupy the position of Deputy President. It is about the lives of Kenyans, who are being made to consume poison. When we have a Report before us that names two licensed breweries and their products, why should we continue allowing them to operate?

Why should we not ban those brands? This requires a collective action by the Government. Parliament can pass a resolution to ban those breweries and their products.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Your point is made. Take your seat.

(Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri raised his hand)

Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi, you are not yet recognised. Hon. Kaguchia, this is a grave matter of national importance. The approach for requesting a Statement is limiting for good reasons. Although you are satisfied with the response, I have consulted and listened very keenly to the Members. I am remitting this matter back to the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security for deeper investigations and the preparation of a more substantive report to be brought to the House. Although the matter would have been concluded under the Standing Orders, it is being remitted to the relevant Committee for further investigations.

I direct the Committee to go out of its way, including visiting the affected region. If the Committee does so, all interested Members can be notified to attend. Hon. Chairperson, that is my direction. Within what period can you address the issue and report back to the House?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Before I comment on your directive, I am personally perturbed and worried by the findings and the tests carried out on these illicit brews. Nevertheless, as you have said, you sit in that Committee and are aware of the efforts we have made to enhance the capacity and capability of the Anti-Narcotics Unit, particularly following the President's directive. I confirm that the directive has been effected, with approximately 200 additional personnel deployed. We have also considered the budget required to enable the Unit to address this matter and help NACADA achieve its mandate.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I will proceed as directed. The Committee will invite the Cabinet Secretary and all the relevant players, including NACADA and the Anti-Narcotics Unit, to consider this matter and determine the way forward. This will not be limited to the possibility of conducting further inquiries based on the Report tabled in the House. I will make available the annexures referred to in the Report. They are very voluminous, but I will table them on the Floor of the House to ensure that Members have a complete report. Once we resume from recess, I suggest that we invite the Cabinet Secretary and all the stakeholders to Parliament to consider this matter.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): All interested Members, including Members of the Departmental Committee on Health, can join us so that we can find a lasting solution to this matter, which affects the nation in terms of policy, law and the administrative systems required to stop it from escalating. It is so directed.

DELEGATION FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROFESSIONALS INSTITUTE OF KENYA

Hon. Members, I wish to introduce to you a delegation of representatives of the Environmental Professionals Institute of Kenya (EPIK) who are seated in the Speaker's Gallery. The delegation, led by the Chairperson, Mr Alex Mugambi, is visiting the National Assembly at the invitation of the Member for Ndaragwa Constituency, Hon. George Gachagua, to follow proceedings on the consideration of the Environmental Professionals Institute of Kenya Bill, 2024, which is listed for consideration in the Committee of the whole House in today's Order Paper.

On my behalf and that of the House, I warmly welcome them to the Parliament of Kenya and wish them fruitful engagements. *Karibuni sana.*

(Applause)

Hon. Gachagua, do you want to welcome your guests?

Hon. George Gachagua (Ndaragwa, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I welcome them so that they can witness the procedures of the House and our deliberations during the Committee of the whole House.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Thank you very much. As I have said, they are welcome. This is how we want Kenyans to participate in their governance.

Next Order.

BILL

Second Reading

THE SEXUAL OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL
(National Assembly Bill No.50 of 2025)

(Moved by Hon. Amina Siyad on 30.9.2026 – Morning Sitting)

(Debate concluded on 7.10.2026 – Morning Sitting)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, this Bill was debated conclusively.

(Question put and agreed to)

*(The Bill was read a Second Time and
Committed to the Committee of the whole House)*

Next Order.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

(Order for committee read)

*[The Temporary Speaker
(Hon. Peter Kaluma) left the Chair]*

IN THE COMMITTEE

*[The Temporary Chairlady
(Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai) in the Chair]*

THE BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS BILL
(National Assembly Bill No.8 of 2024)

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Members, we are in the Committee of the whole House to consider two Bills. We shall start with the Breastfeeding Mothers Bill (National Assembly Bill No.8 of 2024) by Hon. Sabina Chege. We shall also

prosecute the Environmental Professionals Institute of Kenya Bill (National Assembly Bill No.36 of 2024) by Hon. George Gachagua.

Hon. Members who are interested in this, please, take your seats and get ready so that we can start. Those who would like to contribute, please, hit the intervention button. It will be easier for us to recognise you.

(Clause 3 agreed to)

Clause 4

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): The Chairperson for Departmental Committee on Social Protection.

Hon. Hilary Kosgei (Kipkelion West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Chairlady, I beg to move:

THAT, Clause 4 of the Bill be amended in subclause (3) by inserting the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph (b)—

“(ba) provide for a care giver to take care of a baby while at the lactation place;”

This provision is meant to ensure that a breast-feeding mother, who is an employee, is able to actively participate in her regular work as her baby is in the hands of a care giver.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

*(Question, that words to be inserted
be inserted, put and agreed to)*

(Clause 4 as amended agreed to)

*(Clauses 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
and 10 agreed to)*

Clause 11

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Chairman.

