THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT

THE SENATE

OFFICIAL REPORT



Fifth Session

Thursday, 19th November, 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 19th November, 2026

The House met at the Senate Chamber,
Parliament Buildings at 2.32 p.m.

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

PRAYER

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
AT COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

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

(The Clerk-at-the-Table consulted
with the Speaker (Hon. Kingi))

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

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

Hon. Senators, kindly take your seats.
Now that we have quorum, Clerk, you may proceed to call the first Order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING STUDENT FROM SUNSHINE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Hon. Senators, I would like to acknowledge the presence of a student from Sunshine Secondary School, who is seated in the Speaker's Gallery.

The student is undertaking a one-week service in the Senate under the Voluntary Service Scheme (VSS) of the school. The VSS in the Senate aims to provide students with an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge and work experience of all parliamentary professions, including the legislative process and deep understanding of governance. I request the student to stand when called out, so that he may be acknowledged in the Senate tradition.

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In our usual tradition of receiving and welcoming visitors to Parliament, I extend a warm welcome to him. On behalf of the Senate and my own behalf, I wish him a fruitful visit.

(Applause)

I ask the Deputy Majority Leader to extend a word of welcome.

Sen. Veronica Maina: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity to warmly welcome our student who is doing an attachment or work related experience here in the Senate. We are glad that you have had this chance. Many of us did not have such a chance, but we are happy that the Senate has opened the door for students to come and learn, and see how legislative work is done.

In the Senate, we have different functions. We do oversight of our counties, legislative work and also representation for the people who vote for us into the Senate. Some of us are voted in directly through votes, elected into office, and others are nominated by the political parties. We warmly welcome you here.

Sunshine is a very good school where your parents have given you an opportunity to study. We hope that you can work very hard and eventually come to serve either as a speaker or a Senator. We hope that you go through all the departments, learn the best practice that you can. Do not learn anything bad from the offices. Just know that we are here as your big aunties and uncles, and you can always consult with us if you see us passing outside the offices.

Karibu sana to the Senate

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Next Order.

PETITION

LAND GRABBING AND INSECURITY IN MIRITINI-VIKOBANI

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Senator for Mombasa County, the Hon. Mwinyihaji Mohamed Faki

Sen. Faki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This is a Petition to the Senate concerning illegal land grabbing, insecurity and failure of security institutions to protect the residents of Miritini-Vikobani. I read this petition on behalf of the residents of Miritini-Vikobani.

We, the undersigned residents of Miritini-Vikobani, being citizens of the Republic of Kenya, submit this Petition to the Senate, pursuant to Articles 37, 94, 95 and 119 of the Constitution, 2010, and the Petitions to Parliament Procedure Act, seeking the intervention in the matter set out below:

THAT, the residents of Miritini-Vikobani have for many years lived peacefully and co-existed in plot number VIMN/3661 CR No.19580, situated at Miritini-Vikobani, Miritini Ward, Jomvu Sub-County, Mombasa County;

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THAT, the parcel of land measures approximately 7.887 hectares and is registered in the name of Inland Beach Enterprises Limited;

THAT, in June, 2011 the community applied for adverse possession of the parcel, but the process remains incomplete due to interference by one Ahmed Kaya;

THAT, Mr. Kaya, who was originally a squatter on the same parcel of land, secretly hived off a portion in the middle of the Plot No.3661 and fraudulently obtained a purported lease or title deed No.5139;

THAT, Mr. Kaya has relied on the purported title to intimidate and harass residents through acts committed by him and his agents, including-

i. Deploying armed persons to forcibly evict residents from their homes;

ii. vandalising and destroying the residents' property;

iii. blocking toilets, passageways, thereby denying residents access to essential sanitary facilities;

iv. erecting iron sheet barriers that obstruct access to premises, windows and emergency exits;

v. deploying private security personnel and other parcels to threaten tenants and landlords;

vi. engaging in rioting and organising groups to terrorise the community.

