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PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 7th October, 2026

Morning Sitting

*The House met at the Senate Chamber,
Parliament Buildings, at 9.30 a.m.*

[The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri) in the Chair]

PRAYER

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AT COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Clerk, kindly confirm whether we have a quorum.

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

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

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Serjeant-at-Arms, ring the Quorum Bell for a further 10 minutes.

(Quorum Bell was rung)

We have quorum now. You can read out the orders.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

QUESTIONS

Hon. Senators, today, Wednesday, 7th October, we were expecting three Cabinet Secretaries to appear before the Senate, starting with the Cabinet Secretary for Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development, hon.

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Wycliffe Oparanya. Then we have the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs and the Cabinet Secretary for Education.

The Cabinet Secretary for Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development has communicated that he will not be able to appear this morning. He has, therefore, requested his questions to be re-scheduled to a later date.

Question No.066

ECONOMIC LOSSES DURING PUBLIC
DEMONSTRATIONS OVER PUMP PRICES

(Question deferred)

We, however, have the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs in the precincts of Parliament. I request the Serjeant-at-Arms to escort him to the Chamber.

(The Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (hon. Ali Hassan Joho) was ushered into the Chamber)

Hon. Senators, the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs is in the Senate. He is here to answer two Questions; Question No.010 by the Senator for Kisumu County, Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda and Question No.077 by the Senator for Kilifi County, Sen. Justice (Rtd) Stewart Madzayo, EGH, MP. We will start with Question No.010.

Cabinet Secretary, welcome to the Senate to answer these two Questions. You have been here several times, so this is familiar territory. You also served in the National Assembly at some point. Therefore, *karibu sana, Waziri*.

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, proceed to ask Question No.010.

Question No.010

STATUS AND IMPACT OF BLUE ECONOMY
PROGRAMMES IN KISUMU COUNTY

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Question is addressed to the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, Hon. Ali Hassan Joho.

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide details on the status of all blue economy programmes undertaken by the National Government in Kisumu County since 2022 and indicate timelines for completion of all pending projects?

(b) What is the current infrastructural condition and operational status of the seven fish landing sites in Lake Victoria, cold-chain facilities and other blue economy structures?

(c) What impact have the blue economy interventions implemented by the National Government had on the income levels and livelihoods of the fishing community in Kisumu County since 2022?

(d) What measures has the Ministry put in place to ensure that funds set aside for blue economy interventions in Kisumu County are fully utilised and translate to tangible economic benefits for the local communities?

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Senators, we have so many questions this morning, especially to the Cabinet Secretary for Education. Therefore, I guide that we will be spending not more than 20 minutes per Question. Be guided appropriately.

Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, can you respond now to Question No.010?

The Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (Hon. Ali Hassan Joho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to thank this House for the opportunity to report on the blue economy and fisheries programmes the National Government has undertaken in Kisumu County since 2022 and to respond to Question No.010 by the distinguished Senator for Kisumu County, Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda.

In line with our mission, the Ministry, through the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, has formulated and implemented several programmes and projects that have been rolled out nationally, with the objective of ensuring food and nutrition security, income and wealth generation for socio-economic development of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the status of the blue economy programmes undertaken by the National Government in Kisumu County since 2022, I wish to report on four key projects that the Ministry is implementing in the county.

(1) Kabonyo Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Service and Training Centre of Excellence. This is a US\$9.997 million flagship project approved by the Cabinet on 10th November, 2022 and implemented through a tied-aid credit from the Government of Hungary. It will host a Nile perch research and development centre, an aquaculture resource centre and Kenya fishing school, while advancing selective breeding for Nile perch, tilapia and catfish, to expand fingerling supply to small and large-scale farmers.

(2) Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP), Grant Cycle I. This is part of the ongoing ABDP initiative covering the Financial Year 2023/2024. Under the ABDP, Kisumu received Kshs7.42 million in competitive matching grants to aquaculture field schools, smallholder aquaculture groups and aquaculture support enterprises, with a deliberate focus on youth and women. The grants supported feed formulation and production, fish farming, particularly tilapia and catfish, online marketing platforms, aggregation and processing, cold-room services, aqua shops and black soldier fly rearing to strengthen the entire value chain.

(3) Asat and Ogal Fish Landing Sites. Both sites are being developed as modern fish landing and processing facilities under ABDP umbrella, each valued at Kshs149 million and Kshs144 million respectively. Each facility includes fish and sardine processing plants, coldrooms, blast freezers, ice-flake machines, fish dryers, water treatment systems, power houses, ablution blocks, fencing, CCTV, firefighting systems, solar photovoltaic systems with battery storage and mechanical and electrical works. Jetties and restaurants are earmarked for Phase Two.

With regard to the current infrastructure condition and operational status of landing sites, cold-chain facilities and other key blue economy infrastructure in the county, I wish to report that these interventions are transforming Kisumu's blue economy backbone:

(1) Kabonyo is advancing as a regional training, research and service hub.

(2) The ADBP grants have activated enterprises along the aquaculture value chain, while Asat and Ogal are set to become modern, climate-resilient landing sites with cold-chain and processing capacity to reduce post-harvest losses and ease fishing pressure on the lake.

(3) The national pipeline also includes additional landing sites along Lake Victoria, with several scheduled for completion by the end of this financial year, reinforcing the county's position in the broader lakeside development agenda.

On the impact that the blue economy interventions implemented by the national Government have had on the income levels and livelihoods of fishing communities in the county since 2022, I wish to report as follows-

(1) The construction phase of the projects continues to employ workers from the local communities where the projects are located. At Kabonyo, for instance, the construction phase alone has employed 69 workers, with roughly 94 per cent drawn from the local community, providing direct income and skills in a region heavily dependent on fisheries. Early livelihood gains include flood mitigation works, improved access roads and pathways and ongoing water drainage interventions that enhance safety and accessibility for fishing and related aquaculture activities.

(2) Through ABDP, 28 grants have been awarded across Kisumu, catalysing new or expanded businesses in feed production, fish farming and marketing, aggregation, processing, cold storage and aquaculture shops. Beneficiaries have already reported reduced post-harvest losses and improved market access as early implementation takes hold, with fuller income, nutrition and employment effects expected by the end of this financial year.

For Asat and Ogal, the projects are expected to increase fish landings, create value-chain jobs, raise fisherfolk earnings through lower losses and improve household food and nutrition security once operational.

On measures the Ministry has put in place to ensure that funds are fully utilised and translate into tangible economic benefits for local communities, I wish to report as follows-

(1) To ensure funds translate into real outcomes, the Ministry is expediting disbursements, clearing Treasury compliance issues and issuing completion certificates promptly to facilitate payments while tracking progress.

(2) Quality assurance is enforced through material testing, design reviews and adherence to work plans.

(3) Community engagement is institutionalised to align projects with local needs, manage expectations and promote inclusive benefits.

(4) For oversight, we combine regular site inspections, technical progress meetings, harmonised reporting between residents and site engineers and structured monitoring and evaluation.

In closing, I wish to thank the Senate for its support in developing policy and legal instruments, including the eight fisheries management and development regulations that have strengthened sector governance. With these programmes on track, Kisumu County is well positioned to realise higher fish production, reduced losses, stronger enterprises and more resilient livelihoods under the Blue Economy Agenda.

I submit.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Very well.

Sen.(Prof.) Ojienda, now is the opportunity to ask your two supplementary questions, if you have them.

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, SC: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a supplementary question. The Cabinet Secretary has addressed the question of timelines and budgetary allocations. I want him, if he could, to confirm, one, when Asat and Ogal Fishing Landing Sites will be completed.

Two, I would also want him to confirm when the Kabonyo Kanyagwal Fisheries Project will be complete, given that he has pointed to ongoing works at that fishery site.

The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries visited Kabonyo Kanyagwal projects. At that time, it was about 20 per cent complete. I want to know the progress and when this project will be completed because it is important to the people of Kisumu County.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, answer those two then I will pick a few others for your attention.

The Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (Hon. Ali Hassan Joho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as regards to Asat and Ogal, currently, they are standing at 45 per cent. Expected time of completion should be March, 2027. For Kabonyo, we are currently at 47 per cent and the expected date of completion is April, 2027.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, that is okay. Let us get a few others and your team can record them. I will pick five, you answer them, then we can take another round if time allows.

Sen. Sifuna: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, by way of background, Article 96 of the Constitution gives the mandate to this Senate to represent counties and serve to protect their interests and their governments. If you go to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, fisheries is a devolved function.

We were with you in Kilifi and we had the opportunity to visit the Kilifi Central fish landing facility there. We were hoping that the Cabinet Secretary would be present in the Senate the week following our return. However, we saw that he was in the United States of America (USA). So, I had a lot of questions for him. I pose these questions

because I know that you are a former governor, my former deputy party leader in Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) and we used to fight for these things together. So, today, is it not embarrassing that the national Government is not able to avail Kshs9 million to county governments and county governors for them to build a fish landing site project that is supposed to be devolved?

One of the things that emerged from our visit in Kilifi is that the national Government, under President William Ruto, is refusing to hand over this money, so that they can control the procurement process for the contractors. Can we be told why it is not possible to respect the Constitution, give these monies to the county governors and governments and allow them to build these fish landing sites?

I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika.

Waziri, kwanza, ninataka kukushukuru kwa kazi ambayo unafanya katika Wizara ya Uchumi Samawati. Swali langu ni kuhusu *beach landing sites*. Alivyosema Mheshimiwa mwenzangu, tulitembelea Kilifi Central Fish Landing Site. Swali niliuliza pale sawasawa na ile *fish landing site* ya Kipini Tana River, ni kwamba usimamizi wa *fish landing sites* kwenda mbele utakuwa namna gani?

Hii ni kwa sababu kuna changamoto ya ulipaji wa pesa za stima. *Beach managements units* wakipewa usimamizi, hizi pesa za kulipia barafu zinasosha? Na kama hazitoshi, ni mpango gani ambao Wizara inayo ili hizi *projects* zisianguke? Ilikuwa zisaidie wavuvi lakini inaonekana ikiwa hakutakuwa na mpango kabambe wa kulipa stima, hizi *projects* zitaanguka.

Je, mpango ni upi?

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): *Senators*, nimeona mnazunguka mbali kuuliza swali. Maswali yaje moja kwa moja ili tuokoe muda.

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Asante, Bw. Naibu Spika, kwa kunipa nafasi hii.

Waziri, Senate Mashinani ilikuwa Kilifi. Serikali imeinvest pesa nyingi kwa uvuvi Kilifi. Lakini, wakati hizi *projects* zinaendelea, kumekuwa na vita ya barabara. Kuna watu watatu wanasema kwamba pahali kuna barabara ni eneo lao. Utafanya nini ili mradi ukiisha, hao watu wasifunge hiyo barabara?

Pia, tulikuwa Rusinga Island na kuna vita kati ya *investors* and *county governments* kuhusu uvuvi wa samaki. Hizi vita ni nyingi na hatujui utazimaliza namna gani.

Mwisho, tulienda pahali pengine ambapo kuna shida ya mambo ya uvuvi wa samaki kwa sababu ya deni ya stima. Utafanya nini ili pesa za Serikali zisifanye kazi kwa njia isiyofaa?

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Maswali ya leo kwa Waziri yalikuwa ya Kisumu. Lakini ninaruhusu tatembea Kilifi kwa sababu tulikungoja sana kule. Ulikuwa na maswali ya kujibu kuhusu mambo ya Kilifi tukiwa Seneti Mashinani. Kamati ya Kilimo, Ufugaji na Uvuvi ilitembea sana pale Kilifi. Hii ndio sababu leo, ninaruhusu waulize maswali kuhusu Kilifi.

Sen. Mbugua: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Bwana Cabinet Secretary, the National Blue Economy Strategy, 2025 aimed to grow the sector economic contribution from Kshs40 billion to Kshs350 billion by 2030. Can you tell this House how much of this you have been able to achieve?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Cabinet Secretary, congratulations on becoming a Cabinet Secretary. We have not met from the time you were appointed and you are my good friend.

As you know, fishpond farming is a fast-growing agribusiness in Kenya. In fact, the entire western depends on this farming to have access to Nile tilapia and the African catfish. I know you know that Kakamega, my county, is the highest producer of fishpond farming in Kenya.

I would like you to confirm how you intend to help farmers in Kakamega County and western region in general, involved in fishpond farming to access cooling facilities.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Yes, Hon. Cabinet Secretary, answer those as we prepare for another set.

Members, remember we only had 20 minutes, which we have already surpassed.

The Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (Hon. Ali Hassan Joho): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

First of all, I do not know whether I should start with Sen. Khalwale's question going upwards, but let me confirm---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Use any format.

The Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (Hon. Ali Hassan Joho): First of all, let me confirm what Sen. Khalwale said. It is indeed true that Kakamega County is almost the leading county in supplying fish, particularly, in the Nairobi market. This is as a result of the interventions we have put in place. As a Government, first of all, we have provided grants under Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) to the fish farmers in Kakamega County and also gone ahead to partner with the county to provide cooling systems and freezer facilities to the smaller fisherfolk.

The point to note is that Kakamega County is one of the leading processing centres of tilapia that gets into the national market. Therefore, our interventions will continue to grow. We are now in discussions for Phase Two of Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development (KEMFSED), where we will produce more resources to the grassroots, so that we enhance and create more opportunities for the communities around Kakamega and beyond. Sen. Khalwale, Kakamega County is doing a good job.

For Sen. Mbugua, for the entire ecosystem, we have diversified means, equipped and empowered fisherfolk because of the dwindling numbers of catches witnessed around the Lake Victoria. Hence, the introduction of the caged farming, where the national Government has not only produced and supported the fisherfolk, the communities or the Beach Management Unit (BMU), but also provided cages, fingerlings and enough feeds for the fast harvest. That means the Government has provided 33,000 fingerlings per cage, feeds to feed the 33,000 fingerlings for a period of about seven months and processing support. There is always constant review on what needs to be done to support the ecosystem and safeguard the interest of the fisherfolk.

Regarding the question from the Senator for Embu County; nimeshtuka na hilo swali la barabara kwa sababu najua Kilifi Landing Site iko mwisho wa ufuo wa Bahari, mahali ambapo palikuwa na barabara ya ukoloni, mwisho wa feri ya zamani. Kama kutakuwa na shida ya barabara, tutaangalia mbinu za kutatua kama serikali.