Hon. Hilary Kosgei (Kipkelion West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Chairlady, I beg to move:

THAT, Clause 11 of the Bill be amended in subclause (2) by deleting the words “and certification” appearing in paragraph (g) and substituting therefore the words “certification and monitoring.”

By introducing the word ‘monitoring’, the justification is that the regulations by the Cabinet Secretary responsible for labour ought to include monitoring of lactation rules, in addition to inspection and certification.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. Rachael Nyamai): I do not see any Member who is interested to contribute to this proposed amendment. Hon. Gertrude Mbeyu, Hon. Japheth Nyakundi and Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi, are you interested in this amendment? If you are not interested, I will put the Question.

*(Question, that the words to be left
out be left out, put and agreed to)*

(Question, that the words to be inserted in place thereof be inserted, put and agreed to)

(Clause 11 as amended agreed to)

Clause 2

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Chairman.

Hon. Hilary Kosgei (Kipkelion West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Chairlady, I beg to move:

THAT, Clause 2 of the Bill be amended in the definition of the term “baby” by deleting the words “within zero to twenty-four months” and substituting therefor the words “within zero to thirty-six months”.

Article 43(1)(c) of the Constitution of Kenya guarantees the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality. Because of the strength of this provision of the Constitution, the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizens Affairs in conjunction with the Ministry of Health have developed a policy on early childhood development which has taken an evidence-based approach demonstrating that the first 1,000 days of a child’s life are the most critical in their development. It entails exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months and proper nutrition for the breastfeeding mother. Hence, the need to extend the baby’s age definition to three years, that is 36 months.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi, Member for Buuri.

Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri, UDA): Thank you, Hon Temporary Chairlady. This is a very important amendment. We all know that the life of a baby is more delicate between zero and approximately 12 years. This is an affirmative Bill. If we limit the definition of a baby to 24 months, we will not give the baby adequate time to form.

I am saying this because we have carried out a study on cerebral palsy in my constituency under pro bono benefit from IPSOS, which is a research company. When many mothers were questioned as to why their babies developed cerebral palsy, they said their babies were okay when they were born, but within two to three years, they started noticing some things. This is the stage where many mothers are not keen. I agree that we need to extend the period from 24 to 36 months. We are not only extending the period, but also monitoring is key.

I support this amendment. If I was given an option, I would have said 48 or 60 months because this is a very important period for the baby. I am saying this because I have statistics on cerebral palsy cases.

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. Rachael Nyamai): Thank you. Hon. Members, I have a lot of respect for the Member for Buuri. That is why I gave him a lot of time to speak and also the fact that he was talking about breastfeeding. However, Hon. Members, you were given enough time to debate the Bill during the Second Reading. This is the Committee of the whole House. Now that we are at the Committee of the whole House, I request that we make brief comments.

(Question, that the words to be left out be left out, put and agreed to)

(Question, that the words to be inserted in place thereof be inserted, put and agreed to)

(Clause 2 as amended agreed to)

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Before we continue, I would like to put it on record that I said Hon. Henry Koskey. However, the Member who is prosecuting this Bill is Hon. Hillary Koskey.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our guests seated in the Public Gallery this morning. We have students from Lenana Primary School from Dagoretti South Constituency, Nairobi County. You may stand to be recognised.

(Applause)

You are welcome to the National Assembly to continue observing the proceedings of the House. I will give this opportunity to Hon. Gachagua to welcome the students from Dagoretti South.

Hon. George Gachagua (Ndaragwa, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Chairlady. I wish to welcome the students from Dagoretti South Constituency and tell them that this is where we normally make laws. We look forward for them to join us for those who will make it. When they go back, they should put effort in their education. On behalf of their Member of Parliament from that area, I welcome them to this House.

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Thank you very much, Hon. Gachagua.

(Title agreed to)

(Clause 1 agreed to)

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Chairperson. I would like now the Mover, Hon. Sabina Chege, to move Reporting.

Hon. Sabina Chege (Nominated, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Chairlady. I beg to move that the Committee do report to the House its consideration of the Breastfeeding Mothers Bill (National Assembly Bill No.8 of 2024) and its approval thereof with amendments.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS INSTITUTE OF KENYA BILL
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO.36 OF 2024)

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Members, we are now moving to the second Bill, the Environmental Professionals Institute of Kenya Bill (National Assembly Bill No.36 of 2024).

(Clause 3 agreed to)

Clause 4

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Chairperson, proceed.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Hon. Temporary Chairlady, I beg to move:

THAT, Clause 4 of the Bill be amended in sub-clause (2) by—

(a) deleting the words ‘people engaged in the field of environment’ appearing in paragraph (e) and substituting therefor the words “environmental professionals”;

(b) deleting the word ‘network’ appearing in paragraph (f) and substituting therefor the word “collaborate”; and

(c) inserting the words “in consultation with the members of the Institute” immediately before the word “determine” appearing in paragraph (n).