THAT, these acts have continued despite court orders requiring the maintenance of status quo;

THAT, the residents have reported these incidents to various police stations, including Maganda Police Station and Mwache Police Station, but no action has been taken against Mr. Kaya or his agents;

THAT, the residents are informed and believe that the officers commanding stations in the area act under Kaya's influence, leaving them and their property without effective protection;

THAT, these actions have continued despite violations of the residents' constitutional rights, including the right to property under Article 40, the right to human dignity under Article 28, and the right to freedom and security of the person under Article 29, and the right to fair administrative action under Article 47;

THAT, the acquisition of Title No.5139 was fraudulent, illegal and irregular and should be investigated with a view to its nullification by the relevant authorities;

THAT, the failure of the police and other security agencies to protect the resident’s constitutional dereliction of duty and a failure to uphold the national security principles under Article 238(2)(b) of the Constitution;

THAT, the matter is of significant public importance as it concerns the rights of numerous residents and the integrity of the land registration and security systems;

THAT, efforts have been made to have the matter addressed by the relevant bodies, but all of which have been unsuccessful;

THAT, the matter is not pending before any court of law or any constitutional or legal body;

THAT, the petitioners therefore pray that the Senate intervenes in this matter with a view to-

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1. investigating the fraudulent acquisition of Title No.5139 in respect of a portion of Plot No.V1MN/3661 CR No.1958 in Miritini-Vikobani;
2. recommending to the relevant authorities the immediate nullification and cancellation of the fraudulent Title No.5139;
3. investigating the failure of the police and other security agencies to protect the residents from harassment, eviction and destruction of property;
4. recommending---

(Loud consultations)

(Sen. Abdul Haji stood in his place)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Senator for Garissa County, kindly take your seat and consult in low tones.

Sen. Faki: Four, recommending appropriate action against any police officers found to have colluded with Mr. Ahmed Kaya;

5. recommending that the community's application for adverse possession be expedited and allowed to proceed without interference;

6. recommending the National Land Commission (NLC) and the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development to undertake proper and transparent process of adjudication and allocation of Miritini-Vikobani to ensure that the residents are not rendered homeless or destitute; and,

7. recommending any other action it considers just and appropriate to resolve the matter and restore the residents' rights.

Signed by the six residents and countersigned by Senator Mohamed Faki Mwinyihaji, CBS, Senator for Mombasa County.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Now, honourable Senators, pursuant to Standing Order No.238(1), I commit the Petition to the Standing Committee on Lands, Environment and Natural Resources. In terms of Standing Order No.238(2), the Committee is required in not more than 60 calendar days from the time of reading the prayer to table its report to the Senate for its consideration.

(The Petition was committed to the Standing Committee on Lands, Environment and Natural Resources)

Let us go to the next Order. The Senate Majority Leader, you have the Floor.

PAPERS

Sen. Veronica Maina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table of Senate today, Wednesday, 4th, November, 2026-

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Senate Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Director, Hansard and Audio Services, Senate.*

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS 2026

The State of the Nation Address by His Excellency the President delivered at a Special Sitting of Parliament on Wednesday, 18th November, 2026.

THE 13TH ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026 ON MEASURES TAKEN AND PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE REALISATION OF NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE

The 13th Annual Report, 2025/2026 on measures taken and progress achieved in the realization of National Values and Principles of Governance.

THE ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON STATE OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The Annual Report to Parliament on the state of national security.

REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON NEW LOANS FROM 1ST MAY TO 31ST AUGUST, 2026

Report to Parliament by the National Treasury on all new loans contracted by the Government of Kenya from 1st May, 2026 to 31st August, 2026.

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

Report of the Auditor-General on Second Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP II) (IDA Credit No.6759 - KE and AFD Credit No.CKE 1188 02 T) - County Government of Tharaka Nithi for the year ended 30th June, 2024.

Report of the Auditor-General on Second Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP II) (IDA Credit No.6759 - KE and AFD Credit No.CKE 1188 02 T) - County Government of Tharaka Nithi for the year ended 30th June, 2025.

Report of the Auditor-General on Second Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP II) (IDA Credit No.6759 - KE and AFD Credit No.CKE 1188 02 T) - County Government of Tharaka Nithi for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Marimanti Level 4 Hospital – County Government of Tharaka Nithi for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Magutuni Sub-County Hospital - County Government of Tharaka Nithi for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Chuka County Referral Hospital - County Government of Tharaka Nithi for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on Second Kenya Urban Support Programme - Tharaka Nithi County Institutional Grant (IDA Credit No. 7349-KE) - Municipalities of Kathwana and Chuka for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