Vile vile, kwa kile kitu ambacho umesema ni *conflict of interest* katika Rusinga Island; *institutions* za serikali ziko hapo ili kuangalia *interest* za wale wawekezaji wakubwa na jamii ya pale wafanye kazi kwa njia ya kuelewana.

For Sen. Mungatana, mpango wa Serikali ni kupeana Kilifi, Kipini na zengineo kwa ushirikiano wa BMUs na kaunti. La muhimu ni kutambua kwamba ule ujenzi wa kisasa unawekeza mambo ya sola hususan ku-*address* mambo ya *bills* kubwa za umeme. Cha muhimu ni kwamba, hii ni biashara iliyo na faida. Lau ikipangika, hamna namna inaweza kosa kujimudu. Kando ya kwamba tuliweka mipango ya ku-*cushion* hawa watu wasipate shida za kulipa umeme na ku-*manage that facility* kwa njia ya *cost* duni, pia, kuna uwezo wa BMU ya pale wakishirikiana na kaunti ya pale, watafanya hiyo biashara.

Regarding the first question from my brother, Edwin Sifuna, on what we are doing as Government, we are complementing the county government. The fact of the matter is that we hand over these projects to the counties. It is not really a simple matter of procurement; I think it goes beyond that. There are issues of capacity to design, supervise and ensure whatever is done meets the required standards.

Sen. Sifuna, by the way, I received your invite when I had already left the country for the United States of America (USA). I would have happily attended because Kilifi is one of the flagship projects for us and very transformative. So, I assure this House that what the national Government is doing is really to complement and support the counties, to ensure whatever needs to be done and whatever resources needed are availed correctly and timely.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just for your assurance, we are not here to compete. Just as the Constitution stipulates, the two levels of government are interdependent and where we can support each other, we do. It is for that reason that we are very particular in supporting this sector then handing over to counties to run with it on behalf of the communities.

I submit.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Very well.

I want us to go to the next Question because it is also related to marine and fisheries. On this particular one, the questions are not really related to the landing sites in Kisumu. So, let us ask the second question together with the supplementary questions.

Sen. Mohamed Faki, you have express authority to represent the Minority Leader, go ahead and ask his Question 007.

*Question No. 077*STATUS OF BLUE ECONOMY PROGRAMMES
IN THE LAKE AND COASTAL REGIONS

Sen. Faki: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. First of all, I take this opportunity to welcome the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs to the Senate. On behalf of Sen. Madzayo, the Senate Minority Leader, I wish to ask Question No. 077.

(1) What measures has the Ministry put in place to ensure equitable distribution of investments in the blue economy in Kilifi Counties and other counties in the lake and coastal regions, where fishing and other water related activities are the main economic drivers?

(2) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide details of the blue economy programmes undertaken by the national Government in Kilifi County from 2022 to date and state the number of direct and indirect jobs that these programmes have created, particularly for the youth and women?

(3) What plans exist to further develop and improve fish landing sites, cold storage facilities, value addition centres and fish markets among other blue economy infrastructure in Kilifi County?

(4) How is the Government addressing the adverse effects of climate change, pollution and other environmental and human factors contributing to the decline of fish stocks in Kenyan lakes and the Indian Ocean?

(5) Could the Cabinet Secretary also clarify the nature of support according to BMUs, specifically whether the Government provides training, equipment and financial assistance to these units?

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, proceed. I can see the response is a bit lengthy, so, if possible, please summarise it to save time. We have the response already, so Members will follow your explanation.

The Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (Hon. Ali Hassan Joho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank this House for the opportunity to report on the Blue Economy and Fisheries Programme since 2022, with a specific focus on Kilifi County. The Ministry has rolled out national programmes that advance food and nutrition security, income generation and wealth creation, while ensuring equity and inclusion under Article 10(2)(b) of the Constitution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, allow me to give a summary of the responses to the four items that constituted Question No.077 by the Senator representing the good people of Kilifi County, Sen. Stewart Madzayo.

On equitable distribution of blue economy investments in Kilifi and other lake and coastal counties, the Ministry is implementing four strategic interventions.

(1) Aquaculture Business Development Programme: This is a Kshs14 billion programme across 16 counties, including lakeside counties. Under the programme, we have developed nine landing sites in five counties, supported 109 groups with fish cages in five riparian counties, assisted 19,000 smallholder farmers with pond inputs, supported school nutrition projects through 4-K Clubs, granted support to 175 women and youth groups for value-chain business plans, and equipped and accredited the fish quality laboratories in Kisumu.

(2) Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development Project (KEMFSED): This is a Kshs10 billion project covering Lamu, Tana River, Kilifi, Mombasa and Kwale, with the development objective of improving management of priority fisheries and mariculture and expanding complementary livelihoods. It has funded 1,263 sub-projects worth Kshs3.37 billion, benefiting 83,952 people and delivered mariculture infrastructure, fish landing sites and county fisheries offices across the five coastal counties.

(3) Kabonyo Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Service and Training Centre of Excellence: This is a US\$9.97 million project approved by the Cabinet in 2022. The project is implemented via tied aid credit from Hungary. It hosts the Nile Perch Research and Development Centre, the Aquaculture Resource Centre and the Kenya Fishing School. Construction is currently at 47 per cent. The project will support breeding and domestication of Nile Perch, Tilapia and Catfish to boost fingerling supply to farmers. The project is set for completion in April, 2027.

(4) Targeted infrastructure in coastal counties: In Kilifi, fish markets were constructed at Malindi, Ngomeni and Kichwa cha Kati landing sites. In Mombasa, Likoni Fish Market is under development and in Kwale, a seawall and landing sites were developed in Gazi and Kibuyuni.

On the status of blue economy programmes and jobs created in Kilifi County from 2022 to date, my response is as follows.

Mainly through KEMFSED, the Ministry has:

(1) Funded 287 Common Interest Group sub-projects valued at Kshs983.64 million. These projects have benefited 21,107 women and youth engaged in fisheries, agriculture, livestock, environment, social welfare and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

(2) Provided 181 scholarships, including 97 male and 84 female beneficiaries, worth Kshs22.49 million, covering secondary, certificate, diploma and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes. The Ministry deliberately included 15 Waata students from vulnerable and marginalised groups and three students living with disabilities.

(3) Supported 10 internship opportunities for young people in Kilifi. The internship programme provided the young people with practical work experience and professional skills.

(4) Trained 20,726 people, including 8,440 males and 12,286 females, in specialized skills such as coral restoration, value chains, group dynamics, leadership, grievance redress, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), social audit, and Global Positioning System (GPS) and fish-finder use.

(5) The Kilifi Central Fish Landing Site alone is expected to support 3,000 direct and 15,000 indirect beneficiaries upon operationalisation, who will be involved in fishing, handling, trading, transport, processing and related value-chain activities.

(6) Constructed the following infrastructure projects in Kilifi-

(a) Ngomeni Fish Landing Site, a modern facility with a processing area, cold room, ice flake machine, Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), flood lights, power, water, fencing, ablution block and septic tank constructed at a cost of Kshs48.62 million;

(b) Kichwa cha Kati Fish Landing Site, constructed at a cost of Kshs51.78 million;

(c) Malindi Fish Landing Site, constructed at a cost of Kshs54.98 million;

(d) Kilifi Central Fish Landing Site, constructed at a cost of Kshs275,000,000.07;

(e) Kilifi Central Fisheries Office, constructed at a cost of Kshs152 million; and,

(f) Malindi Fisheries Office, renovated at a cost of Kshs53.89 million.

On plans to further develop landing sites, cold storage, value addition centres and fish markets in Kilifi, I respond as follows-

The national Government, in collaboration with the County Government of Kilifi, has already conducted mapping of potential fish landing sites for development as part of plans to increase productivity of priority fisheries and aquaculture value chains, create jobs and enhance management of aquatic systems under a new project being negotiated by the National Government. The mapped landing sites include Mayungu in Malindi, Watamu in Kilifi North, Mtwapa, Takaungu and Kuruwitu in Kilifi South, Uyombo in Kilifi North, Ngomeni in Magarini, and Bofa in Kilifi North.

Proposed interventions include fish markets with flake-ice plants, cold and chill rooms, processing and packaging areas and Beach Management Unit (BMU) offices, gear repair and storage sheds, boat repair sheds, resting sheds, jetties, security, flood lighting, ablution blocks, fresh water and raised storage tanks, backup generators, perimeter walls, boreholes, slipways, seawalls and social halls.

On addressing climate change, pollution and other factors driving fish stock decline, my response is as follows-

The Ministry recognizes climate change as an existential threat to coastal and freshwater fishing communities and has put in place the following measures in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change-

(1) Early warning systems and provision of critical oceanographic information to guide fishing operations and planning, contributing to reduced drowning incidents due to unpredictable sea conditions;

(2) Nature-based solutions, including planting of 2.4 million mangrove saplings and promotion of seaweed farming to sequester carbon and provide natural coastal protection against waves and storms;

(3) Mechanical interventions. Construction of seawalls at exposed sites such as Gazi in Kwale, Kilifi Central in Kilifi, Mokowe in Lamu, and Mulukhoba in Busia, Luanda Kotieno in Siaya and Sori in Migori.

Nine additional landing sites are earmarked for protective walls.

(4) Pollution control: We have established a multi-agency committee in Mombasa to tackle pollution at landing sites, mapping exercises and enforcement notices issued to violators.

(5) Waste water treatment: We have constructed wastewater technologies deployed at Shimo la Tewa Prison and Mikindani to treat waste water before entering into the ocean.

(6) Monitoring and core management: We have instituted regular pollution assessment in lakes and coastal waters to identify hot spots, core management with communities to reduce destructive practices, promote sustainable gear and improve waste management at landing sites.

I submit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): I think you are the first Cabinet Secretary to include "Sir." I also appreciate your response.

Senator, were you sent with some supplementary questions?

Sen. Faki: I have supplementary questions and my own questions.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Okay.

(An hon. Member spoke off record)

Sen. Faki: No, I am just an agent.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): You will first ask the two supplementary questions, then we will come to your questions.

Sen. Faki: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Kwanza, ningependa kumpongeza Waziri kwa ufasaha wa majibu kwa maswala ambayo tulikuwa tumeuliza. Ni ukweli Kilifi Central Fish Landing Site iko karibu kukamilika. Tulipoizuru wiki iliyopita, tuliona ya kwamba kuna changamoto ya barabara ambayo Seneta wa Embu ameizungumzia. Ninasikia kwamba barabara ambayo ilikuwa inatumika zamani na feri ilichukuliwa na bwenyenye au mwekezaji wa kibinafsi. Wavuvi walilalamika ya kwamba huenda hiyo barabara ikafungwa siku za usoni kwa sababu huyo mwekezaji ame-*grab* hilo eneo.

Nimezuru pia Fish Landing Site ya Kidongo katika Kaunti ya Mombasa. Hiyo *landing site* imejengwa kwa ufadhili ya Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-economic Development Project (KEMFSED) na serikali ya jumuishi, *Broad-Based Government*. Changamoto ya wale wavuvi ni kwamba uvuvi wao ni wa msimu, kwa mfano kusi na kaskazi. Sasa hivi, tumeingia msimu wa kaskazi ambapo watavua mpaka majira ya mwezi wa nne ama wa tano. Baada ya hapo, hao wavuvi hupata shida ya kupata mapato--

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The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sen. Faki, hebu fafania kile ambacho umesema. Ninaona Sen. Cherarkey amepotea. Umesema kusi na kaskazi. Sen. Cherarkey haelewi kile ambacho unamaanisha.

Sen. Faki: Kusi na kaskazi ni msimu wa baharini. Wakati wa kusi, kuna upepo mkali baharini na wavuvi hawawezi kwenda kuvua samaki na kupata mapato. Kwa hivyo, ningependa kujua mikakati ambayo Waziri anafanya kuhakikisha ya kwamba

wavuvi wanaweza kupata mapato ya kukidhi mahitaji yao ya kimaisha kama chakula na karo ya shule hata kama hawana uwezo wa kwenda baharini.

Pili, tumeona ya kwamba mikakati imefanywa kujenga *beach landing sites* na samaki wanatarajiwa kwa wingi. Shida ni kwamba hatujafanya mikakati ya kununua vifaa kama boti kubwa ya kwenda nje kuvua samaki wengi ili wale ambao wanatayarisha samaki katika *beach landing sites* waweze kupata kazi mwaka mzima bila kuwa na matatizo. Hii ni kwa sababu mtu akiwa na vifaa madhubuti kule nje, anaweza kuvua kwa uwezo ambao anaweza kujihisi.

Asante, Bw. Naibu Spika, kwa kuniruhusu kuuliza hayo maswali mawili kwa niaba ya Sen. Madzayo.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sawa, tuendeleo Waziri.

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (Hon. Hassan Ali Joho): Asante, Bw. Naibu Spika. Swali la Sen. Faki ni nzuri sana. Ningependa kusema tathmini ya hali halisi ilivyo saa hii. Serikali jumuishi iko na mpango kabambe kuboresha hali ya uvuvi katika maeneo ambayo yako na nafasi ya uvuvi.

Kwa mara ya kwanza katika taifa hili, tumeona bandari ya kisasa Shimoni na Liwatoni. Bandari hizo zitapeana uwezo mkubwa wa kuzuia na kutengeneza samaki hususan *post-harvest losses* ambayo imekuwa janga kubwa kwa watu wa jimbo la Pwani na maeneo ya uvuvi kwa ujumla.

Government imediversify namna ya ushikaji wa samaki. Hii ndio maana tumewekeza Shilingi bilioni 1.4 katika taasisi ya utafiti na utengenezaji wa *fingerlings* katika maeneo ya Kwale. Kwa mara ya kwanza, hii taasisi imetengeneza *fingerlings* ya tilapia ya bahari, *marine* tilapia, ambayo tumeanza kupea wafuga samaki katika maeneo ya Pwani. Vile vile, tuko pia na *fingerlings* za *shrimps* ama Kamba. Hayo yamefanywa kujibu swali ambalo Sen. Faki ameuliza kuhusu mambo ya msimu ya kusi na kaskazi. Msimu imetubidi tuwekeze *ili tu-diversify means* ya kukuza na *ku-sustain* namna ya kupata samaki na bidhaa za bahari katika hayo maeneo.

Hakuna mradi ambao tumefanya kama Serikali ya kitaifa bila kuhusisha serikali za kaunti. Yale yote tunafanya ni kwa mashauriano na serikali za kaunti, taasisi husika na Beach Management Units (BMUs) husika katika mashinani. *Landing sites are designed on the basis of the requirement of the BMU* yenye inaitaka na *support* ya county government.