Clause 4 talks about people engaged in the field of environment who have already been defined as “environmental professionals.”

In the second part, we are replacing the word “network” with “collaborate” because network is more optional and it is basically an exchange of ideas. Collaborate is working together for a common goal.

In (c), we want it to be a requirement for the institute to collaborate with its members, so that it does not make decisions alone.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

*(Question, that the words to be left out
be left out, put and agreed to)*

*(Question, that the words to be inserted in
place thereof be inserted, put and agreed to)*

*(Question, that the words to be inserted
be inserted, put and agreed to)*

(Clause 4 as amended agreed to)

(Clauses 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 agreed to)

Clause 11

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Chairperson, Hon. Vincent Musyoka.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Hon. Temporary Chairlady, I beg to move:

THAT, Clause 11 of the Bill be amended by inserting the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph (c)—

(ca) has at least five years' experience in a position of senior management

The amendment seeks to ensure that the qualifications of the Registrar are in line with the Mwongozo Code of Governance for Government Owned Entities which recommends that the Chief Executive Officer should have a relevant bachelor's, and master's degree and membership in a professional body and 10 years' experience in the relevant field, and a minimum of five years in senior management.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): I do not see any interest in this. So, I will go ahead and put the Question.

Commissioner, Hon. Faith you have something? Go ahead.

Hon. Faith Gitau (Nyandarua, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Chairlady. Environmental professionals play a critical role in environmental impact assessment, development projects and the sustainable management of natural resources. Establishing clear professional standards will promote responsible environmental practises and strengthen public confidence in the profession. I support.

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Thank you very much, Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi, Member for Buuri.

Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Chairlady. I stand to support this amendment. I grew up in an environmental conservation family. One of my daughters achieved a Masters in Environment Studies. When I say there is recognition of this profession, I know it because I have one in my family. However, let us not forget that His Excellency the President is the champion of climate change. When we talk about climate change, we should also talk about the environment. These professionals are very important people in our approach to environmental conservation and in enhancing the climate change agenda. So, this amendment needs to be passed. The professionals need to collaborate with others as the Chairperson said, so that we can start focusing on how to save the future generation of this country.

I support.

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Thank you very much.

*(Question, that the words to be inserted
be inserted, put and agreed to)*

(Clause 11 as amended agreed to)

(Clauses 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 agreed to)

Clause 19

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Chairman.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Hon. Temporary Chairlady, I beg to move:

THAT, Clause 19 of the Bill be amended—

(a) in sub-clause (2) by—

(i) deleting paragraph (a) and substituting therefor the following new paragraph—

(a) lead members comprising of members of the Institute who are registered under section 21 and who become lead members pursuant to subsection 2A;

(ii) deleting paragraph (c) and substituting therefor the following new paragraph—

(c) Honorary members comprising of persons who become honorary members pursuant to subsection (4);

(iii) deleting the words “corporate members” appearing in paragraph (e) and substituting therefor the words “environmental firms”;

(b) by inserting the following new sub-clause immediately after sub-clause (2)—

(2A) A member of the Institute may be registered as a lead member if the person holds—

- (a) a doctorate degree in a relevant field from a university recognized in Kenya and has at least two years professional experience;
 - (b) a masters degree in a relevant field from a university recognized in Kenya and has at least three years professional experience; or
 - (c) a degree in a relevant field from a university recognized in Kenya and has at least eight years professional experience.
- (c) by deleting the word “fellow” appearing in sub-clause (4) and substituting therefor the word “member”;
- (d) by deleting the word “fellow” appearing in sub-clause (5) and substituting therefor the word “member”;

This provides for the qualifications for membership to the Institute and also aligns the experience of the Registrar with the Mwongozo principles. Thank you, Hon. Temporary Chairlady.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

*(Question, that the words to be left out
be left out, put and agreed to)*

*(Question, that the words to be inserted
in place thereof be inserted, put and agreed to)*

*(Question, that the words to be inserted
be inserted, put and agreed to)*

(Clause 19 as amended agreed to)

(Clause 20 agreed to)

Clause 21

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Chairman.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Hon. Temporary Chairlady, I beg to move:

THAT, Clause 21 of the Bill is amended in paragraph (c) by deleting the words “or research” appearing immediately after the word “sciences”.