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Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Tharaka Nithi Water and Sanitation PLC for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kajiado County Executive Staff Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kajiado County Emergency Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kajiado County Government Equalisation Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kajiado County Alcoholic Drinks Control Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kajiado County Disability Mainstreaming Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kajiado County Education Bursary Grants and Scholarship Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kajiado County Referral Level 5 Hospital - County Government of Kajiado for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Elgeyo Marakwet County Assembly Revolving Fund – County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Elgeyo Marakwet County Assembly Catering Services Revolving Fund - County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on Second Kenya Devolution Support Programme-IDA-7447KE - County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project-IDA-6759-KE - County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Mandera County Emergency Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Equalisation Fund – County Government of Mandera for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Takaba Sub-County Level 4 Hospital – County Government of Mandera for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Elwak Water and Sewerage Company Limited for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Mandera Water and Sewerage Company Limited for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on Elwak Municipality Urban Development Grant (KUSP II) Project Grant/Credit Number: 7349-KE – County Government of Mandera for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Marsabit County Emergency Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

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Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Marsabit County Government Equalisation Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Marsabit County State Officers and other Public Officers Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Marsabit County State Officers and other Public Officers Car Loan Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Marsabit County Assembly Staff Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Makueni County State and Public Officers Car Loan and Mortgage Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Makueni County Emergency Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Makueni County Bursary Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Makueni County Fruit Development and Marketing Authority for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Makueni County Sand Conservation and Utilisation Authority for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Vihiga County Education Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Vihiga County Facility Improvement Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Vihiga County Sports Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kisumu County Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kisumu County Emergency Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kisumu Lakefront Development Corporation for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Siaya County Assembly Car Loan and Mortgage Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Siaya County Education Bursary Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of County Government of Nakuru Mortgage (Staff) Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Nakuru County Climate Change Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kericho County Enterprise Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kericho County Alcoholic Drinks Control Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

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Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Uasin Gishu County Cooperative Enterprise Development Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on Second Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project – IDA-6759-KE – County Government of Uasin Gishu for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Nyamira County Executive Mortgage and Car Loan Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Nyamira County Assembly Car and Mortgage Loan Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Nyamira Municipality - County Government of Nyamira for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Kitui County Referral Hospital - County Government of Kitui for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on Second Kenya Devolution Support Programme (IDA-7447-K4) - County Government of Kitui for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of County Assembly of Meru Staff Car Loan and Housing Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Meru County Climate Change Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Timau Municipality-County Government of Meru for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Bomet County Assembly Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Machakos County Referral Hospital – County Government of Machakos for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Wajir County Referral Level 5 Hospital - County Government of Wajir for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Report of the Auditor-General on financial statements of Isiolo County Referral Hospital (Level 5) - County Government of Isiolo for the year ended 30th June, 2026.

Thank you.

(Sen. Veronica Maina laid the documents on the Table)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Let us have the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Delegated Legislation or any Member of that committee.

REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS (SECTOR FORUMS) REGULATIONS, 2026

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Senate today, Thursday, 19th November, 2026-

Report of the Select Committee on Delegated Legislation on the consideration of the Draft Intergovernmental Relations (Sector Forums) Regulations, 2026.

I thank you.

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(Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana laid the document on the Table)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): There is a report that was supposed to be laid on the Table by Sen. Moses Kajwang'.

Deputy Majority Leader, you may proceed to do that on his behalf.

REPORT OF THE 69TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE 60TH GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CLERKS-AT-THE-TABLE IN COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTS

Sen. Veronica Maina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of Senate today, Thursday, 19th November, 2026-

Report of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) and Proceedings of the 60th General Meeting of the Society of Clerks at the Table in Commonwealth Parliaments (SOCATP), held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 13th to 19th September, 2026.

I thank you.

(Sen. Veronica Maina laid the document on the Table)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, before I allow the Clerk to call the next Order, I have this Communication to make.

Sen. Eddy, kindly take your seat.

(Sen. Oketch Gicheru sat at his place)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

REPORT ON NEW LOANS CONTRACTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA

Hon. Senators, as you may have noted, the Senate Majority Leader laid on the Table of the Senate, this afternoon, the report of the National Treasury and Economic Planning on all new loans contracted by the Government of Kenya from 1st May, 2026 to 31st August, 2026. The report by the National Treasury in the stated period contains details on the new loans signed between the National Government and various creditors.