Nimefurahi ya kwamba mlienda Kilifi kwa sababu nitaomba mnisaidie kupata ufadhili zaidi, haswa katika mambo ya bajeti kwa sababu hii inabadilisha maisha ya watu wa Kenya katika kiasi kikubwa. Utakuta mtu mwenye msemu mkubwa pale ni mwenyekiti wa BMU ambaye anaitwa Captain Chalo. Yeye huzungumza na kuweka mpango. Sisi humshauri kila siku ili tuwezeshe madhumuni ya mirado hayo. Mimi nimefurahi kwa sababu watu wa maeneo ya ziwa na pwani wamekuwa wakibaki nyuma kwa miaka nyingi. Hawajakuwa wakipata miradi lakini sahizi kwa mara ya kwanza, tumeona *specific focus* ya kubadilisha maisha ya watu wetu ili kuboresha maisha yao.

Tumeendelea kupea wavuvi vifaa *under KEMFSED, but in the second phase*, tutapeana vifaa vikubwa zaidi ili wavuvi waweze kwenda bahari kuu kwa muda mrefu

wakitumia vyombo vya kisasa zenye uwezo ya kubadilisha namna ya uvuvi katika maeneo ya Pwani.

Serikali ina mkono mrefu. Kama kuna bwanenye alinyakua shamba hususan Serikali ya muungano inahakikisha mambo ya mashamba yanatatuliwa kule Pwani. Hilo shamba litarudi na litakuwa la wenyeji wa Kilifi kuendeleza maisha yao.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sen. Faki, you had a supplementary question.

Sen. Faki: Mheshimiwa Naibu Spika, kule Pwani kuna mradi wa bwawa la Mwache. Huo Mto Mwache unaingia Bahari ya Hindi kupitia maeneo ya Port Reitz. Samaki mara nyingi huwa wanakwenda kuzaa katika mkondo wa bahari. Kwa hivyo, mkondo wa Bahari ya Mwache, iwapo bwawa litakamilika na lianze kukusanya maji, litaathiri pakubwa uzalishaji wa samaki unaofanyika katika mkondo huo wa Port Reitz mpaka kule ndani Mwache.

Je, Wizara imefanya mikakati gani kuhakikisha kwamba wavuvi ambao wataathirika na mradi huu watalipwa ridhaa kwa kukosa samaki wa kuvua katika maeneo yale?

Sen. Kisang: Thank you, hon. Deputy Speaker. I thank the CS and the Broad-based Government for doing great in the blue economy sector. My question is on mining.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sen. Kisang, can we conclude on the blue economy and fisheries questions and then we can come back to that, if time will allow?

Sen. Kisang: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am about to step out.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): I do not want to open up mining while we are on blue economy and fisheries. If you do not have such a question, maybe on even why there is no fish farming in Elgeyo Marakwet, as what is happening in Kakamega---

Sen. Kisang: We have a lot of fish farming. Maybe I can ask him privately or visit his office on Flourspar, which is a burning issue in Elgeyo Marakwet county.

As he is doing a great job around the lake and the fish ponds, I hope he also has a glance on Elgeyo Marakwet. This is because we have two rivers, Aror and River Kerio, where we do small scale fishing. As you also take care of the big boys, it is also good to take care of the small ones in terms of support.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): That is also where I lie in these small boys, because in the Mountain, we have very good rivers which can be fed with nice fingerlings to come up with the best fish, which need cold water.

Sen. Kavindu Muthama: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I thank the CS for coming. Many are the times many are called and do not appear in this House. Congratulations for coming.

Mine is to ask what your Ministry is doing to support and intervene for small fishers in Machakos County, especially those in Masinga Dam and Kamburu Dam, a place called Kisumu Ndogo, Ekalakala and Athi River. We have so many of them and they really struggle.

I do not know what plans you have or have already done for these people, so that they can fish in a comfortable way and have a cooling system for storing their fish. This is especially for women and youth who are also selling these fish for their upkeep.

Sen. Cherarkey: Ninashukuru Waziri. Ninafikiri ni baadhi ya wale wanaofanya kazi kwa ufasaha na weledi mkubwa katika Serikali Jumuishi.

Swali langu ni kuhusiana na fish farming katika Kaunti ya Nandi ingawa sisi ni wakulima wa majani chai, maziwa na kahawa. Nimeona kabisa ameangalia sehemu za kule Pwani na Nyanza kuhakikisha wamepata *fish landing sites* na *support* ya kuhakikisha wanafanya biashara ya uvuvi.

Je, kwa vile amesema ame-distribute investments kule Kilifi, hizi kaunti kama Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Meru na zile kaunti zingine amewekeza pesa ngapi kuhakikisha *fish farming* inaweza kufanyika kule Nandi? Sasa sisi ni watu wa Serikali Jumuishi na tumeanza kubadilisha maankuli na kula samaki kwa wingi.

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Swali langu lilihusu Coltan lakini ninasikia unasema tutamuuliza baadaye. Sijui kama nitapata *time* nyingine.

Mimi ni Naibu Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya *Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries*. Tunajua unafanya kazi nzuri. Kuna wakati nilienda huko Budalangi, Busia, lakini kulikuwa na malalamishi ya wavuvi. Wale wavuvi wakikaribia mpaka wa Kenya na Uganda huwa wanashikwa.

Ni njia gani unaweza kuwasaidia wavuvi ndipo wakienda pale wasipate shida ama mvuvi akifungiwa Uganda atolewe haraka iwezekanavyo kwa sababu kuna mpaka na mtu anaweza kukosea kidogo?

Swali lingine ni kuwa huko Budalangi mambo ya uvuvi yanafifia kwa sababu kuna samaki wanatoka China na wameleta shida mpaka hiyo biashara ya wale wakulima wa pale ikawa na shida nyingi sana.

Sen. Sifuna: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know, I have to be straight with my friend, the CS. I was deeply disappointed by his assertion that county governments do not have capacity to design and build a fish landing site and yet, when he was Governor of Mombasa for 10 years, he knows that he did work that is far greater than designing and building a fish landing site.

The concern from our side is that all of these projects, we believe, must be undertaken in accordance with the law. The problem is that for all these fish landing sites that the national Government is building and then you claim you are handing to the counties, it is control of procurement and we can accept.

In accordance with Article 187 (2a), are there agreements between these county Governments and the national Government, in which these projects are being constructed, to undertake those projects on behalf of county governments?

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Proceed, hon. CS.

The Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (Hon. Ali Hassan Joho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the conversation on developing fish landing sites is larger than just construction and procurement. I will give an example such as the second phase programme we are developing today after the end of KEMFSED. Indeed, there are capacity and obligation issues. We are negotiating for some funding currently with the World Bank on phase two of the project.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is obvious that the counties cannot do that on their own, without the support and involvement of the national Government. I would like to put it clear to the House that, yes, there are agreements between the counties and the

national Government, not only in running the facilities, but also in designing. For instance, part of the small-scale boats that were provided for fisher folk were procured by the counties. However, we must also understand that sometimes, some funding come with certain conditions.

The Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development (KEMFSED) project happened to be one of those that had a condition on how procurement would meet the threshold of the World Bank. Therefore, it is not a simple matter that can simply be notified as capacity, but it is bigger than that.

However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I assure you, for the intended purpose that these projects are earmarked for, do function. We eventually hand over to county governments together with the Beach Management Units (BMUs) and we have actually seen positive results. So, we do not only claim to be handing over, it is a fact that we hand over. A perfect and positive story that I would invite the Senate to visit is a project that we undertook in Siaya County, which we handed over to the County Government of Siaya. The County Government, together with the BMU and a private investor created a joint venture to run that facility that is now transforming lives in Siaya.

Kwa Mheshimiwa wa Kaunti ya Embu, kwanza ningependa kusema kwamba, Serikali ilipiga marufuku *importation* ya Samaki kutoka China. Kwa hivyo, ikiwa kuna mtu anayeleta, anafanya hivyo kwa njia haramu. Hivyo basi, kama kuna *information* tutafurahi kuchukua hatua. Ni sababu hii kwamba tumeweka mipango ya kutotoa kibali cha uagizaji. Ningependa kuhahakikishia Bunge hili kwamba, kwa miaka ambayo nilikuwa kwa ofisi, hakuna hata kibali kimoja cha uagizaji ambacho kilipewa mtu kuleta samaki.

My dear brother, Cherarkey, nafurahi kwa sababu, sasa hivi kuna *interest* mpya ya kitaifa katika mambo ya samaki. Hapo awali, watu wa Kaunti za Nandi, Elgeyo-Marakwet na Embu wasingeangalia samaki kama nafasi ya Uchumi. Nafurahi kuwa tuko pahali hapa kama taifa. Ningetaka kukuambia kwanza, kuna mipango kabambe. Kwa mfano, katika Kaunti ya Tharaka-Nithi, tumepeana *support* kwa wavuvi wa mto ambapo kwanza tuli-*restock*, na pili, tukawapatia uwezo wa *processing*. Kwa hivyo, wao pia wamekuwa wavugaji wa samaki.

Pale Nandi, tunakuja, Mheshimiwa Seneta. Vile vile, tunakuja Embu na Kakamega, kuongeza uwezo na kwingineo palipo na uwezo ili huu uchumi Samawati uwe msingi wa kiuchumi na kuboresha maisha ya watu wa Taifa la Kenya.

Mhe. Naibu Spika, Sen. Muthama ameniuliza kuhusu small fishers katika Ekalakala na Kisumu Ndogo. Nitamtafuta Seneta ili niangalie ni mipango gani kabambe ambayo tunaweza kuweka. Ule mradi wa kwanza ulikuwa wa kuanzisha. Saas hivi, ni mambo ya kuongeza kasi. Hilo Swali linalingana na lile la Sen. Kisang, vile vile, kwa mambo ambayo tunaweza kufanya.

Nikirudi kwa Mhe. Seneta wa Kaunti ya Mombasa, hakuna mradi wowote wa kiserikali ambao unaweza kufanywa bila kuweko vipimo vya mazingira, yaani, *socio-economic impact*. So, ningependa kukuhakikishia kwamba, lazima hiyo ya mache imefanywa. Kama kuna mambo ya ridhaa, tutahakikisha wavuvi wamepata ridhaa.

It is the responsibility of this Ministry to ensure that we fully protect the environment that supports our fisher folk and ensure when compensation or diversification are needed, we lead from the front.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank these hon. brothers and sisters, for asking very pertinent questions. What encourages me today is that now I have a feeling that we are starting, as a country, to take this blue economy seriously. This is a new and diversified activity that can enhance our economy, contribute to our food and nutrition security going forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you, and submit.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Senators, I feel that we should stop at that point. It is now 11.00 a.m, and the other two Cabinet Secretaries are already here, in Parliament. That way, we will be able to go to the other two Cabinet Secretaries.

Hon. Senators, I have noted that most of the questions are coming from the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Therefore, I would like to ask the Committees Chairperson, to make a date with the Cabinet Secretary and engage him properly on all issues. Hon. Senator, make a date with the Cabinet Secretary as a Committee and engage on all these issues on Kilifi and Kisumu counties.

I am asking you to do a committee meeting with him, or even a retreat, so that you can discuss. The Senate Liaison Committee has a lot of money for local travel, so you can organise any time. We will facilitate your Committee, so that we can make progress.

(Sen. Ogola spoke off record)

Are you seated or standing?

(Laughter)

The two Senators are also trading you on bad manners, but I was addressing the Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Let me hear the gracious lady's problem. Where I come from, we respect ladies so much, and really have high regard for them.

Sen. Ogola: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for that respect.

I have a burning question from Homa Bay County, being a lake region county. There have been several reports on the death of fish in the lake, which we have seen even reported on newspapers. I would like to ask the Hon. Cabinet Secretary, what could be the cause of these reported deaths, and what measures are being put in by the Ministry, taking into consideration that it is both a health hazard and an environmental issue, and could be a danger to everybody, since this fish is not only consumed in Homa Bay, but it also goes across the region?

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sen. Miraj, please proceed. Please use just 30 seconds.

Sen. Miraj: Asante, Mhe. Naibu Spika.

Nashukuru Wizara kupitia kwa Waziri kwa majibu ya kina ambayo tumepewa. Lakini, ningependa kumwuliza Waziri, je, anaweza kulieleza Bunge hili hususan katika kaunti za pwani, uwekezaji huu umeleta matokeo gani, yanayopimika katika kuongeza kipato cha wavuvi, kupunguza upotevu wa samaki baada ya kuvuliwa, kuongeza uzalizi wa samaki na kutengeneza ajira endelevu kwa vijana na wanawake wetu. Vile vile, je, pale ambapo uwekezaji huu bado haujaongeza kipato cha familia za wavuvi, Wizara ina mikakati gani ya kuhakikisha ya kwamba, uchumi wa samawati unakuwa uchumi unaonufaisha jamii moja kwa moja ambazo zinapatikana katika fuo ya Bara Hindi.

Asante, Bw. Naibu Spika.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hayo mambo yote ndio Waziri amezungumzia tangu afike hapa. Nimekuwa hapa na ameongea hayo yote.

Ni vizuri umeuliza swali hilo. Hata hivyo, Waziri ameeleza hayo yote.

Nataka sasa tufunge. Sen. Mandago, you have one minute.

Sen. Mandago: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like the Cabinet Secretary to respond to this. Blue economy also spreads to our lakes. Lake Nakuru is one of our precious lakes and it has fish. However, there have been challenges in terms of harvesting fish on account that there are chemicals in the lake. Could the Cabinet Secretary confirm to Kenyans exactly whether the fish in Lake Nakuru is safe for human consumption?

Finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Cabinet Secretary since he has educated a number of Senators here on Kiswahili because I heard Sen. Cherarkey saying *serikali jumuishi*.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, ningependa ufunge tu kwa dakika moja kwa sababu umeshasema mengi.

The Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (Hon. Hassan Joho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to address the issue raised by my friend, Sen. Mandago, regarding fish in Lake Nakuru, where we are as a country today, I think we have a positive story to talk about on matters Blue Economy. We are at a point where we are now looking at scaling what has already been achieved and realised.

This is what I would like to say. Lake Nakuru is not identified as a fishing ground because it is more of a national park, which involves a lot more conversations around other critical players in the country that we have picked and we are in consultation with relevant institutions to see how we can tap into that opportunity.