The word ‘research’ has been repeated in this clause so this amendment is to specifically delete and align it to the previous definition.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

*(Question, that the words to be left out
be left out, put and agreed to)*

(Clause 21 as amended agreed to)

*(Clauses 22, 23, 24, 25, 26,
27, 28, 29 and 30 agreed to)*

*(Clauses 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36,
37, 38, 39 and 40 agreed to)*

*(Clauses 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46,
47, 48, 49 and 50 agreed to)*

Clause 51

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Chairman.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Hon. Temporary Chairlady, I beg to move:

THAT, Clause 51 of the Bill is amended in sub-clause (2) by inserting the following new paragraphs immediately after paragraph (h)—

(ha) prescribe the grounds for, and procedure relating to suspension or expulsion of members of the Institute;

(hb) provide for the resignation of members from the Institute;

(hc) provide for the recognition and competencies of chapters of the Institute or other local formations within the chapters;

(hd) prescribe the functions and powers of the chapters of the Institute and sources of funding of the activities of the chapters;

(he) provide for the membership, governance of the chapters of the Institute and the regulation of the conduct of business by the chapters;

This clause provides a set of regulations that this Institute can make and this particular amendment is to expand the scope because a number of regulations have been left out.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

*(Question, that the words to be inserted
be inserted, put and agreed to)*

(Clause 51 as amended agreed to)

(Clause 52 agreed to)

First Schedule

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): There is an amendment. Mover, please, proceed.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Hon. Temporary Chairlady, I beg to move:

THAT, the Bill be amended in the First Schedule by inserting the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph 2—

Assumption of office.

3. (1) The president, the vice-president and the members of the Council shall assume office immediately after the ordinary general meeting of the Institute next following an election of the members of the Council, and shall hold office for a period of three years, ending at the conclusion of the annual general meeting held in the third year, after their election.

(2) Where the president, the vice-president or member of the Council dies, resigns or is removed from office before the expiry of the term of office, the vacancy created shall be filled in such manner as provided in the regulations.

The Bill did not provide for transition. So, the Committee is providing for the transition of office for the president and vice-president—that they will assume office upon the first meeting after election of the president and vice-president to the office.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

*(Question, that the words to be inserted
be inserted, put and agreed to)*

(First Schedule as amended agreed to)

(Second Schedule agreed to)

Clause 2

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Chairman.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Hon. Temporary Chairlady, I beg to move:

THAT, Clause 2 of the Bill be amended in the definition of “environmental professional” by deleting the words “or research” appearing immediately after the word “sciences”.

This particular clause provides for the definition of an environmental professional and lists the disciplines that qualify for one to be an environmental professional. It lists research as one of the disciplines whereas research is not a discipline. Therefore, the effect of this clause is to delete the words ‘or research’.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

*(Question, that the words to be left out
be left out, put and agreed to)*

(Clause 2 as amended agreed to)

(Title agreed to)

(Clause 1 agreed to)

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Members, we are done with the Committee of the whole House on the two Bills. I now call upon the Mover, Hon. George Gachagua, to move reporting.

Hon. George Gachagua (Ndaragwa, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Chairperson. I beg to move that the Committee do report to the House its consideration of the Environmental Professionals Institute of Kenya Bill (National Assembly Bill No.36 of 2024), and its approval thereof with amendments.

The Temporary Chairlady (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Thank you very much.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(The House resumed)

IN THE HOUSE

*[The Temporary Speaker
(Hon. Peter Kaluma) in the Chair]*

MOTION

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON
THE BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS BILL

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The Chairperson to report to the House on the Breastfeeding Mothers Bill (National Assembly Bill No.8 of 2024).

Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai (Kitui South, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the Breastfeeding Mothers Bill (National Assembly Bill No.8 of 2024), and approved the same with amendments.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Mover

Hon. Sabina Chege (Nominated, JP): Thank you. Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move that the House do agree with the Committee in the said Report. I also request Hon. Rindikiri to second.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi.

Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri, UDA): I thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is the mood of the House that I put the Question?

Hon. Members: Yes.

(Question put and agreed to)

BILL

Third Reading

THE BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS BILL
(National Assembly Bill No.8 of 2024)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Mover.

Hon. Sabina Chege (Nominated, JP): Thank you. Hon. Temporary Speaker. I beg to move that the Breastfeeding Mothers Bill (National Assembly Bill No.8 of 2024) be now read a Third Time. I also request Hon. Faith Gitau to second.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Commissioner Faith Gitau to second.

Hon. Faith Gitau (Nyandarua County, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is the mood of the House that I put the Question?

Hon. Members: Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, I confirm that the House is properly constituted to make decisions.

(Question put and agreed to)

*(The Bill was accordingly read
a Third Time and passed)*

(Applause)

MOTION

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS INSTITUTE OF KENYA BILL

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The Chairperson to report to the House on the Environmental Professionals Institute of Kenya Bill (National Assembly Bill No.36 of 2024).

Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai (Kitui South, JP): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the Environmental Professionals Institute of Kenya Bill (National Assembly Bill No.36 of 2024) and approved the same with amendments.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Mover of the Bill to move agreement with the report.

Hon. George Gachagua (Ndaragwa, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I beg to move that this House do agree with the Report of the Committee of the whole House on its consideration of the Environmental Professionals Institute of Kenya Bill (National Assembly Bill No.36 of 2024). I also request the Member for Ganze to second the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The Member of Parliament for Ganze is recognised to second.