Hon. Senators, Section 31(1) of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act states as follows-

> "The Cabinet Secretary shall submit to Parliament, every four months, a report of all loans made to the national government, national government entities and county governments, in accordance with Article 211(2) of the Constitution."

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Pursuant to Section 31(3) of the PFM Act, the report submitted to Parliament should contain-

(a) the names of the parties to the loan;

(b) the amount of the loan and the currency in which it is expressed and in which it is repayable;

(c) the terms and conditions of the loan, including interest and other charges payable and the terms of repayment;

(d) the amount of the loan advanced at the time the report is submitted;

(e) the purpose for which the loan was used and the perceived benefits of the loan; and such other information as the Cabinet Secretary may consider appropriate.

Hon. Senators, given the significance of the national debt in our public finance management framework, I hereby commit the report by the National Treasury and Economic Planning on all new loans contracted by the Government of Kenya from 1st May, 2026 to 31st August, 2026, to the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget for consideration.

I thank you.

(The Report was committed to the Standing Committee on Finance and Budget)

Let us move on to the next Order.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Sen. Veronica Maina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give Notice of the following Motion-

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 27(6), the Senate-

(a) records its thanks for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of His Excellency the President, delivered on Wednesday, 18th November, 2026 and laid on the Table of the Senate on Thursday, 19th November, 2026; and,

(b) notes the following Reports submitted by His Excellency the President in fulfilment of Articles 132(1)(c)(i) and 240(7) of the Constitution, laid on the Table of the Senate on Thursday, 19th November, 2026 –

(i) The 13th Annual Report, 2025/2026 on measures taken and progress achieved in the realization of National Values and Principles of Governance; and

(ii) The Annual Report to Parliament on the state of National Security.

I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Veronica Maina, the next one is by Sen. Moses Kajwang', which you ought to make because he is not here.

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NOTING OF REPORT OF THE 69TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE 60TH GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CLERKS-AT-THE-TABLE IN COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTS

Sen. Veronica Maina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give Notice of the following Motion-

THAT, the Senate notes the Report of the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) and proceedings of the 60th General meeting of the Society of Clerks-At-The-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments (SOCATT) held in Cape Town, South Africa from 13th to 19th September, 2026, laid on the Table of the Senate on Thursday, 19th November, 2026.

I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Next is the Chairperson of the Select Committee on Delegated Legislation.

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS (SECTOR FORUMS) REGULATIONS, 2026

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give Notice of the following Motion-

THAT, the Senate adopts the report of the Select Committee on Delegated Legislation on its consideration of the Draft Intergovernmental Relations (Sector Reforms) Regulations, 2026, laid on the Table of the Senate on Thursday, 19th November, 2026, and that pursuant to Section 38(3) of the Intergovernmental Relations Act, Cap 256(f), the Senate rejects approval of the Draft Intergovernmental Relations (Sector Reforms) Regulations, 2026 for publication.

I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Let us go to the next Order.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): We will start with requests for statements pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1). The first one is by the Senator for Nairobi City County, Hon. Edwin Sifuna. Since he is not here, that Statement is dropped.

OWNERSHIP DISPUTE OVER LAND NO.NAIROBI/STAREHE/367

(Statement dropped)

Next is Sen. Betty Montet.

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EXPOSED HUMAN REMAINS AT LANGATA CEMETERY

Sen. Betty Montet: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Health on a matter of countywide concern regarding exposed human remains at the Langata Cemetery in Nairobi City County.

The continued use of Langata Cemetery beyond intended capacity has raised serious public health, environmental, security and dignity concerns. The Ministry of Health and various taskforces have repeatedly pushed for its permanent closure and de-gazettement due to public health risks.

Recent reports showing members of the public accessing and handling exposed human remains have highlighted deficiencies in burial practises, site management, perimeter security and the long-standing need for an alternative public cemetery. The exposed skeleton remains suggest several lapses in burial standards and raise the risk of disease transmission since improper internments at the cemetery pose biological and environmental hazards to visitors and nearby residents.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) Immediate measures to secure the cemetery, remove and rebury exposed human remains, conduct biohazard remedial and safeguard public health.

(2) Actions taken to hold unlawful and unsafe burial practises, enforce compliance with public health standards and establish accountability for any breaches that have contributed to the exposure of human remains.

(3) Progress made towards acquisition, funding, development and operationalisation of an alternative public cemetery, including timelines and budgetary allocations.