Regarding the question on fish dying in Homa Bay, the last story about Homa Bay that I heard was about a good harvest of caged fish that the Government supported. The last incident of fish dying was reported in Busia. That was as a result of upwelling where oxygen reduces. Mostly, it happens due to wrong placement of cages.

I do not want some of my friends to pick it as a point of debate. However, it is a capacity issue in some counties where they authorise and license placement of cages without proper research. Due to upwelling, we end up having cases of fish dying. It is something that the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), an institution that is under me, has picked up and is working in partnership with counties so that we guide counties on how to place cages in order to ensure that standards are adhered to and positive results are seen instead of fish dying.

Bw. Naibu Spika, kuna swali lililoulizwa na Sen. Miraj. Nafikiri nimeeleza kwa upeo mpana hasa manufaa ya wavuvi katika maeneo ya pwani. Hata hivyo, ningependa kurudia kidogo tu kwa kujumlisha. Kwa mara ya kwanza, tuna taasisi ya utafiti ya kuleta mbinu mbadala kwa wavuvi na wafugaji wa samaki katika maeneo ya pwani.

Jambo la pili ni kuwa tumeweka mikakati kabambe za ku-deal na wavuvi. Hususan, kuna kitu kinachoitwa post-harvest losses. Kwa mfano, kule Msambweni, kuna modern landing site ambayo ina barafu. Vilevile, ina uwezo wa *ku-process* na *ku-store* samaki. Kule Likoni kuna mradi ulio na barafu, uwezo wa soko na *ku-process* samaki. Mombasa pia kuna mradi pale Kadongo iliyoko Kisauni ambao unanuia kutengeneza samaki, kuwaweka kwenye barafu na kutafuta soko. Miradi kama hiyo inaendelea kule Kilifi, Kipini kule Tana River na Mukowe kule Lamu ambapo iko asilimia 99 kukamilika.

Kwa hivyo, soko la samaki limefunguka, uwekaji wa samaki ni wa kisasa na matumizi ya barafu na utengenezaji wa samaki umeboreshwa. Kwa hivyo, tuko pahali pazuri kuendeleza uchumi samawati. Kwa mara ya kwanza, maeneo ya pwani na lake region yamepata support hususan katika kuboresha mbinu za uchumi kutokana na samaki na mambo ya uvuvi.

Nakushukuru, Bw. Naibu Spika.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Asante sana Waziri.

Sen. Faki, I have realised that there are several questions on mining which we cannot execute today. Those questions can be brought anytime through your committee so that Members get answers.

Thank you so much, hon. Cabinet Secretary, for your time and for executing your responses. You are well-informed of the sector. Thank you also for making the Blue Economy vibrant and visible. Hii ni sekta ambayo ilikuwa imezama. Nashukuru kwa kuangazia biashara ya samaki katika uchumi wetu.

Asanteni sana.

*[The Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs
(Hon. Hassan Joho) was ushered out of the Chamber]*

I request that the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy be ushered in.

*[The Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital
Economy (Hon. William Kabogo) was ushered into the Chamber]*

Sen. Abdul Haji, kindly approach the Chair.

(Sen. Abdul Haji consulted with the Deputy Speaker)

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

What is it, Sen. Boni?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before the next Cabinet Secretary takes the Floor, I was embarrassed by the conduct of two Senators who, despite the presence of this Bar and while the session was going on, they sneaked and started greeting the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary was confused whether to listen to us or receive their greetings.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is a serious matter of etiquette and decorum in the House. Could you make a pronouncement? I do not want to be embarrassed more by naming those Senators because some of them are in the House.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Yes, Sen. Joyce Korir.

Sen. Korir: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with Sen. Khalwale. We should put our House in order perhaps later after the session.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Senators, the issue raised by Sen. Boni Khalwale is a serious one. When we engage here, let Cabinet Secretaries respond to questions. If you want to engage a Cabinet Secretary privately or in whichever way you want, you can go to the office and engage them there or wait for them in the corridors of power after they are through with the session. Serjeant-at-Arms, that is your work.

Thank you so much, Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy for appearing before this Senate. We will go straight to Question No.065 by the Senator for Kisumu.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): There is another question by the Senator for Kilifi County, Sen. Madzayo.

(The Deputy Speaker consulted with Sen. Miraj and the Clerks-at-the-Table)

(Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojenda walked to the box)

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, you assumed the office of the Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries yesterday. You seem upbeat about this position. You do know that you are supposed to ask a question. Also, Sen. Faki, you were given responsibility by the Senate Minority Leader.

(Sen. Faki spoke off record)

Prof. Tom Ojienda, proceed to ask your question without further ado.

Sen. Sifuna, what is it? Just a minute, Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda.

Sen. Sifuna: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a former leader in this House and luckily, Sen. Khalwale is also a former leader of this House, sometimes the Chairperson should listen to us we guide in order for us to protect the dignity of this House. In fact, I had requested that we start with the Cabinet Secretary for Education because of the sheer number of questions that he has to answer. This is so that we take up the bulk of the time with education issues and then the two questions directed to the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy. You can see even the Senators who brought that business are not taking the business seriously themselves. Why should

we sit here ready to prosecute our business and wait for the others who are not serious? It is very embarrassing.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Sen. Sifuna, I guide that you ask the two questions simultaneously and then the Cabinet Secretary will answer them within 15 minutes.

Sen. Sifuna: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he owes us an apology as leaders in this House.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Let the Senator give the apology.

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Senator for Nairobi knows that I am now the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and I am senior to him.

(Laughter)

He is actually a backbencher now and he should listen to my questions in silence. I will only take five minutes and in any event, Sen. Khalwale is also a former leader. He is confirmed a backbencher as well. He is rightly sitting at the back. He should be patient to listen to the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Chair must protect our dignity as Members in this House. The Senator for Kisumu should be using this opportunity to apologize because the House has been waiting for him to come and ask a question. When he says he is a senior Member, are you suggesting that you are senior than me? You have been in Parliament for four years. We have been in this public space for over 20 years and we have never seen a situation where the business of the House is delayed because a chairman of a committee has followed a minister. What business are you doing with the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs after he has discharged his role here? You must apologise to us.

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you directed that the Chairperson of Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries agree with the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs on the mode of settling some of the questions asked before this House. However, for the comfort of Senior, I apologize for the delay so that we move on.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): That is good enough. Proceed and ask your question.

Question No.065

MEASURES TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL
ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC: Question No.065 addressed to the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and Digital Economy, is in four parts.

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary state the measures and institutional mechanisms put in place by the Government to address the circulation of false emergency information, digitally manipulated content and impersonation of public institutions or officials online?

(b) Could the Cabinet Secretary also clarify whether there exists an official rapid public communication and verification mechanism during periods of public anxiety or national emergencies?

(c) What are the protocols in place for authentication of official Government digital communication and could the Cabinet Secretary explain the measures in place to enhance coordination among Government agencies in timely clarification of misleading information likely to cause panic, confusion or disruption of essential services?

(d) What steps are being taken to promote responsible digital engagement and public awareness, while safeguarding the constitutional freedoms guaranteed under Articles 33 and 34 of the Constitution?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I also point that I have seen the response by the Cabinet Secretary which is substantially satisfactory and he does not need to read every bit of the response. I thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Ask the other questions, Sen. Mohamed Faki, on behalf of Sen. Madzayo.

Question No.081

MEASURES TO DETECT AND PREVENT ONLINE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Sen. Faki: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. On behalf of Sen. Madzayo, I will ask question No.081. The question is in four parts.

(a) What measures has the Ministry put in place to prevent, detect and investigate cases of online gender-based violence and could the Cabinet Secretary explain how the Ministry is collaborating with relevant Government agencies, social media platforms and other stakeholders to address the vice?

(b) Could the Cabinet Secretary outline mechanisms in place to enable victims of online gender-based violence to safely report incidents, access assistance and have their complaints investigated and resolved expeditiously?

(c) What measures has the Ministry taken to ensure effective enforcement of laws relating to cybercrime and protection of personal data, particularly in cases involving the non-consensual sharing of private information and online sexual harassment?

(d) What specific interventions has the Ministry undertaken in Kilifi County following the launch of the campaign against online gender-based violence?

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, proceed and give your response.

The Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and Digital Economy (Hon. William Kabogo): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will start with a question from the Senator for Kisumu, Prof. Ojienda. As he has said, I have given an elaborate, voluminous answer to this question. I will just read a brief summary of my response to his four questions.

I thank the House for the opportunity to respond to Question No.065 on false emergency information, digital manipulation content and online impersonation of public institutions and officials. I have tabled a full written response and will address each of the four issues briefly.

On part (a), the Government has put in place legal, institutional and technical measures. The Communications Authority of Kenya through the National Kenya Computer Incident Response Team (KE-CIRT) monitors Kenya's cyberspace and coordinates responses to impersonation of government entities and officials, phishing and fraudulent communications.

The National Computer and Cyber Coordination Committee (NC4) brings together government institutions, law enforcement agencies, regulators and critical infrastructure sectors for information sharing, escalation and joint response also. The Authority also works with platforms, domain hosts and network operators to take down harmful content and impersonating accounts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry works with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) on cybercrime. Cybercrime cases reported rose from 730 in 2024 to 830 in 2025 and include impersonation, fraud, incitement and fake news. The proposed Kenya Information and Communication (Amendment) Bill, 2026 will strengthen the framework for digital platforms and national cyber readiness.

On part (b), the Senator asked whether an official rapid public communication and verification mechanism exists. The answer is yes. During emergencies, the Government communicates through official websites, verified accounts and media briefings. The Office of the Government Spokesperson provides official government positions, coordinates the National Disaster Operations Centre and coordinates public advisory during disaster and emergencies. The Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) and the Kenya News Agency (KNA) carry urgent public announcements. The National KE-CIRT verifies official government accounts and identifies fraudulent accounts, websites and domains to take down.

The Ministry applied these mechanisms during the public engagement on the Finance Bill 2026/2027, coordinating real-time public communication so that citizens received factual, consistent and timely information.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Cabinet has approved the National Communication Policy under the principles of the "One Government, One Voice". It establishes the National Communication Centre (NCC) as a central coordinating body for government information and a Government Crisis Communication Standing Committee for emergencies. I must be candid with the House. Cooperation with the digital platforms is

currently voluntary, which limits the authorities' ability to compel action. This underscores the need for a strengthened regulatory framework to secure structured cooperation and timely response from these platforms.

On part (c), official digital communication is authenticated through government domains, verified accounts, secure email and digital certificates. The national public key infrastructure enables digital signatures, which verify the senders of communication and confirm that it has not been altered. The Authority has licensed five electronic certification service providers and the ICT Authority serves as the Government certification authority.

Under the Communications Policy, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) communicate only through designated channels and authorised offices. Where institutions have published without following the approval process, the Ministry is standardising protocols and building the capacity of public communication officers. Coordination runs through the NC4 and the National KE-CIRT, issues alerts and advisories to support the rapid verification and clarification of misleading information.

Finally, on part (d), the Government is promoting responsible digital engagement within Articles 33 and 34 of the Constitution. The Communications Policy and the Access to Information Act promote transparency and timely access to verified information. The Kenya News Agency promotes fact-checking and media literacy and the Ministry supports the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) in professional standards and self-regulation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, nationwide programmes cover digital literacy, cyber hygiene and child online protection. The Communication Authority Meta Youth Online Safety Campaign reached 27 million people and the Social Media for Peace project is being implemented with UNESCO and other partners. More than 100,000 public officers have been trained under the Digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Skilling Programme.

The Government respects and implements the decisions in *Jacqueline Okuta v. Attorney General*, which abolished criminal defamation and in *Blogger's Association of Kenya v. Attorney General*, which declared sections of Article 22 and 23 of the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act unconstitutional. Enforcement focuses on the provisions that remain valid in law complemented by the rapid population and verified official information. Lawful online discussions, journalism and criticism remain protected.

In conclusion, the Government's immediate priorities are-

- (1) Full operationalisation of the national communications policy.
- (2) Compliance by all MDAs with official communication protocols.
- (3) Wider use of the national policy key infrastructure and authenticated government channels.
- (4) A statutory framework for the cooperation and accountability of digital platforms.

I submit on that question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

[The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri) left the Chair]

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

*Question No.081*MEASURES TO DETECT AND PREVENT
ONLINE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I will proceed to answer Question No.081 from Sen. Justice (Rtd.) Stewart Madzayo, EGH, MP, Kilifi County. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before this House to respond to Question No.081 by the Senator for Kilifi County.

The Government addresses technology-facilitated gender-based violence through a multi-agency framework covering prevention, detention and reporting, investigations and prosecution, protection of personal data, survivor support and engagement with digital platforms.

On part (a), the Communications Authority of Kenya operates the National Kenya Computer Incident Response Team Coordination Centre on a 24-hour, seven-day basis. It links ICT service providers with the agencies responsible for investigation and prosecution.

The Authority has established a digital forensics lab, which identifies, preserves and analyses digital evidence and has received more than 200 requests for forensic investigations. The Registration of Telecommunications Service Subscribers Regulation, 2025 enables authorised agencies to trace subscribers who use communications services to harass, threaten or impersonate others.

The Authority's Industry Guidelines for Child Online Protection and Safety, 2025 promotes safety by design and the reporting of harmful content and we are engaging platforms on these standards. The Authority's Youth Online Safety Campaign with META reached approximately 26.9 million people.

In June this year, the Ministry and the Authority joined more than 80 regulators and practitioners at a forum convened with IREX and UNESCO, which agreed to establish a technical working group, formalise information sharing, harmonise referral pathways and set up a national coordination mechanism for online safety.

On part (b), survivors can report through helplines in service on all networks 1195 for Gender-Based Violence (GBV), 1193 for women victims of violence, 116 for children and 999 or 112 for emergencies. These channels, together with *WhatsApp* number 0724-884444, will support the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children's Services in developing digital safe spaces and referral mechanisms under the Reviewed Protection Against Domestic Violence Act. Cyber-enabled abuse may also be reported to the Communications Authority (CA) through the Chukua-Hatua platform and other channels. Anonymous reports are also accepted. Complaints within the Authority's mandate are acknowledged within three days and targeted for resolution or resolving within 14 working days.

Matters disclosing a criminal offence, a data violation or a need for specialised support are referred to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, or the National Gender and Equality Commission

(NGEC). A survivor should be able to report once and be referred to the right institution. The Government is therefore developing common reporting templates and an integrated multi-agency platform for reporting and referral.