Hon. Kenneth Tungule (Ganze, PAA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is there any interest, or is the mood of the House that I put the Question?

Hon. Members: Put the Question.

(Question put and agreed to)

BILL

Third Reading

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS INSTITUTE OF KENYA BILL (National Assembly Bill No. 36 of 2024)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Mover.

Hon. George Gachagua (Ndaragwa, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I beg to move that the Environmental Professionals Institute of Kenya Bill (National Assembly Bill No.36 of 2024) be now read a Third Time. I also request Hon. Muchira to second.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Muchira.

Hon. Michael Muchira (Ol Jorok, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is it the mood of the House that I put the Question?

Hon. Members: Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, I confirm that we have a quorum in the House to make a decision.

(Question put and agreed to)

*(The Bill was accordingly read
a Third Time and passed)*

(Applause)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Next Order.

MOTION

FORMULATION OF POLICY ON STRUCTURED ENGAGEMENT OF NYS GRADUATES AS SECURITY OFFICERS

Hon. Gertrude Mwanyanje (Kilifi County, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, aware that approximately 18,000 youth graduate from the National Youth Service (NYS) annually; further aware that Article 55 of the Constitution requires the State to take measures, including affirmative action programmes to ensure that the youth access training, employment and opportunities to participate fully in the social, economic and political life of the nation; appreciating that the Government has in the recent years rolled out deliberate programmes aimed at equipping NYS graduates with skills for employment into the disciplined services and key sectors which include agriculture, construction and security; noting that Government institutions continue to engage private security firms to supplement uniformed officers in providing security services, thereby incurring significant recurrent expenditure; further noting that the NYS graduates possess foundational training in discipline, security awareness, public service ethics and emergency response, making them suitable for deployment within Government institutions; recognising that there is need to have a balanced approach that promotes youth employment through structured engagement of the NYS graduates while preserving opportunities for private security firms to continue to operate and partner with Government institutions; this House, therefore, resolves that the national Government develops and implements a policy framework and guidelines to steer Government ministries, departments, agencies, on:

1. Prioritisation of engagement of the National Youth Service graduates to provide supplementary security services to public entities.

2. The criteria for determination of a formula for allotment of a quota of provision of security services in public entities to the NYS graduates and private security services firms.
3. Modalities for structured recruitment, deployment and terms of service, including remuneration, training and career progression for NYS graduates engaged to provide supplementary security to Government entities.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, this Motion is not just about security. It is about unlocking opportunities for our youth, enhancing efficiency in public expenditure and expanding national service delivery. It speaks directly to the constitutional obligations under Article 55, which obligates the State to meaningfully integrate young people into socio-economic fabric and our nation.

Therefore, I have brought this Motion to the House to, first, address the issue of youth unemployment. Every year, approximately 18,000 NYS graduates enter the job market trained, disciplined and ready to serve yet they remain underutilised. While some NYS graduates occasionally get opportunities to join disciplined services such as the National Police Service (NPS) and the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) as other serve in national projects like the affordable housing projects and environmental conservation programmes, these initiatives cannot accommodate the growing number of graduates. This Motion seeks to offer a structured transition from training to employment, preventing loss of our youth's valuable human capital. Since youth unemployment remains a major socio-economic challenge, engaging NYS graduates will directly help reduce the vulnerability that leads to crime and social unrest witnessed across the country from time to time.

Secondly, the Motion seeks to maximise the return on Government investment in youth training. The Government spends substantial resources training NYS recruits in basic security drills, discipline, paramilitary skills, emergency response, public service, ethics, among other training. Deploying them as security officers ensures a return on investments rather than under-utilising their skills.

Thirdly, the Motion seeks to reduce recruitment expenditure on private security. Government institutions spend billions of shillings annually on private security contracts. While private firms play an important role, a cost-efficient hybrid model is needed. The National Youth Service graduates offer a well trained and potentially more cost-effective workforce for structured engagement, and not displacement of the private sector. I reiterate that this Motion does not eliminate private security firms. It proposes a balanced system that ensures private firms continue operating and fosters a strategic partnership between public and private actors. The policy promotes complementary engagement, not competition.

Fourthly, the Motion seeks to align this trained workforce with the national development agenda. The Motion supports key pillars of youth employment, job creation, public sector efficiency, and strengthens national security. Further, it aligns with broader Government priorities such as the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and public sector reforms.

The Motion presents a triple-tier solution, namely, youth employment, efficient public spending, and stronger national security. This forward-looking policy will transform training into opportunities and in turn into national progress. I urge this House to support this Motion and take the decisive step towards empowering our youth while safeguarding the efficiency of our public institutions.

With those remarks, I beg to move and request Hon. Fatuma to second.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Proceed, Hon. Fatuma Masito.