(4) Interventions implemented to strengthen cemetery management, enhance security, prevent vandalisation and grave dissertations and restore public confidence to the safety, dignity and integrity of public burials.

I am Sen. Montet. I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Next is Sen. Catherine Mumma.

DATA PROTECTION, CYBER SECURITY AND CHILD ONLINE SAFETY SAFEGUARDS

Sen. Mumma: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology on a matter of national concern regarding adequacy of data protection, cyber security and child online safety measures amid increasing incidents of data breaches, cybercrime and online exploitation of minors.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The capacity of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) to investigate complaints and enforce compliance with the Data Protection Act, Cap 411C,

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indicating the number of complaints received, investigated and resolved over the past two years.

(2) Measures in collaboration with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) to detect, prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of online sexual exploitation and grooming of children.

(3) The regulatory framework governing digital platforms and telecommunication service providers in Kenya, particularly requirements for child safety by design features and mechanisms for the prompt removal of exploitative content.

(4) Public education and digital literacy programmes being implemented to promote online safety awareness among children, parents and teachers.

(5) The existing legislative and regulatory gaps and proposed measures to strengthen cyber security, data protection and child online safety in Kenya.

I am Sen. Catherine Mumma, Nominated Senator. I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Next is Senator for Marsabit County, Honourable Mohamed Chute.

DELAYED COMPLETIION OF LOIYANGALANI FISH FACTORY

Sen. Chute: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on a matter of countywide concern regarding the construction, financing and operationalisation of the fish processing factory at Loiyangalani in Marsabit County, particularly its procurement, implementation, utilisation of public funds and intended benefits to local fishing communities.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The date of advertisement of the tender, commencement of the project, procurement method used, name of the successful bidder, contract sum and criteria applied in the evaluation and award of the tender.

(2) The project's financing and implementation framework, indicating the source funds, total budgetary allocation, contract commencement date, scope of work, expected completion date and any subsequent contract variations.

(3) The financial and implementation status of the project, indicating the total funds disbursed, payment made to the contractor, outstanding contractual balance, fund signature of works completed and reasons for any delay.

(4) The identity of the consultant of the project, the supervisor who was engaged to oversee the project, including the scope and value of the consultant contract; payments made so far, outstanding balances and timelines for settling any pending payments.

(5) The completion and operational status of that factory, including installation of equipment and commissioning. Where the facility is not operational, the reason for the delay, revised completion timelines and measures to ensure its intended benefits accrue to fishing communities around Lake Turkana.

The Speaker (Hon.Kingi): Senator for Kisumu County, the hon. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda.

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CAPSIZING OF A BOAT AT ATTELLA BEACH IN KISUMU COUNTY

Sen. (Prof.) Tom Odhiambo Ojienda, SC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing on a matter of countywide concern regarding the capsising of a boat on 7th November, 2026 at Attela Beach in Kisumu County and the safety of recreational boating along the Kisumu shoreline of Lake Victoria.

The capsising of the boat has raised questions regarding vessel inspection, passenger capacity, availability of life jackets and emergency rescue services in marine transportation in Lake Victoria.

According to the Kenya Marine Authority (KMA), Lake Victoria recorded 420 accidents and 269 deaths between 2015 and 2025, largely attributed to non-compliance with maritime safety standards.

Although the national government has initiated the Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport Project to strengthen vessel safety through operator training and certification; registration of boat builders, provision of affordable life jackets and real-time weather alerts, concerns remain over the implementation and enforcement of these measures, particularly for recreational boats.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The circumstances surrounding the capsising of the passenger boat at Attela Beach, indicating the number of passengers on board, the vessel's carrying capacity and registration status, certification of the coxswain, availability of life jackets, number of persons rescued, any fatalities, and status of investigation of the accident.

(2) Measures by the KMA and the Kenya Coast Guard Service to inspect and regulate recreational boats at Attela Beach, Dunga Beach, Hippo Point and other beaches in Kisumu County, particularly during peak hours.

(3) The search and rescue capacity along the Kisumu shoreline, including the availability of rescue boats, trained divers, emergency response timelines and progress towards establishing a rescue centre in Lake Victoria.

(4) The implementation status of the Lake Victoria Maritime Communication and Transport Project at recreational beaches in Kisumu County, including operator training and certification, provision of affordable life jackets, operationalisation of the marine safety information system and timelines for full implementation of the project.