On part (c), the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, 2018 criminalises cyber harassment and the publication of intimate images of other persons. Investigations lie with law enforcement agencies and prosecution with the Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (ODPP).

Under the Data Protection Act, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner had, as of 30th June 2026, registered 21,020 data controllers and processors, inspected 254 entities and admitted 12,576 complaints. On these, 19 complaints concerned the non-consensual sharing of personal data on social media with possible criminal elements. Such elements are referred to investigators.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the accountability of digital platforms requires further strengthening. The proposed Kenya Information and Communication (Amendment) Bill, 2026 would require platforms serving Kenyan users to provide accessible reporting, safety by design, algorithmic transparency identification of AI-generated content and internal grievance mechanisms.

These proposals remain subject to the consideration of the National Assembly and Parliament.

On part (d), the Ministry has not yet undertaken a specific Ministry-led intervention in Kilifi County following the launch of the campaign.

The Ministry will prioritise four interventions. First, it will extend and localise national online safety, awareness, reporting and referral investigations to support the Kilifi County's strategy on GBV. Second, it will participate in the grassroots early warning networks in Kilifi and other counties. Third, it will build the capacity of digital community stewards and frontline actors to identify online abuse and refer affected persons. Fourth, it will strengthen its partnership with the Kilifi County Government on cyber security awareness, data protection and online GBV. This work will build on the county's existing response mechanisms and connect them to the national helplines, reporting channels and forensic support.

I thank the Senate for this Question.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, thank you for your responses. I now invite hon. Members who have supplementary questions. I will, since the directive was given cumulatively, start with Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda who already indicated that the response to his Question was satisfactory.

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, SC: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied with the response of the Cabinet Secretary. I have no supplementary question.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you very much. Sen. Faki, proceed on behalf of Sen. Madzayo, if you have different supplementary questions on the two questions, run all of them for the hon. Cabinet Secretary to also answer.

Sen. Faki: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am not really satisfied with the responses from the Cabinet Secretary. More so, the fact that he wants to blame the DCI and the ODPP for the failure to prosecute yet, the initial task is supposed to be done by the Ministry. So, I will leave it at that for the time being. Those are my views.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Sen. Faki. Hon. Cabinet Secretary, take note of that concern if you have something to say as you respond to the rest of the supplementary questions from Members. If not, you will have to respond that at a time, that you will have information to that particular question.

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to interrogate the Cabinet Secretary. I want the Cabinet Secretary to tell the country what his policy is as concerns the coverage of network, especially in vast counties such as Tana River.

I just want to give three particular wards in three constituencies. Kinyadu in Garsen North Ward, which is in Garsen Constituency, Chifiri in Kinakomba Ward, which is in Galole Constituency, Mbalambala in Madogo Ward, which is in Bura Constituency. What will the Ministry do about these areas? This is because it is affecting commerce, communication, security and health. When our mothers, sisters and wives have emergencies, communications become a problem. What is the plan of the Cabinet Secretary? If he does not have one, could he tell us when he will come up with a plan to assist these affected areas in terms of network coverage.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Hon. (Dr.) Mungatana.

Proceed, Sen. Sifuna.

Sen. Sifuna: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this is the Ministry of Information, Communications and Digital Economy. I was trying to find out if it has a X handle. I do not think I have ever seen it. We only see the one for Interior KE. Maybe the Cabinet Secretary can confirm. Waziri, it is difficult for some of us to believe the things that you are saying when this Government actively hires people on social media to spread misinformation and attack other political opponents. So, is it really true what you are telling us here?

Yesterday, there was a very alarming information about one of our colleagues, the hon. Senator for Siaya. We continue to pray that he is okay, gets well soon and resumes his duties. I have never seen any action being taken to stop the spread of misinformation. Increasingly, the reaction of Government is just usually to criminalise conduct. There is no other way or plan, we can see from them yet, I suspect it is because they are the ones who hire these bloggers on social media to insult other people and spread misinformation. So, I would like him to comment on those concerns.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you.

Lastly, Sen. Cherarkey, proceed.

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank you, Waziri, Governor.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, Waziri, you are doing a good job as a Ministry; you just need to ignore *kelele za chura ambazo hazizui ng'ombe kunywa maji*.

Mine is just a follow-up concern on a supplementary matter. There is the issue of the recent case of Ebola in Kenya and the predicted El Nino rains. In the USA, cities and states are coming up with a digital way of handling such cases. You have been travelling to Dubai and whenever there are attacks, you receive an alert in your phone asking you to go to a shelter. What mechanisms has the Ministry put in place for communication especially on issues of emergencies such as Ebola and El Nino?

Finally, the only thing that I agree with Sen. Sifuna on is misinformation and disinformation. What is the Ministry---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Cherarkey, you know you are entitled to one question.

Sen. Cherarkey: They are co-joined like Siamese twins. Add me just 30 seconds more.

What is the Ministry doing to flag out cyberbullying? Yesterday, we saw all those allegations against the Senator for Siaya County all over social media. You are the Ministry that should have assisted agencies to discount such misinformation because it is causing untold suffering to the family and supporters. It is in the interest of the public that the Ministry of Information, Communications and Digital Economy is critical in dissemination of information across the country.

I yield back.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you.

Lastly, Sen. Mbugua, proceed.

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

Cabinet Secretary, on this issue of digital engagement and public awareness, I want you to tell this House what steps your Ministry has taken to ensure that it is inclusive and accessible to all Kenyans.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you may respond to those questions in a very summarised manner because your colleague has been waiting for the last couple of hours.

The Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and Digital Economy (Hon. William Kabogo): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will try to be as quick as possible. As is tradition with our Ministry, we undertake also to bring in comprehensive answers for all supplementary questions that we get here. However, I will try and answer them as quickly and as briefly as possible. I appreciate the fact that Prof. Ojienda is satisfied with the answers that we gave.

On the issues raised by the Hon. Mungatana, the first question that was asked is on how we do coverage and what we undertake to ensure that those places that he mentioned such as Kinyagu, Chivelu and Mbalambala in Mbura. We are using the Universal Service Fund (USF) to improve the network in the country. So far, the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) has done three phases to improve network communications.

The Authority is now working on Phase Four to deploy a national network to 320 sublocations in the country. We are also running fibre for 100,000 kilometres and we have already done 37,000 to ensure that these places are connected. In areas we do not have fibre, we have an engagement with people like Starlink to make sure that we are able to get Kenya connected even in those places that are not very connected.

We have a shortfall of funding and we shall be coming to the House to request additional funding for areas that are not well covered. We should be able to get the whole country covered by the year 2030. However, in those places that were mentioned by the Hon. Mungatana, we undertake to ensure that those places are connected.

A question was asked by Hon. Sifuna on whether we have a Twitter handle. Yes, indeed, we do and it is @myictkenya. The Ministry does its work first, then forwards the rest of the issues to law enforcement agencies.

There was a statement by the questioner on behalf of Sen. Madzayo that said he was not satisfied and that we were passing blame to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). We do what the Ministry is supposed to do when we forward the rest to other Government departments to do their part. The whole Government approach is that we do our part then forward to DCI and the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) for cases that are supposed to be done by them.

On the issue raised by the Hon. Sifuna that Government hires people to do certain things; as the Cabinet Secretary for ICT and Digital Economy, I am not aware that Government does really hire people to do those things. If the Ministry---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): What are the certain things that you are referring to?

The Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and Digital Economy (Hon. William Kabogo): Say again?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): You are saying that the Ministry has to do certain things. I did not hear Sifuna saying certain things, he must have said something specific. I want you to make specific reference as you respond to that.

The Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and Digital Economy (Hon. William Kabogo): I have made the reference that I am not aware that Government hires people to do those things. If indeed it does happen and the Hon. Member has information, I would gladly be willing to be informed.

Finally, on misinformation and disinformation; the Ministry, through the CAK and Media Council of Kenya (MCK) has continued to conduct trainings and sensitisation campaigns on the dangers of misinformation and disinformation, fact-checking and media literacy of the public and journalists. The Ministry in conjunction with the Ministry for Interior and National Administration have implemented the Cybersecurity Policy/Strategy and Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, where false information and misinformation on digital platforms is criminalised.

There was another question by Sen. Cherarkey. The Ministry is working with mobile companies to relay messages to Kenyans on emergencies. We have already written to the mobile companies to relay such messages in emergencies. We are working with the National Disaster Response Team to deploy modern ways to communicate our cell broadcast system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Hon. Cabinet Secretary.

(Sen. Mariam spoke off record)

I am assuming that, that is not an extension of your supplementary question. Well, Sen. Mariam, we are closed on that one.

Sen. Sifuna, I will just give you an opportunity to seek clarification and not another fresh line of questioning to the Cabinet Secretary.

Sen. Sifuna: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, no! Part of the discussion this morning is about making sure that the information that we consume comes from credible places and sources. The Cabinet Secretary has given this House a reference to an X page. One of the tools that X has put in place for you to be able to know that this is actually a Government agency communicating is a verification badge. That account that he has given is not even verified. They must pull up their socks because the last post on that page is two days ago. Is he really telling this House that there has been nothing important to communicate to the people from the Ministry since the last two days?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Sifuna, that is a similar concern Sen. Cherarkey had approached the Chair on.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, your X page is not verified. What do you have to say about that? Is that indeed the position? What do you plan to do about it?

Secondly, as a way of advice from the House, the comment by Sen. Faki on behalf of Sen. Madzayo, as to the fact that, as a Ministry, you are passing responsibility to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) or the Office of the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI), would expect a substantive response from your end. I am aware you have made comments that you have done your part.

It is upon you to follow through. If a complaint has been raised by your Ministry and there is inaction on the part of another government agency, I believe part of the whole-of-government approach is to make sure that your concerns are actioned by the relevant agencies within Government. Therefore, it should not be that you have done your part, you sit back and say, "I blame the DCI." Kindly confirm whether indeed your X page is not verified and, if not, what action you intend to take.

The Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (Hon. William Kabogo): Indeed, I confirm that the X handle is not verified, but the Ministry is working on it. The technical team is working to get it verified. We shall pull up our socks to make sure that we do what is expected of us as a Ministry.

On the issue of follow-through, we are not passing blame. We want to confirm to the House that we are working properly with those agencies. Of course, there is red tape here and there, but these are things that, as is usual in Government, take a little while. We will follow up with those agencies to make sure that we get on top of everything and do what is expected of us.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, on the issue of misinformation, a lot is happening and changing with Artificial Intelligence (AI). Before, you would say that Hon. Kabogo has said this and that and they would ask for a video clip or a recorded tape. Now it is possible with AI.

So, this is a field that we want to discuss with Members of Parliament (MPs) as people's representatives, so that we can start discussing how we engage and how we generally behave on these platforms and take this discussion to the family level, because charity begins at home. However, we will endeavour to do what we have to do to make sure that information is relayed to Kenyans and that the information is factual, true and reliable. I submit. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, thank you for your responses. We appreciate, as a House, you honouring our summons to appear to respond to those questions. This is the only way we can also have direct engagement as representatives of the people to get direct responses from your desk. We definitely look forward to engaging on additional inquiries that come from the public through the House. Otherwise, with that, Hon. Cabinet Secretary and your team, we appreciate you turning up and you are released.

[The Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (Hon. William Kabogo) was ushered out of the Chamber]

Hon. Members, that is it for the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and Digital Economy. The next set of questions is to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and I call upon the Clerk to usher in the Hon. Cabinet Secretary.

[The Cabinet Secretary for Education (Hon. (Dr.) Julius Ogamba) was ushered into the Chamber]

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, welcome to the Senate. Once you are comfortable, we are ready to run through the questions. I know you have been here for quite some time, but we have had your colleagues, the Cabinet Secretaries, present earlier in the morning. We had the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs and we have just heard from the Hon. Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and Digital Economy. So, it is your turn.

Maybe for purposes of housekeeping, Hon. Members, we have eight questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Education. I am aware that we have since received responses. So, Cabinet Secretary, out of the eight questions, we intend to make use of one hour because we are supposed to conclude by 1.00 p.m.

I will direct that to your responses because you have already submitted written responses to the Members. You will give us a summarised version of each response, possibly in under five minutes, so that we reserve another five minutes per supplementary question from Hon. Members.

So, as we start, we will work with ten minutes per question, five minutes allocated to your response and five minutes for purposes of supplementary questions, if any. We will go straight to Question No.33 by Sen. Catherine Mumma. Sen. Sifuna, you are asking the question on behalf of Sen. Mumma.

Question No.033

DATABASE ON TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

Sen. Sifuna: Indeed, I am, on behalf of Sen. Catherine Mumma. She wanted to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Education the following Questions-

(1) How does the Ministry monitor cases of teenage pregnancies amongst learners and what tools or systems are used to collect and consolidate this data?

(2) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide the number of learners reported pregnant in 2023, 2024 and 2025, disaggregated by county and sub-county, and indicate how many of these cases involved perpetrators who are teachers?

(3) How many defilement cases were prosecuted following the identification of these pregnancies within the school system?

(4) What efforts has the Ministry, in collaboration with county governments and other stakeholders, made to facilitate the return of child mothers to school, including-

(i) The number of child mothers who have been successfully re-enrolled per county.

(ii) The policy framework or guidelines currently in place to support their re-entry.

(iii) The number of child mothers who remain out of school and the reasons for their non-return.

(5) Has the Ministry undertaken any investigations, surveys or research to understand the causes and patterns of high rates of teenage pregnancies among school-going children? If so, could the findings or reports of such studies be tabled before the Senate?

Those are the questions. I want to apologise because I would want to walk out in the next few minutes. I do not have any follow-up questions. I am sure these responses are to the House, my presence notwithstanding, they should be given.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Very well, Sen. Sifuna. That is noted.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, Sen. Sifuna is requesting to leave, so you will respond to that question, then we progress to the next set of questions.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education (Hon. (Dr.) Julius Migos Ogamba): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, and Hon. Members, for giving us the opportunity to respond to these questions that are concerns of Kenyans.

On the first part of the question, I want to state that the Ministry of Education monitors cases of teenage pregnancies among learners through a multi-sectoral, multi-agency approach in line with the National Guidelines for School Re-entry in Early Learning and Basic Education Regulations (2020). The monitoring system includes school heads and teacher reporting, National Social Re-entry Guidelines (2020), and health and demographic surveys. Those are the three main areas or regulations that we use.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, let me deal with item No.3, which deals with the issue of data. The Ministry heavily relies on the data from other relevant agencies, notably the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey and the Kenya Health Information Systems. In the first five months of 2023, the survey reported 110,821 recorded cases among adolescents aged 10 to 19. These are general population health statistics, not specifically for the Ministry of Education.