Hon. Fatuma Masito (Kwale County, ODM): Ahsante sana, Mhe. Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipatia fursa hii ili niunge mkono Hoja iliyoletwa na Mhe. Gertrude Mbeyu, mama Kaunti wa Kilifi.

Inahuzunisha tunapozingatia jinsi vijana wengi wanavyopata mafunzo katika vyuo vya NYS na kusahaulika baada ya kufuzu katika vyuo hivyo. Ujuzi wao unapotea. Wakenya tunasisitiza ajira, ajira, ajira. Mhe. Rais William Samoei Ruto anaunga mkono pakubwa mipango ya vijana kupata ajira katika taifa letu. Inavunja moyo kuona jinsi vijana wanavyopata ujuzi wa maana na baadaye kupotelea nyanjani. Kwa sababu hiyo, vijana wengine ambao wangependa kwenda kusoma wanavunjika moyo. Wanapokaa maskani, wanasema kuwa fulani alikwenda kusoma lakini bado yuko nyumbani.

Itakuwa vizuri tukizingatia jinsi tunavyoweza kuwatumia vijana waliohitimu katika vyuo vya NYS katika nyanja ya *security* ya kibinafsi. Sijui ni kwa nini wahusika wakuu serikalini hawajalifikiria suala hili. Ukimuajiri kijana aliyehitimu katika chuo cha NYS atafanya kazi nzuri kwa sababu anaelewa masuala ya usalama. Kwa hivyo, Serikali ije na miundombinu mizuri ya kuhakikisha kwamba vijana wanapomaliza mafunzo chuoni, wanaweza kupata ajira na hivyo kupunguza janga la ukosefu wa ajira katika taifa letu. Vijana wengi wanaangukia kwenye mikono mibaya na kufanya mambo ya uhuni, wakilalamika kwamba hakuna kazi.

Kwa hayo machache, ninaunga mkono Hoja hii.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Asante sana, Mheshimiwa.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, this is perhaps one of the most serious Motions we have to deal with today. We have many NYS graduates who, after they are done with their training, just loiter in the villages yet they could help a lot in building the nation. I want to thank the Mover for thinking about this area.

The first one to speak on this Motion is Hon. Japheth Nyakundi, who is also the Treasurer of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Party.

Hon. Japheth Nyakundi (Kitutu Chache North, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. First, I take this opportunity to thank Hon. Gertrude Mbeyu for bringing this Motion. As you have stated, Hon. Temporary Speaker, this is one of the most important Motions that have been lined up for debate in this House today.

As we all know, the Government invests a lot of money in training the youth who join the NYS, where they undergo paramilitary training and other forms of training. This Motion is very important because we have invested a lot of money as a country, but when these youths graduate, they loiter out here. It is very important for us to think about how these youths can be employed in various security sectors in the country, and not just in the national disciplined services like NPS and KDF. The Government prioritises the absorption of NYS graduates into the national disciplined services during recruitment. Private security companies should also give NYS graduates priority when they recruit security personnel.

Another thing that the Government should consider is that, as the service personnel leave NYS, they should be issued with appropriate equipment. Those who have trained in carpentry and other skills should be equipped so that as they go out, they have tools that can assist them. That will enable us to complete the value chain that we have undertaken for them throughout the period they have been in school.

This is a very important Motion, and I support it 100 per cent.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Next is the Member for the great people of Ol Kalou.

Hon. Douglas Kamau (Ol Kalou, DCP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I support the Motion that has been moved by Hon. Gertrude. It is a very timely Motion.

The unemployment rate in Kenya stands at 5.5 per cent of the labour force. It is increasing by the day. I do not think we need to reinvent the wheel. Previously, we have seen these graduates being absorbed, as Hon. Nyakundi has said, into the military and the police force. However, these institutions do not absorb all the graduates. We need to understand that, besides gaining basic fundamental training in discipline, they also undergo various forms of training to enable them to acquire skills.

In the private sector, if we have to push for the policy that the Member is proposing, we must ensure that private security companies engage young men and women who have undergone training for a minimum period. In that way, we will ensure that all these private security firms engage people who have undergone security training instead of just picking up some people, telling them to stand at attention and at ease, showing them how to hold a *finbo*, and then sending them to guard a stadium the following day.

There are also programmes being undertaken by the Government. There are stadia such as the one in Ol Kalou, in my area, which is being built by the Kenya Air Force (KAF). Some of the young men coming out of NYS have undergone training in building and construction. Those are the young men who should be engaged in that construction.

With regard to national housing, although the matter is a bit controversial, knowing who the suppliers of the materials are, engaging these young men would make it work.

(A Member spoke off the record)

Hon. Temporary Speaker, hair is not an indication of wisdom, and the guilty are always afraid. I have not named anyone here. I have just said that we need to engage the youth in these projects, especially the youths coming from the NYS. I do not know why the Member is so afraid.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): What did you say about supplies?