(5) The measures undertaken in collaboration with the County Government of Kisumu and the beach management units to enforce maritime safety standards, including licensing of boat operators, passenger limits, safety signage and public awareness, as well as support provided to persons and families affected by the incident.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Senator for Garissa County, the Hon. Sen. Haji.

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ESCALATING INSECURITY ALONG THE
GARISSA-ISIOLO COUNTY BORDER

Sen. Abdul Haji: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations on a matter of inter-county concern regarding the escalating insecurity along the Garissa-Isiolo County border, particularly in Eldere Town and Janju Village.

On Monday, 16th November and Tuesday, 17th November, 2026, a series of armed attacks were reported along the Garissa-Isiolo county border, resulting in tragic loss of lives and livelihoods following the theft of livestock.

Within a period of approximately 36 hours, eight people were reportedly killed, including a nursing mother and her 14-day-old infant, a 10-year-old child and a 60-year-old senior citizen. In addition, more than 3,000 sheep and goats were reportedly stolen.

More concerning is that the attacks persisted over two successive nights without intervention by security agencies. Further, this is not an isolated occurrence. Similar incidents have been witnessed over time despite previous security intervention, raising serious concerns about the effectiveness and sustainability of the security measures in place and the level of preparedness by the national security agencies to respond in time.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The circumstances leading to the armed attacks along the Garissa-Isiolo county border on 16th and 17th November, 2026, including whether the incidents are linked to the ongoing conflict in neighbouring Ethiopia.

(2) The confirmed number of fatalities and injuries from the attacks, as well as the number of livestock stolen during the cause of the violence.

(3) The steps being taken to trace, recover and return the stolen livestock to their rightful owners and to identify, apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of the attacks.

(4) The reasons for the recurrence of such incidents despite previous security interventions.

(5) The measures being implemented to address the underlying causes of the insecurity and ensure sustained peace and security in the region, including whether the government could consider establishing a permanent and adequately equipped operational base for the Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) of the National Police Service (NPS) and other specialised security formations to enhance intelligence gathering and facilitate swift response to security incidents in the area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, we are deeply grieved by the news of the senseless attack. Our thoughts and prayers and sincere condolences go out to the families of the victims and the entire community. May their families find the strength and peace to endure the days ahead.

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

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CLOSURE OF THE KENYAN EMBASSY IN BERN, SWITZERLAND

Sen. Omogeni: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise pursuant to Standing Order No.53 (1) to seek a statement from the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations on a matter of national concern regarding the permanent closure of the Kenyan Embassy in Bern, Switzerland.

The government has announced the permanent closure of the Kenyan Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, with the consular section scheduled to cease operations on 30th November, 2026. The closure raises questions regarding the status of bilateral relations with Switzerland and the continued access to consular services by Kenyans residing in that country.

In the statement, the committee should address the following-

(1) The rationale for the permanent closure of the Kenyan Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, including how the decision aligns with the Government's strategic priorities for Kenya's diplomatic presence abroad.

(2) The implication of the closure of the embassy on bilateral relations between Kenya and Switzerland, including the arrangements for maintaining diplomatic engagement and cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

(3) Whether there are other embassies or diplomatic missions also earmarked for permanent closure, and if so, obtain information on the affected missions and the reasons for the proposed closure.

(4) The alternative arrangements for the continued provision of consular services to Kenyans residing in Switzerland and in the other countries where Kenyan diplomatic missions are set to be permanently closed.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Statement pursuant to Standing Order No.57(1).

Proceed, Senate Majority Leader.

BUSINESS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING TUESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 2026

Sen. Veronica Maina: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Pursuant to Standing Order No.57(1), I hereby present the business for the week commencing Tuesday, 24th November, 2026, on behalf of the Senate Majority Leader.

The status of legislative business before Senate is as follows-

(i) Sixty-three (63) Bills are pending conclusion of which 40 are at Second Reading and 22 are at Committee of the Whole and one is awaiting First Reading.

(ii) Twenty-eight (28) Motions are pending conclusion;

(iii) Nineteen (19) Petitions are pending conclusion by respective Standing Committees, out of which 16 are due for reporting; and,

(iii) Six hundred and twenty five (625) Statements pursuant to Standing Order No.53(1) are before Standing Committees.