I will answer part two and part three of the question together, the one that relates to reported pregnancies between 2023 and 2024 and the disaggregation. At present, the Ministry of Education does not have a comprehensive framework and information management system for the aggregation of data on reported pregnancies among learners and perpetrators. As indicated earlier, the existing mechanisms for monitoring are largely dependent on heads of institutions and teachers and are also not watertight.

Compilation of data on perpetrators also requires a comprehensive framework that involves, in addition to the Ministry of Education, other Government agencies charged with discipline, in this case, the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and the criminal justice system, including the National Police Service (NPS), the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and the Judiciary.

Designation as perpetrators necessarily means or implies that a disciplinary and criminal process has taken place and a finding has been obtained that the suspect is a perpetrator. In the context of the ongoing reforms in the education sector, we are working on a system that brings together all these agencies for purposes of sharing data. At present, therefore, available data is mainly drawn from the National Police Service and are taken through the health sector and in particular, in the first five months of 2023, the Kenya Health Information Systems recorded the number that I have indicated of 110,000 cases among adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19.

The distribution of those cases was such that 6,110 cases involved adolescents between the ages of 10 and 14 and 104,711 cases involved adolescents between the ages of 15 and 19. The national teenage pregnancy rate for girls between 15 and 19 in 2022 was 14.8 per cent. The survey has noted that the rate of teenage pregnancy varies significantly by county. The counties with the highest teenage pregnancy rates for women or young girls between the ages of 15 and 19 in 2022 were Samburu at 50.1 per cent, West Pokot, 36.3 per cent, Marsabit at 29.4 per cent, Narok at 28.1 per cent, Meru, 23.6 per cent, Homa Bay, 23.2 per cent, Migori, 22.4 per cent all the way to Siaya at 20.9 per cent.

On the efforts that the Ministry in collaboration with county governments has made, we wish to state the number of child mothers who have successfully been re-enrolled per county. The policy framework and guidelines to support child mother is premised on the Constitution, which entitles every child to free and compulsory education under the Education Act of 2013, which reinforces this right.

The specific policy in place is the National Guidelines for School Re-entry in Early Learning and Basic Education Regulations (2020). These guidelines seek to operationalise the rights of out of school children, including pregnant girls and lactating mothers to continue their education. They provide clear procedures for schools to follow in the treatment of girls during pregnancy and post pregnancy, allowing girls to continue their education while pregnant and after giving birth. They require school heads and teachers to re-admit teenage mothers unconditionally. A policy specifies that if teen parents face stigma in the previous schools, they should be enrolled into a different school.

On data as early indicated, the Ministry lacks comprehensive and desegregated data to provide the exact number of child mothers who have been successfully re-enrolled

per county or the total number who remain out of school. However, the new tool that we are introducing in the Ministry, the Kenya Education Management Information System (KEMIS), has been designed to capture this information going forward.

There are a number of barriers that prevent some child mothers from returning to school and these include financial constraints, stigma and discrimination, child care responsibilities, policy implementation gaps and lack of awareness, where many teenage mothers, their parents and communities are unaware of the rights of teen mothers to return to school or the content of this re-entry policy that is in place.

The next question is seeking to find out the investigations the Ministry has undertaken. The Ministry has not undertaken any direct studies on the subject. However, other Government agencies like the health surveys mentioned above and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), as well as partner groups and organisations, have undertaken research and surveys on the matters across different periods. Research highlights that pregnancy is the critical incident that precedes school dropouts for the majority of girls at 66 per cent, and for most school girls the pregnancy was unintended at 93 per cent.

Poverty, lack of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and early sexual debut are also key drivers. Then there is also the impact of COVID-19. Studies have found that secondary school girls who remained out of school for six months due to the COVID-19 lockdown had twice the risk of becoming pregnant and three times the risk of dropping out of school.

Other key factors or drivers that lead to these issues include inadequate parental guidance and involvement in the lives and education of their children, high prevalence of *disco matanga*, illicit brew, alcohol and drug abuse, inadequate community awareness and involvement in the fight against sexual and Gender Based Violence (GBV) and incest, which is on the rise and which sometimes goes unreported.

Poverty and parental inability, failure to provide basic needs for the children, students attending day schools far from home, leading to them renting houses near markets which deprives them of parental care and guidance and also exposes them to opportunities for sexual activity and negative peer influence and pressure.

I submit, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Hon. Cabinet Secretary. You took note of the comment by Sen. Sifuna that he did not have a supplementary question. Therefore, we will progress to the next question which is Question No.67 by Sen. Veronica Maina who is also away but has delegated this to Sen. Cherarkey.

Proceed to ask that question, Sen. Cherarkey.

Question No.067

OPERATIONALISATION OF THE EDUCATION STANDARDS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE COUNCIL

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I ask this Question on behalf of Sen. Veronica Maina, your colleague in the presidium.

(a) What are the reasons for the failure to operationalise the Education Standards and Quality Assurance Council, which was established under the Basic Education Act in 2013 and whose structure was subsequently provided for under the Basic Education (Education Standards and Quality Assurance Council) Regulations in 2014?

(b) When will the Council be operationalised?

(c) Could the Cabinet Secretary outline the measures in place to ensure effective service delivery by the Council once operationalised and state whether the Council should be supported by the existing staff establishment within the public service through secondments in order to minimise the budgetary implications associated with operationalisation, and finally,

(d) Could the Cabinet Secretary also disclose the extent to which failure to operationalise the Council has contributed to lack of safety and security in schools, particularly in relation to the reported incidents of arson across schools, and outline measures in place to ensure amicable resolution of disputes between students, school management, and teaching staff.

To assist in efficiency, I have seen the response from the CS. Maybe he can respond only on the aspect of arson and the segregation of quality assurance. Who are these 2,063 persons?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Honorable CS, as you respond, take note of the comments in terms of the areas of extreme interest, the response on arson, as well as on segregation by Sen. Cherarkey, in the interest of time, because you are aware you still have got six questions to go.

The Cabinet Secretary of Education (Hon. (Dr.) Julius Migos Ogamba): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I was proposing to respond to these questions together.

Just as background, the Education Standards and Quality Assurance Council, established under Section 64(1) of the Act, Section 64(2), specifies the functions of the Council and I have stipulated there. The Act, however, does not stipulate the membership and appointment process of the Council.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): What is your point of procedure, Sen. Cherarkey?

Sen. Cherarkey: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I thought you had guided. I told the CS I was satisfied. There are only two issues, so that we save on time - the Quality Assurance and Standards officers that the Ministry has hired and the issue of arson in schools.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Honorable CS, that was also the guidance I gave, and I thought you were setting up the basis for your response to those two areas.

The Cabinet Secretary of Education (Hon. (Dr.) Julius Migos Ogamba): Yes, but I can go directly to that portion. I wish to clarify that the absence of the Council does not imply that the quality assurance function is not being discharged.

The Ministry has a functional Quality Assurance and Standards Directorate through which it enforces policies and guidelines in schools, guided by the National Education Quality Assurance and Standards Framework.

To ensure more support to schools, the Ministry has recruited new quality assurance and standards officers, bringing the total number to 900. However, this number still requires to be enhanced to meet the staff needs of 2,063 officers. This will strengthen the quality assurance function and ensure it is spread across the country. So, the number 2,063 is a staff-established requirement for the Quality Assurance Department to be optimal, but we only have 900 because of the issues of budget.

I submit.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Honourable CS. I wish you had said something about the deficit of the numbers of quality assurance officers beyond the budget, but I think that is the response you have.

You have not responded to the question of arson. That was part of the question by Sen. Cherarkey, that he needed your comment and clarification, if any. If you do not have CS, you know how we have been responding. You can commit to get us a comprehensive report, but that must come as a commitment from you.

The Cabinet Secretary of Education (Hon. (Dr.) Julius Migos Ogamba): On issues of arson, it is not because the Council is not in place that we have had these challenges. As I have indicated, we have a quality assurance team that is operational and we are engaging with the schools, parents and all the students in order to reduce the cases of arson in schools. In fact, as we speak, we are establishing a task force that is going to go throughout the country to find out the issues that lead to arson in schools. After they make their recommendations, we will be proceeding to activate them.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): I will proceed to the next Question, No. 34 by Senator Shakila Abdalla.

Then, Honorable CS, as you prepare to run that question, I would propose that we deal with also with Question No. 55 by Sen. Joyce Korir, so that you answer the two questions together.

Senator Shakila, proceed.

Question No.034

POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK GOVERNING RELIGIOUS ATTIRE IN BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Sen. Shakila Abdalla: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I rise to ask Question No. 34 to the Cabinet Secretary for Education.

(a) What is the Ministry's policy and regulatory framework governing the wearing of religious attire and symbols, including the *hijab*, in basic education institutions under the Ministry's jurisdiction?

(b) Could the Cabinet Secretary state whether the Ministry has commenced investigation on the circumstances surrounding the departure of Ms. Samira Ali Ramadan from St. Mary's Lwak Girls High School, and if so, what preliminary or final findings have been established?

(c) What safeguards reporting mechanism and remedial procedures exist to protect learners from discrimination, harassment or exclusion by school authorities on the basis of religion or cultural expression?

(d) What correction and administrative action or disciplinary measures will the Ministry take against the school officials found to have infringed upon a learner's constitutional and statutory rights in relation to freedom of religion and non-discrimination?

(e) What immediate and long-term interventions will the Ministry implement to facilitate the student's return to school, ensure her continued access to education without discrimination, and prevent recurrence of similar incidents in educational institutions nationwide?

Sen. Joyce Korir: Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Before I raise my question, I felt the question that was raised by Hon. Sifuna, drafted by Hon. Mumma, had a lot of weight that we should not just brush it off.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Order, Senator Joyce Korir. Your task is to ask Question No.055. You had the opportunity to intervene at that moment, to ask a supplementary question. I asked Members if they had any, none including you raised that concern.

Proceed to ask Question No. 055.

Sen. Joyce Korir: Hon. Temporary Speaker, I---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Proceed to ask Question No. 055.

Question No.055

PAYMENT AND ABSORPTION OF JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL INTERNS INTO EMPLOYMENT

Sen. Joyce Korir: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir I beg to ask the following Question to the CS, Education:-

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the Ministry's timelines to pay the 40,000 Junior Secondary School (JSS) intern teachers their outstanding dues after the lapse of their internship, and clarify who will fill the gap left by the interns in the absence of the Government?

(b) What measures are currently in place by the Ministry for the permanent absorption of the intern teachers?

(c) What are the specific criteria and requirements used to recruit and employ the P1 teachers, and what is the latest graduation year that has been employed in the entire 47 counties so far?

Thank you hon. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Should you feel as if you want to ask a question as regards that question by Sen. Mumma, find a way of bringing it in your supplementary question with the CS because they are all falling within the Ministry that the Honorable CS runs.

Hon. CS I now give you the opportunity to answer the two questions by the two Senators.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education (Hon. (Dr.) Julius Migos Ogamba): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker and Members. I request to respond to Question No.34 together as follows-

The position of the Ministry on the matter of religious inclusivity is very clear, that no learner shall be discriminated against because of their religious belief or practice. Indeed, on 4th March, 2022, the Ministry issued a directive to all county directors of education to ensure that the religious rights of learners are not violated in any basic institution of learning within their jurisdiction. This directive covered the following forms-

- (1) Prohibition of wearing religious attire like hijab and turbans;
- (2) Forcing students to take Islamic religious education, Christian religious education or Hindu religious education;
- (3) Denying learners the opportunity to observe religious rites and prayers;
- (4) Failure to allocate worship rooms and space; and
- (5) Forcing learners to participate in religious rites and activities that are contrary to their beliefs.

Any violation of this directive also is a violation of the Constitution because Article 32 of the Constitution provides for freedom of conscience, religion, belief and opinion.

In this regard, any reports of violation will be thoroughly investigated and immediate action taken against those found to be culpable. Appropriate action will also be taken against errant boards of management and teachers in accordance with the law, in the event of violations.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, Article 53 of the Constitution provides that every child has a right to free and compulsory basic education. Religious belief and practises cannot therefore be used to prevent children from accessing this right. It is on this basis or these provisions that the Ministry implements the 100 per cent transition policy to ensure that all children acquire basic education and that they progress from one level of basic education to the next.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, in this case of Ms. Samira R. Ramadhan from St. Mary's Lwak Girls High School, I wish to report as follows-

Our quality assurance officers visited the school to investigate the incident on the 23rd February, 2026. It was ascertained that indeed Madam Samira Ali Ramadhan has

faced discouragement from the school chaplain and the principal against wearing hijab on account that she was the only learner so dressed and therefore odd. The school had a total of 13 learners of the Muslim faith. Out of these, only Ms. Samira Ali Ramadhan had requested to be allowed to wear a hijab. However, she was subsequently discouraged by the school leadership on account of the fact that she was the only one wearing a hijab.

It was also ascertained that the learner left the school on the 11th February, 2026 at 13.02 hours. The father to the learner informed the quality assurance officers that the learner had been transferred to another school in Vihiga. The report found that the school was in violation of the policy on religious attire and these findings were shared with the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) for further action and disciplinary action against the teachers. It is also noted that there is a Petition that was filed, Petition No.02/2026, by the learner against the school but this particular Petition that was filed in Siaya has since been withdrawn as per the withdrawal notice of 12th May, 2026.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, on Question No.55, the Government, through the TSC has continued to meet its obligations under the internship programme and all junior school intern teachers have been paid their monthly stipends in accordance with the terms of engagement.

Further, following ongoing court proceedings related to the internship programme, the court has issued orders allowing the continued engagement of the intern teachers pending determination of the matter. Consequently, the interns continue to serve in schools and receive their stipends as provided for under the programme.

As a result, there is currently no staffing gap arising from the internship programme since the Government continues to fund and retain these intern teachers in the service. The Ministry and the Commission will continue to comply with the court directives while pursuing long-term measures to address teacher staffing requirements in junior secondary schools.