Hon. Douglas Kamau (Ol Kalou, DCP): We do not know who the suppliers are. They know themselves. The youth can also be let to be suppliers. Maybe he knows better...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): You are safe because you did not mention anybody. You can continue.

Hon. Douglas Kamau (Ol Kalou, DCP): Yes, I did not mention anyone, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The Honourable Member for Ol Kalou will be heard in silence.

Hon. Douglas Kamau (Ol Kalou, DCP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. It is true. I am here working for the great people of Ol Kalou, who sent me to this House. I am not working for anyone else.

As I support the Motion...

(Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Rindikiri Mugambi, order. You cannot say that the Hon. Member for Ol Kalou can only speak if he shaves his beard. There is nothing wrong with his beard. You have to withdraw that statement.

(Laughter)

Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, he is not well kempt.

Hon. Douglas Kamau (Ol Kalou, DCP): Hon. Temporary Speaker, the Standing Orders are very clear. These people have been in this House for many years. We are just required to have a jacket and a tie.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Go to the substance of your contribution. You are protected.

Hon. Douglas Kamau (Ol Kalou, DCP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. As I finalise my support for the Motion, I believe that we must have elaborate policies on how to absorb the youth. There is the regulatory body that deals with private security firms. I believe the CEO should be called to this House and asked to explain how they can absorb these diligent young men and women from the NYS into the private firms.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Next is Hon. Leo Wa Muthende, the only biochemist in the House.

Hon. Leo Wa Muthende (Mbeere North, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker for giving me an opportunity to support this very important Motion. I congratulate my colleague in the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining, Hon. Mbeyu for coming up with this Motion. This is a very good Motion. I am sure you have sometimes seen a group of men and women running in the mornings. These are the people who are hired by private security firms. You can imagine someone who is guarding our property, and their way of recruitment is based on who becomes number one or last in some exercises they are made to do. I do not think this is the kind of threshold we need for our security people. On the contrary, the NYS is a paramilitary skills training entity. They also offer craftsmanship training. That means that even if they are recruited in a security firm and you have such a firm at your premise, even if there is a case that requires emergency care, you have a security guard who has undergone training on emergency.

I, therefore, support this Motion. It is not proper that you have security people trained for a week or less when we have young men from NYS who have undergone a very rigorous course and are ready to become security men. I congratulate my colleague. This Motion is long overdue. Let security firms hire from NYS.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Of course, you know that now there is a law establishing the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSRA), which is under the Ministry of Interior and National Administration.

Hon. Rashid Bedzimba.

Hon. Rashid Bedzimba (Kisauni, ODM): Asante sana, Mhe. Spika wa Muda kwa kunipa fursa nchangie Hoja hii nzuri sana, ambayo ina mwelekeo. Kwanza, ninampongeza Mwenyekiti wa Wajumbe wa Pwani, Mhe. Gertrude Mbeyu kwa kuja na Hoja hii nzuri. Pia ninampongeza Mhe. Rais William Samoei Ruto kwa kuonyesha upendo kwa vijana. Hii ni kwa sababu vijana wanapokamilisha mafunzo yao, yeye mwenyewe huwa anaenda kuhakikisha kwamba anawatoa hiyo shule. Hatumi mtu amuwakilishe. Hiyo inaonyesha kwamba yeye ana upenda kwa vijana.

Serikali inawekeza fedha nyingi kwa vijana wanaopitia NYS. Huwa wanafundishwa kila ambacho askari wa ulinzi wa taifa la Kenya wanafundishwa. Kitu kimoja tu ambacho hawafundishwi ni matumizi ya silaha. Wanafundishwa mambo ya gwareidi na nidhamu, kama askari wanaohudumu katika vitengo vya usalama. Jambo linalosikitisha ni kwamba wanapotoka NYS wanaachiliwa, na gharama yote ya Serikali inapotea. Serikali ya nchi jirani ya Tanzania iko na askari wa mgambo, ambao wanafanana na vijana wetu wa NYS. Askari hao utawapata wakihudumu hata kwenye *road blocks* kule Tanzania wakiwasimamisha watu na kuwaomba waonyeshe vitambulisho na *passport* zao. Huku kwetu tunawaachilia kabisa bila kuwapatia kazi. Hapo ndio kuna uzito kidogo.