As hon. Senators will note from the foregoing, the legislative business before the Senate remains high. On our part, we will be required to make sacrifices, including sitting

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through plenary sessions in order for us to make progress on business scheduled in the Order Paper.

Over the last few weeks, we have witnessed early adjournments of the Senate because of lack of movers of Bills and Motions. I urge hon. Senators with business scheduled on the Order Paper to prioritise plenary sittings to prosecute the business.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the next sitting of the Senate on Tuesday, 24th November, 2026, the tentative business for the day will include business not concluded from today's Order Paper, as well as the business indicated in the Notice Paper.

The tentative business for the morning sitting on Wednesday, 25th November, 2026, will include Questions to Cabinet Secretaries as approved by the Senate Business Committee (SBC), as well as Motions.

The Questions scheduled are those to the following Cabinet Secretaries-

(i) Ministry of Roads and Transport for Questions Nos.057, 061, 063, 071 and 072; and,

(ii) Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development for Questions Nos.073 and 075.

The business for the afternoon sitting on Wednesday, 25th November, 2026, will include business not concluded from Tuesday's Order Paper, including Motions and Bills at Second Reading and the Committee of the Whole.

I thank you and hereby lay the Statement on the Table of Senate.

(Sen. Veronica Maina laid the document on the Table)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Thank you, Senate Majority Leader. Now honourable Senators, I will allow comments for not more than 15 minutes on the statements that have been sought. Therefore, if you get a moment to speak, kindly do so for not more than three minutes.

Sen. Maanzo.

Sen. Maanzo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to comment on Sen. Montet's request for statement. Every day I use Langata Road and I pass by the Langata Cemetery, either in the morning or in the evening, there is always drama in that particular cemetery. It is clear that the Nairobi City County premises there are already being destroyed by certain people, and that is continuous. There is theft day by day or night by night.

In addition, there are scenarios where after a decent funeral, robbers who come and steal from the burial sites. They steal coffins or clothes and, unfortunately after that happens, the body is abandoned there to be seen publicly by people and exposed to dogs and any other attacks. The decency of a human being demands that it goes beyond life and the families.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, therefore, want to agree with her that the Nairobi City County Government should really be challenged. The place is not fenced and it is evidently not guarded. I think their security apparatus and the national security apparatus should make sure that this property is well secured for the purposes of the people who have been rested there. It must be in a very bad taste for any family member to find that, that has happened

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to their father or close relative immediately after a decent funeral. I think it is really a big responsibility on the Nairobi City County Government, the governor and his team, to make sure this dignity is restored.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with her that there must be another site because land does not expand. I know some years ago, when we were in the National Assembly, there was a big debate on that. Some land had been found somewhere and there was a big scandal on that land.

The story went down and I think it is high time the Government of Kenya and the Nairobi City County Government counted on it, because I think they are extending or moving out of the Nairobi City County for the same purposes. I think it is an urgent matter. All cities in the world have cemeteries. They are decently fenced, some even have electric wires and they are well guarded. It is a big business, because the city county---

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

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to support the statement by Senator Abdul Haji, the Senator of Garissa, their incoming governor, by saying the following: One, our hearts and prayers go to the lives that have been lost.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these were senseless killings where you are killing even an infant of 14-months old and a 10-year-old, who does not know anything.

I think the Anti-Stock Theft Police Unit, the Rapid Deployment Unit and other specialist formation security must be on high alert in northern Kenya, because this is not an isolated incident. You have seen there are also skirmishes in the part of Ethiopia. The other day in Mandera, eight Kenyans were killed along Arabia Lafayette Road, allegedly by terror attacks from Al-Shabaab.

I think the security surveillance and intelligence agencies must come out strongly and ensure they arrest this matter. We hope that the people of Isiolo and Garissa border must live in peace, because we are one people. The security there must be heightened.

We are aware that region has been troubled, but we hope the Inspector General of Police, the National Intelligence Service and others must be on high alert. We must develop a system where when livestock are lost, compensation must be given to those families and ensure---

I think the least we can do for Kenyans in the Isiolo-Garissa border is to provide them security, because they are also taxpayers. We condemn this incident and appeal to leaders to also preach peace.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, finally, on the issue of Langata Cemetery, I do not know why somebody would want to disturb the dead. I thought when somebody dies, they should rest in peace. However, looks like you do not rest while alive, and in death, you do not rest.