In reference to the second part of the Question, the Government remains committed to the progressive absorption of intern teachers into permanent and pensionable employment subject to availability of budgetary resources. For instance, in the Financial Year (FY)2026/2027, the National Treasury has provided funding for the recruitment of 20,000 teachers for junior schools on permanent and pensionable terms effective 1st January, 2027. We will continue to engage the National Treasury and other stakeholders with a view to securing additional resources to facilitate the gradual absorption of the remaining 24,000 intern teachers into permanent and pensionable service.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the recruitment of primary school teachers, known as P1, by the TSC is guided by the Constitution, 2010, the Teachers Service Commission Act, 2012, the Code of Regulations for Teachers, the Policy on Teacher Recruitment and Selection, 2022, and the Annual Teacher Recruitment Guidelines issued by the Commission.

A candidate seeking appointment as a primary school teacher must be-

- (1) A Kenyan;
- (2) Must hold a P1 teacher certificate from a recognised institution; and

(3) Must have attained a mean grade of C-plain in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) or its equivalent, and must be registered as a teacher by the TSC

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Commission advertises vacancies through the print media and the Commission website. Eligible applicants submit applications online and are invited for document verification and selection at the sub-county level. The recruitment process incorporates the following measures to ensure equity and fairness-

- (1) Decentralised recruitment at sub-county levels;
- (2) Standardised scoring criteria;
- (3) Equitable distribution of vacancies;
- (4) Reservation of at least five per cent of vacancies for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs);
- (5) Consideration of gender balance; and
- (6) Preference for qualified local applicants to enhance teacher retention and equitable regional representation.

On the latest graduation year recruitment, I have provided a table, Nos.1 to 47, which shows the latest graduation dates of the teachers that have been absorbed to P1, the oldest one being 2019, and the latest one being 2025. I do not need to go through all that, when provided for.

The last question on the issue of the JSS is number (d). Junior school is a key component of the Competency Based Education (CBE) system and was introduced to facilitate the transition of learners from Grade 6 to Grade 9. The Government adopted a policy of hosting junior school classes within existing public schools to ensure a smooth transition and optimise available infrastructure. Consequently, junior school is already operational in the vast majority of public primary schools, designated to host Grades 7 to 9. A total of 20,000 schools currently host junior school as of June, 2026.

The Government is currently focused, therefore, not introducing JSS into primary schools as this has already been achieved. The Ministry will continue to progressively address infrastructure and serving gaps to ensure that all learners have equitable access to quality junior secondary education across the country.

I submit.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you Hon. Cabinet Secretary (CS).

Sen. Shakila, do you have any supplementary question to your Question No.034?

Sen. Shakila Abdalla: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I would like to first thank, the Cabinet Secretary for his very comprehensive answer. I am very much satisfied. However, my supplement question is, as a country we respect all the religions and the freedom of worship. The school placements are being done and managed by the Government and the Ministry. It is not the student or the parent who decides which school the student should go to. I believe when they mix Christians and Muslim students, it is a way of bonding them and trying to avoid isolation and discrimination. However, I do not understand why the schools would receive funds from the exchequer for the students to learn in those schools and then decide that this is a Christian school with rules which should be followed strictly by any student. In my opinion, that is one thing which

the Cabinet Secretary needs to look into, how and why would the schools receive exchequer money and then decide they do not want certain category of students in terms of religion.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you.

Hon. CS, please comment on that. It is not entirely a question, but I hope you have a comment.

Sen. Joyce Korir, do you a supplementary question to Question No.055?

Sen. Korir: Yes, thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Allow me to thank the Hon. CS, who doubles up as my neighbour back at home, for the response that he has given. This is a House of records. I believe that the Hon. CS is picking the information right from the county, because the Question was in relation to the 47 counties.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I want to speak specifically on Bomet County. The statistics that I have been given by the Ministry of Education, led by the hon. Cabinet Secretary, show that in Bomet, the oldest batch to be recruited are P1 teachers who graduated in 2018. I am here with a document from the County Government of Bomet. It shows that there are 301 unemployed teachers going as far back as 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 all the way to 2025. This is a House of records. May I know which of the two documents between the one that I have and the other one that was produced by the Cabinet Secretary for Education will tell Kenyans the right position?

There is also the issue of early pregnancies. There is a Statement that was requested by Sen. Sifuna. As per the statistics that we have seen, we have a huge number of early pregnancies which are over 100,000. What lessons can Kenya learn from countries such as Netherlands, Sweden, Rwanda and Finland in addressing causes of teenage pregnancies in this country?

Finally, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, what role should parents, schools, communities, healthcare providers and the Government play in reducing teenage pregnancies in Kenya?

I thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Sen. Joyce. Hon. Cabinet Secretary, I will allow Members who have made requests here to ask you supplementary questions, so that you respond to all of them. I will start with Sen. Mariam Sheikh.

Sen. Mariam Omar: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I have two questions of different---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Mariam, you are only entitled to one supplementary question. Therefore, you should have one supplementary question to Question No.034 and another one to Question No.055.

Sen. Mariam Omar: Alright. Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, my first question is on teenage pregnancies. When we raise questions in the House and invite the Cabinet Secretary, at least we need answers. When the Cabinet Secretary was reading his responses, the question was not answered. He said there is a gap in monitoring. That is why the question has been raised. Let the Cabinet Secretary---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Mariam, I had directed that each Question should be dealt with within 10 minutes. The direction you are taking the House to will take longer than that. Ask your question.

Sen. Mariam Omar: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, let the Cabinet Secretary explain about how to deal with the gap of teenage pregnancies by providing comprehensive data.

Secondly is the issue of hijab. In 2023, I raised the same issue. There seems to be a disconnect between the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and the Ministry. I saw the directive from the Ministry and realised that heads of schools are not implementing it because they are paid by the TSC which has not issued any directive. How is the issue of hijab going to be addressed, so that a person from a certain religion can attend any school of their choice?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you. Sen. Beatrice.

Sen. Ogola: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. My questions are not in any order but I picked them from the presentation of the CS.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): You are only entitled to two questions.

Sen. Ogola: Before I ask my question, I congratulate His Excellency, the President for the speech he made while addressing teachers at Kasarani, especially on the promotion of teachers. That is a significant number from 34,000 to 50,000. There are teachers who have not got their promotions for the last 15 years. It is unfortunate that some people do not appreciate that gesture. As a teacher, I know the pain teachers have and I congratulate the President and encourage him to go from 50,000 to even 100,000.

Now, I will ask my question on quality assurance and the shortage of textbooks, especially for Grades 1 to 6. Textbooks are consumables and they should be provided frequently due to increased enrolment because they wear out. There are schools that got textbooks for the last four years.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Beatrice, ask your question.

Sen. Ogola: My question is, what measures is the Ministry putting in place to address the challenges of textbooks in schools? In one school in my constituency, a class of 115 has only one English textbook shared by all the students.

The last question is on the serious issue of onboarding learners who do not have birth certificates. This still reflects on the presentation. Can the Ministry find an alternative which can be used? For example, a register of admission numbers for learners in Grade 1 and 2 who still do not have assessment numbers generated in Grade 3. Can the Ministry find an alternative to the birth certificates or must these learners continue to experience these challenges?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. Members, I will still guide further. We still have four questions and we expect the hon. Cabinet Secretary to respond to them in the next 23 minutes. I have three requests here. If you are given an opportunity to ask a supplementary question, do not debate, just ask your question. Otherwise, I will not entertain any more delay because the rest of the questions have to be responded to because of time.

Hon. Tabitha Mutinda, proceed.

Sen. Tabitha Mutinda: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. In that spirit, I will go directly to the question. I just wanted to remark that the Cabinet Secretary for Education is here and we have good students here, if he can spare a minute after the session and say hi to them.

I will narrow my question to the data that the Ministry has countrywide but I will be specific to Nairobi City County on the number of students who had to drop out of school because of early pregnancies and the ones that the Ministry through their programme has ensured have been reinstated back to different learning institutions.

There was a school, Bakisa Girls. Last month, it was reported that 36 girls from the same school were impregnated. I ask myself as a woman, was it one man? Was it one teacher? How does it happen that we have 36 students from the same school?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Tabitha?

Sen. Tabitha Mutinda: Let me finish. That is a matter that you could shed some light on because it is extremely sad. We have teachers and the administration in that school. We also have the county education.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): You only had one question to ask.

Sen. Tabitha Mutinda: If *Waziri* could provide data for the unemployed teachers---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Order, Sen. Tabitha, take your seat.

Sen. Wakwabubi, proceed.

Sen. Wakwabubi Consolata: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity to contribute to the same. I have a number of questions, but I will wrap them into one. I also had a point of order for Sen. Mutinda. I do not know if you will allow me to correct it.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): No. There is no one on the floor other than you, so ask your question.

Sen. Consolata Wakwabubi: I am guided.

(Sen. Ogola spoke off record)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Order, Sen. Beatrice.

Sen. Consolata Wakwabubi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Speaker, for that guidance. I have a question to the Cabinet Secretary and his team. We have a myriad of legal frameworks that safeguard the child in school. I am aware that you all know them; the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the Sexual Offences Act, 2006, the Children's Act, 2022, and the Basic Education Act, 2013. I am not going to open up on those safeguards.

Despite all these frameworks that are laid bare for guidance to stakeholders in the teaching fraternity, why do we have lapses in compliance with education and learner protection obligations? We need to ensure that education continuity is embraced by applying some of these safeguards. Why is there lackadaisical approach or lack of interest in handling suspected criminals and even identifying the perpetrators by showing evidence and taking appropriate action?

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, I will allow you to respond to those supplementary questions and thereafter, we will deal with the subsequent questions.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education (Hon. (Dr.) Julius Migos Ogamba): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. As I indicated in my response, it is Government policy that all students, notwithstanding their religious beliefs, are to be treated equally in schools without discrimination. However, as I indicated, where we find that heads of institutions have violated that right, disciplinary action is taken against them.

Indeed, on the issue connected to it is that the hon. Senator asked what the Ministry of Education and the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) are doing in situations where the directives of the Ministry of Education are not being complied with or implemented by the heads of institutions. We have already done a proposal in the Basic Education Bill that, if passed into law, all heads of institutions will become agents of the Ministry of Education. Therefore, it will be possible for us to take action directly. Even as we speak, we engage with the TSC and work together to ensure that perpetrators are dealt with.

On the question by Sen. Beatrice regarding the quality of textbooks from Grade 1 to Grade 6, the Government policy is that each learner in our basic education institutions is entitled to one textbook in each core subject. The ratio is one to one. Where, for example, we find that this has not been achieved, we have instructed heads of institutions to get in touch with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and indicate the shortages they have.

It is using that data that we are able to submit and supplement those books, especially where students have come from other schools or where there are changes. We do harmonisation and ensure that those textbooks are distributed to the respective schools. However, let me also confirm that it is Government policy that all textbooks are replenished on a four-year cycle. Once four years lapse, because textbooks become old, worn out or get lost, we replace them after every four years.

As we speak, we have now started the process. We finished yesterday with the publication and distribution of Grade 11 books. We will do the Grade 12 books in May, 2027 to ensure that when Grade 12 learners come in 2028, the textbooks are in place. We will start replacements based on the four-year cycle that I have indicated. Therefore, that process is already underway.

On the question of onboarding students based on birth certificates, we are introducing the new Kenya Education Management Information System (KEMIS) where not just the birth certificate is going to be used to onboard the students. We are using the unique numbers, including admission numbers so that we onboard all our students into KEMIS. In fact, as we speak, the onboarding is ongoing. We started about two months ago and we are continuing to onboard all our students into that particular programme.

On the question of teenage pregnancy, the data relating to Nairobi and other counties, as I have indicated, there is a data gap. We do not have a system where we collect the data of how many students are pregnant or how many are admitted back.

However, we have a policy that all the students who get pregnant and give birth are supposed to be readmitted.

As I indicated earlier, the new KEMIS is designed to ensure that we have a module to do that correction because we have been relying on inter-government and other agencies for this particular data. So, going forward, as a Ministry, based on that particular platform, we will get the data of how many students have become pregnant and how many have come back. We will work with all other agencies, including the National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO), to ensure that the students who are at home are sensitised to go back.

As I indicated, there are many reasons why sometimes they do not go back. This is because they are not aware that there is a policy allowing them to go back. So, the reforms that we are undertaking in the Ministry, as we speak, including the KEMIS, will assist us to capture accurate data in order to ensure that we do not leave any child behind.

On the issue of the Bomet, as I indicated, the information we have is that the latest employment is at 2018 from the Teachers Service Commission (TSC). We can undertake to liaise with the Senator for Bomet, so that we reconcile the information that he has against the information that is held by the TSC, so that we can give you a comprehensive report on that. That also goes to indicate that although we have been employing, we are aware that a number of P1 teachers who were qualified sometimes back have not yet been absorbed by the TSC because of lack of budget. We are working towards ensuring that we absorb them. In fact, in the month of November, they will be doing a replacement of about 7,000 P1 teachers. The agreement is to ensure that we employ older teachers who qualified, so that we can ensure that they get jobs and do not stay out of jobs for that long.

That is what I can respond to on that particular issue of Bomet County. I do not know whether I have covered on the violations of rights but I think I have covered most of the questions that were asked.

I submit.

On the safeguards by Sen. Wakwabubi, as I indicated, there are many reasons why these frameworks are not being adhered to. That is because it is just not one agency that is mandated to undertake this exercise. For example, in most of the cases, some of the pregnancies are by the adults outside school, some are by incest - that is people that these children know while some are done at disco matanga. So, these are some of the things that as a country, we have to work together holistically, both the stakeholders, the Ministry of Education, parents and NGAO, to ensure that these particular frameworks work to protect our children.

It is because of that gap that we are working to get a system where we are able to see what each agency is doing. This will ensure that, for example, once we report and the culprit has been found, we follow through the judicial system, so that the person is punished. As we speak now, we do not have such a system. The new KEMIS which will be interlinked with other Government agencies will resolve that gap.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, hon. Cabinet Secretary.

Hon. Members, we have four questions remaining. I will direct that Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale, Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda and Sen. Faki, who is, I believe, asking the question on behalf of Sen. Madzayo, run through those Questions so that the Cabinet Secretary responds cumulatively to all the four Questions in the remainder of the time that we have this morning.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Thank you. Why are you retracting? I am senior.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): No, actually I had said senior professor. I was retracting the term title professor. Otherwise, doctor is your title and senior is equally your title.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I encourage the Senate Business Committee (SBC) to manage the Order Paper. There is no question that is smaller than the other. When you ask the Cabinet Secretary to respond to four questions in five minutes, then---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Order, Sen. Boni, it is not in five minutes. We still have 10 minutes and I will exercise the provisions of the Standing Orders to extend time to facilitate the responses.