Wakati hawa vijana wanaletwa katika huduma, kabla ya kuanza yale mafunzo, inafaa ijulikane kwamba, kila kijana, kulingana na mapenzi yake, baada ya hiyo huduma ataenda wapi. Kunapokuwa na *recruitment* ya jeshi, kuwe na kiwango fulani cha vijana ambao watachukuliwa kutoka mitaani kwa sababu si vijana wote watakojiunga na NYS. Kuna vijana mitaana ambao pia wanataka kujiunga na vikosi vya usalama. Vijana kutoka NYS wachukuliwe kujiunga na vikosi vya ulinzi lakini kuwe na nafasi ambazo zitapewa vijana wa mitaani pia. Ikiwa ni polisi, ijulikane vijana kiasi fulani wataenda huko. Ikiwa ni jeshi, ijulikane ni vijana wangapi wataenda huko. Na pia ikiwa ni sehemu inayohitaji huduma kama zile za wanafunzwa, hawa vijana wameshateuliwa. Iwe wanajulikana kabla hata hizi nafasi hazijatokea. Baada ya hapo, inakuwa ni rahisi wakichukuliwa kule. Hawaendi kuwekwa miongoni mwa wale ambao wameanza mafunzo ya kwanza. Wao wanakuwa ni *advanced parties*. Wanakuwa wako mbele. Wanafunzwa tu silaha, na kwa sababu nidhamu wako nayo, wanakuwa *posted*. Hii inaweza saidia vijana sana kuliko kuwaachilia alafu wanaenda kuzunguka na *certificates* zao, ilhali wako na *drill skills* za kimilitari. Wakipatana na mtu mbaya anaweza wapoteza na wakawa wahalifu wakubwa.

Hata hizi *firms* za kibinafsi za ulinzi, wanafaa wachukue vijana wa mitaani pamoja na wenye wamepitia NYS. Hatuwezi kuwaacha vijana mitaani tukisema hawana ujuzi. Tukifanya hivyo, tutakuwa tunatengeneza *time bomb*. Kwa hivyo, wao pia wachukuliwe, lakini labda wale wanaochukuliwa kutoka NYS wanaweza pewa silaha. Hii ni kwa sababu tunawaamini kwa nidhamu yao. Inaweza kuwa *KK Guards* wanalinda *supermarket* lakini kuna mmoja ako na silaha. Yule ametoka NYS ako na nidhamu. Ingawa pia niko na imani kwamba wale wanaochukuliwa ni wale ambao waliacha vikosi bila shida yoyote. Kwa sababu kwa hizi *private firms* kuna watu wametoka polisi, *GSU*, na wengine jeshi. Ikiwa rekodi yake ni nzuri, huwa wanapewa silaha. Nchini Uganda, walinzi kutoka kampuni binafsi za usalama hubeba silaha ndiyo hata kabla polisi wawasili kwenye eneo la tukio waweze kukabiliana na wahalifu.

Naona kuna wenzangu ambao wanataka kuchangia Hoja hii, na muda unaisha. Nakushukuru sana kwa nafasi hii.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Next is the Member for Embu County, Hon. Double N.

Hon. Pamela Njeru (Embu County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I support the Motion by my friend, Hon. Mbeyu, regarding the issue of our boys and girls in NYS.

The Government spends a lot of money during recruitment exercises and training for the NYS youths. This becomes a waste if after the vigorous training that they go through, they just exit the institution and stay at home doing nothing. Through the paramilitary training, they gain a lot of skills. I wish to request the Government that after the NYS training has been done, it should have a legal framework and policy that can give a report on the exit plan for the youth.

I suggest that it is not just the NYS youth who should be absorbed. We also have the youth in the Kazi Mtaani Initiative. They have been doing a lot of work in our counties. As much as we scout for the NYS personnel after they have been trained, we also need to look at the *vijana mitaani*, who have been doing a lot of work in different areas in our counties. More importantly, the NYS personnel acquire many skills during training. As much as we wish to request the Government establish a framework for absorbing the youth from the NYS, either through military recruitment or recruitment into the NPS, there are also different Government departments in which they can be absorbed because some of them have skills. Other than working as security guards, they can also apply the skills they have learned in different areas of our institutions.

I wish to support this Motion and request the Government to ensure that NYS personnel are not left idle at home after training.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Next is Hon. Paul Katana.

Hon. Paul Katana (Kaloleni, ODM): Ahsante, Mhe. Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipa nafasi hii ya kuchangia mdahalo huu.

Kwanza, ninaunga mkono Hoja hii na kumshukuru dada yangu, Mhe. Mbeyu, kwa kuileta. Serikali huwekeza fedha nyingi kila mwaka katika mpango wa kuwapa mafunzo vijana wa huduma ya taifa, NYS. Hata hivyo, baada ya vijana hao kufuzu, hakuna ufuatiliaji wa kujua wameenda wapi. Ninataka kusema kwamba vijana wanaotoka NYS waajiriwe katika taasisi za Serikali na za kibinafsi kwa sababu wamepata ujuzi na tajriba ya kufanya kazi mahali popote. Hawawezi wote kuchukuliwa...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Order, Hon. Paul Katana. Hon. Members, you may be upstanding. Hon. Paul Katana, you will have eight more minutes to conclude your contribution to the Motion when this debate resumes.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, the time being 1300 Hours, the House stands adjourned until later this afternoon, at 1430 Hours.

(The House rose at 1.00 p.m.)

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