Question No.058

DATABASE OF PRINCIPALS SERVING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Thank you. I rise to ask Question No.058 on the Order Paper-

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary state the number of chief principals, senior principals and principals serving in secondary schools in Kenya?

(b) Could he provide a full list for each category, indicating their names, Teachers Service Commission (TSC) numbers and the counties from which they come from?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Sen. Bonny Khalwale. Sen. (Prof) Tom Ojienda, ask your Question No.060.

Question No.060

REVOCATION OF ACCREDITATION AND CLOSURE OF KENYA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT CAMPUSES

Sen. (Prof) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I rise to ask Question No.060 to the Cabinet Secretary for Education-

(a) What specific compliance breaches or regulatory failures prompted the Technical and Vocational Education Training Authority (TVETA) to revoke the

accreditation of the Kenya Institute of Management (KIM) and order closure of its campuses? It was a very drastic step.

(b) Was the process fully observed prior to the revocation, including issuance of adequate notice and a fair opportunity for KIM and the students to be heard?

(c) How does the Ministry reconcile its affirmation of the validity of certificates issued by KIM with the TVETA's decision to revoke accreditation?

(d) What measures has the Ministry taken to protect the academic and professional interests of the students, including continuity of learning, credit transfers and where necessary, recognition of their qualification?

(e) Has any independent audit or comprehensive inspection of KIM's academic programmes, governance structures and operational standards been conducted and if so, could the Cabinet Secretary provide the findings and recommendations?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious question.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Sen. (Prof) Tom Ojienda. If you listened to Dr. Boni Khalwale, he spoke exactly to the statement you have said. That no question is more serious than the other; all questions are serious.

Sen. Faki, ask your Questions No.79 and 80.

Sen. Faki: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. On behalf of our Senator for Kilifi County, Sen. Madzayo, the Minority Leader, I wish to ask Questions No. 079 and 080.

Question No.079

DISAGGREGATED DATA BY GENDER AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF TEACHERS

Question No. 079 is in two parts-

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide data on the distribution of teachers in every county disaggregated by gender and ethnic composition?

(b) Are there plans to address the shortage and uneven distribution of trained teachers across the country, specifically in the underserved areas?

Question No.080

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN KILIFI COUNTY SINCE 2021

Question No.080 is as follows-

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide a list of the infrastructure projects the national Government has undertaken in public schools in Kilifi County from the year 2021 to date?

(b) How much has the Government allocated in the Financial Year 2026/2027 for further infrastructural development in the schools and could the Cabinet Secretary provide details on any planned projects in subsequent years?

(c) Could the Cabinet Secretary also outline the specific interventions by the Ministry to generally improve performance in schools in Kilifi County, to restore the county to its rightful position amongst Kenya's leading counties in education?

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, those are the four Questions that have been put to you.

We have five minutes to 1.00 p.m. I will exercise Standing Order No.34(2)(a) to extend the sitting for an additional 15 minutes. So, you have 20 minutes to respond to the four Questions, but at the same time I direct that you accommodate supplementary questions from Members. I want your response to take under 10 minutes, where possible, so that Members can ask supplementary questions to the four Questions.

Proceed, Hon. Cabinet Secretary.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education (Hon. (Dr.) Julius Migos Ogamba): I will not take time, thank you.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, on the question of principals, Question No.58, the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) maintains the record of all chief principals, senior principals and principals serving in secondary schools in Kenya. Based on the Commission's payroll data as of May, 2026, the number of serving principals is as stipulated in the table that I have provided, indicating chief principals per county, senior principals per county and principals under Job Group D3 per county, coming to a total of 506 chief principals, 1,224 senior principals and 7,017 principals under Job Group D3. The number is stipulated there.

On the question of distribution, we have provided an annexure as Appendix No.1, where the Commission has compiled the requested information containing the names, the TSC numbers, the current stations and the counties of all chief principals, senior principals and principals under D3 serving in public secondary schools as of May, 2026. Further, the Commission continues to promote teachers to administrative grades based on approved establishments, availability of vacancies, eligibility requirements and budgetary provisions. As we speak, as indicated by Hon. Beatrice, we have done 34,000 promotions and we will be advancing that number to 50,000 under the directive of the President. So, we have done very well in that space.

On the question of the Kenya Institute of Management (KIM) by Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda, I wish to state that matters relating to the revocation and the closure of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes offered by KIM are presently the subject of active judicial proceedings before the High Court in Judicial Review No.E110 of 2026. As such, I will be limited in the extent to which I may discuss aspects of the merits of the matter. However, I will respond to the Question as follows.

The decision by the TVET Authority was informed by a series of compliance assessments, inspections and regulatory audits undertaken over several years in the exercise of the statutory mandate of the TVET Authority. According to the reports submitted by the Authority, the institution was found to have persistently operated programmes outside the scope of its approved licence, issued internally certified qualifications that had not been approved within the prevailing TVET framework and failed to comply with the licensing and training accreditation requirements prescribed under the Act.

The Authority further reports that these concerns were raised with the institution through various notices, inspections, engagements and compliance reviews conducted over time. The Authority indicates that enforcement action was necessitated by the need to safeguard the integrity of qualifications and protect public interest.

On the second part of that Question, this is one of the principal issues for determination before the High Court. Prior to the revocation decision, the Authority undertook several regulatory interventions over an extended period of time, including issuance of notices for non-compliance, inspection audits, written correspondences, consultative engagements and meetings aimed at facilitating corrective action.

The institution was accorded opportunities to respond to the findings, submit compliant plans and implement remedial measures. The position of the Authority as expressed in court filings is that the decision was reached only after repeated engagements and after it formed the view that the Kenya Institute of Management (KIM) was not addressing the non-compliance.

On the issue of reconciliation, we wish to clarify that the qualifications issued during periods when programmes and institutions were duly registered, licensed and operating within the applicable legal and regulatory framework remain subject to the relevant laws and regulations governing recognition and certification.

The revocation decision related to regulatory compliance and the continued authorisation to offer certain programmes should not be automatically be construed as invalidating all qualifications previously obtained by learners. We recognise the legitimate concerns of students and other stakeholders regarding the certificates already issued and in this sense, there is no lapse in coordination or policy alignment between the Ministry and the regulator. The matter is also before the High Court for determination. The Ministry will work together with the stakeholders, including the regulator, KIM and students, to ensure that this question is addressed in accordance with the law and in line with the decision of the High Court.

The other question is on the measures taken to protect the academic and professional interests of KIM. The Government remains committed to safeguarding the interests of learners and students. We continue to monitor the situation with a view to ensuring the students are not unfairly disadvantaged and that any interventions undertaken are guided by law, due process and the best interests of the students.

Appropriate measures regarding continuity of learning and recognition of qualifications will be undertaken in accordance with the applicable legal framework and subject to the outcome of the court proceeding. The Ministry stands ready to facilitate

orderly corrective measures and actions once the judicial process concludes in line with the paramount public interest in maintaining the credibility of TVET qualifications.

The TVET Authority has undertaken a number of quality audits between 2021 and 2026 pursuant to its statutory mandate for quality assurance and regulatory oversight. This assessment examined among other areas, programme approval status, trainer licensing, institutional compliance with license conditions and adherence to the provisions of the TVET Act and related regulations. The findings of these reviews identified areas requiring corrective action and informed the subsequent regulatory engagements between the Authority and the institution.

The audit findings form part of the evidential record currently under consideration by the High Court. The Ministry will abide by the implementation and directions arising from the courts determination and will continue to uphold quality, accountability and learner protection within the TVET sub-sector.

On Question No.79 by Hon. Sen. Madzayo, the requirement of the data on the distribution of teachers in every county disaggregated by gender and ethnic composition has been provided as Appendix No.2, which provides the distribution of teachers in every county disaggregated by gender and ethnicity.

The next question is on whether there are plans to address the shortages. Yes, the Commission in line with Regulation 62(b) of the code of regulations for teachers posts teachers to public basic learning institutions for purposes of achieving equity in the distribution and optimal utilisation of the teachers. To this end, teachers recruitment, posting and deployment to public learning institutions is based on learner enrolment, institutional staffing needs and availability of funds with an aim to address teacher shortages and ensure equitable distribution of teachers across the country.

To ensure equitable distribution of teachers across the country, the Commission endeavors to post recruited teachers in consideration of the teacher shortage per county. It prioritises the recruitment of qualified local teachers in underseved areas. It has implemented an online transfers and swap system which allows teachers to easily identify replacements, avoiding shortages and engages the local stakeholders in underserved areas to support teacher trainees that will result in critical mass of qualified teachers.

Despite all these efforts, the shortage of teachers across the country is caused by lack of funds to recruit teachers. Here I wish you to take note that so far, we have recruited over 100,000 teachers to adress that gap with another 24,000 due to be recruited by the end of this year. Many teachers apply for transfers to teach in schools within their home counties resulting in shortages maybe in arid and semi-arid areas and other hard-to-staff areas. Teachers employed with medical conditions can also not be posted to far flung areas to enable them easily access specialised medical attention.

On Question No.80, the list of the infrastructure projects that the Government has undertaken in Kilifi County has also been sent to the Clerk. We received it a bit late as we were here and I think it was forwarded in soft.

A number of infrasttructure projects have been undertaken in Kilifi County by the national Government since 2021. The Government has built a total of 615 classrooms in four phases. This construction was done at a cost of Kshs615million in the financial years 2022/23 to 2024/ 25.

Schools in Kilifi County have also benefited from other national Government infrastructure programmes, including a total of 176 sanitation facilities to primary schools together with 78 classrooms and 54 science laboratories for senior schools. The construction of these facilities is ongoing and the Ministry is working to ensure completion of the construction works under the ongoing Kenya Secondary Education Equity and Quality Improvement Project (SEEQIP).

To ensure efficiency and effective contract management, the Ministry now implements infrastructure development projects through the schools in a decentralised approach. Resources are sent to the schools and procurement and project management processes are undertaken by the board of management. The Ministry exercises general oversight. Through this approach, we successfully delivered the Grade 9 classrooms in time for the transition in 2025.

At present, the Ministry is implementing two major projects that is – the SEEQIP and the Kenya Primary Education Equity in Learning Project (KPEELP). Under SEEQIP, we are constructing 1,600 laboratories across the country to strengthen STEM education.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. CS, I hope you are winding up on that question.

The Cabinet Secretary of Education (Hon. (Dr.) Julius Migos Ogamba): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

During phase one a total of Kshs20,519,000 was disbursed to various schools in Kilifi County and during phase two, Kshs161--- In addition to the foregoing, the construction of new classrooms, water harvesting infrastructure *et cetera* of about Kshs20 million.

Under KPEELP, learning resource centres will also be constructed at the cost of Kshs1.7million per centre. The two programmes I have mentioned focus on enhancing equity and the quality of education in Kilifi County. The programmes also assist in access and retention through the construction of laboratories, integrated learning resource centres and provision of science kits.

The Ministry is implementing a range of interventions to enhance the quality of teaching, learning and improve learner outcomes. These include - teacher retooling through their school-based teacher support system to strengthen teachers pedagogical skills and classroom practices, provision of textbooks and other learning material to improve access and other instructional resources, to strengthen the curriculum-based assessment.

We have implemented a range of interventions aimed at promoting equitable access to quality education particularly for vulnerable and marginalised learners. These include the provision of scholarships to learners in senior school to reduce financial barriers and support retention and transition, advocacy and community mobilisation to improve re-enrollment of out-of school children, and provision of school grants and assistive devices for learners with special disabilities. This enhances participation and access to education not only in Kilifi County but across the country.

I submit.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Hon. CS.

Hon. Members, I know we have a number of supplementary questions. In the interest of time, and so that we also get those responses from the Hon. CS, we might not be able to get the responses in the next five minutes.

I ask that if Hon. Boni has a question, put across your supplementary question. Same case applies to the rest of the Members. However, Hon. CS, you will undertake to give us those responses because I know you will not be able to do that in the remainder of the time. So, I will go by the questions.

Hon. Khalwale, you have any supplementary question?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would like to apologise to the teachers who are currently following these proceedings. The intention of this question, amongst other things, was to demonstrate the discrimination based on non-meritocracy, where professionals from different ethnic communities in Kenya do not get the recognition they deserve.

Thank you, Cabinet Secretary, for giving me the appendix showing who is the chief principal, senior principal, and so on. This shame must end in this country.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, my first supplementary question---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Actually, the first and the last.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Come again?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Proceed to ask your supplementary question.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: This was just a comment to show that this is tribalism.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Proceed to ask your supplementary question, Sen. Boni.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: The first one is - Cabinet Secretary, we have approximately just over 200 national schools in Kenya, and approximately 700 extra county schools, and you have only 500 chief principals. Why do you find it difficult to promote these principals who are there all over the country, so that the senior schools can be managed by those people with those credentials?

The last question is on the issue of capitation. Cabinet Secretary, can you tell the country, since the policy of capitation has failed, the Government of President Uhuru was giving each child Kshs22,000. Today, you have reduced it to Kshs15,000, obviously because of financial challenges. Why do you not make it as a policy that you remove the presidential, National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF), the governors bursary schemes, and all the bursary schemes, amalgamate them, give it to the Ministry, so that education is free?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Sen. Boni.

Sen. (Prof.) Ojienda, do you have any supplementary wuestions?

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

I am happy with the response by the CS, on the issues between the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA) and the Kenyan Institute of Management (KIM), and I hope that the court will resolve the matter soon, so that all those issues are addressed.

Thank you.

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

Sen. Faki: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I have one supplementary question. Is the Cabinet Secretary aware that some of the schools in Kilifi County do not even have desks for the learners? For instance, Sabaki Mgurureni Primary School in Magarini Constituency does not even have a single desk for the learners in that school.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Betty Montet, please proceed.

(Sen. Montet Betty spoke off record)

Very well.

Let us rise, Hon. Members.

(Hon. Senators stood in their places)

Hon. CS, we expect you to send us your responses to those supplementary questions, so that the Hon. Members will be able to get the responses to those questions in the next Question Time.

I appreciate your coming to respond to the Questions in the Senate.

[The Cabinet Secretary for Education (Hon. (Dr.) Julius Migos Ogamba) was ushered out of the Chamber]

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, it is now 15 minutes past one o'clock, and being the time that I had extended the hours of sitting under Standing Order 34(2)(a), the Senate now stands adjourned until later today, Wednesday, 7th September, 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

The Senate rose at 1.15 p.m.