The issue of Langata Cemetery has been discussed. I remember when you were the Member of Parliament, the issue of the Mavoko land scandal and the issue of the cemetery scandal came up. We must resolve. I think this goes back to the County Government of Nairobi City County. If Governor Sakaja cannot allow the dead to rest in peace, then there is a bigger problem than we imagine. It is the work under the Fourth Schedule that ensures that the cemeteries are well protected. Let us allow the dead to rest

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in peace. We do not want to reawaken them. We have so many problems that we would rather not disturb the dead.

It is not a good sign. Let us secure the place. Let us protect the place. Let us also give dignity to the dead, and I hope the Langata Cemetery issue will be resolved once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Olekina, you have the Floor.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support the statement by the Senator of Garissa County, Sen. Abdul Haji, on the deadly attack along the Isiolo-Garissa border.

The killing of innocent villagers and a newborn child is not merely cattle rustling. It is a failure of our security. It is very sad that whenever there is conflict in a nearby country, Kenya suffers and the people who suffer are those who cannot defend themselves.

The distinguished Senator has asked a very specific question in his statement, and this question must be answered by the Intelligence Department and the Ministry of Interior and National Administration. How much has the conflict in Ethiopia affected the lives of people who live along the border?

I was talking to the distinguished Senator from Mandera, and he tells me that daily, he feeds thousands and thousands of innocent people who are being displaced from Ethiopia and coming into Kenya. Now, the question that must be answered is: How much has this war in Ethiopia affected us? Has it brought a lot of illicit firearms into the country? Has it affected the traditional grazing corridor?

I am a pastoralist and livestock is our life. So, these are not just mere questions being brought by the distinguished Senator from Garissa. I think it is imperative and, given the importance of this matter, I would like to request the committee, once it has investigated this, to provide a full intelligence report on illicit arms and any Ethiopian spillover along the Isiolo - Garissa frontier; account for the failure to prevent retaliatory attacks and immediately recover all stolen livestock; and also establish a permanent joint security buffer along the Modagashe-Benin-Sericho belt while enforcing inter-county grazing agreements.

We, as pastoralists, in fact, in areas where we do not grow any crops, we allow our neighbours to graze in our area when we have abundance of fodder. This is the only way we can be able to really understand.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to comment on the statement by the distinguished Senator from Nyamira County on the closure of the Embassy in Bern, Switzerland. I wish, during your travels, you would be able to visit some of these embassies. Our embassies abroad are poorly funded. The embassies in all countries, particularly the countries in the West, the people who live in those embassies or the Kenyans who work in those embassies, I swear to God, they live worse than most Kenyans live here. They are poorly funded. They are not supported.

So maybe that is the reason why---

(The microphone was switched off)

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The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Yes, 30 seconds it is.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

I happened to be in Bern in July of this year, and I went to an event which was sponsored by the embassy and I was shocked. It was an African event showcasing what is available in Africa. If you went to the Kenyan Embassy stand, you would be shocked. It is the employees of those embassies who brought in their water made in Kenya, their tea leaves to showcase.

The National Assembly must pull up its socks when it comes and the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs must pull up its socks on the issue of funding embassies abroad. We cannot be closing embassies. We need to open more, so that we can create more businesses. You know Switzerland is the number one financial centre of the world. Why should we be closing that embassy? We should be encouraging more services, more financial services and bilateral agreements between Switzerland and Kenya.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Essy Okenyuri, you have the Floor.

Sen. Okenyuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to support the statement by Sen. Catherine Mumma on data protection and minors. Generally, the Kenyan community, especially in the rural areas, might think people are conscious about the kind of data they are exposing out there. I do not think many Kenyans take it seriously, as it appears.

I would just say to the general public that before you post, think about it. Think about the kind of information you want to share with the public and for children. Sometimes you are posting information about minors who are not even aware and they can never decide their fate and as a result, when these minors are targeted, you have no one to blame because you put information out, not knowing you are exposing children to predators out there.

I also want to maybe comment to the Data Protection Commissioner. I do not know how much that office is funded to be able to execute the follow-up of the matters that are being raised. Kenya has enough regulations and laws that are protecting children. What we are lacking is enforcement, so that the agencies are able to follow these matters to conclusion. When matters are reported, they are quickly acted upon.

If you report a matter to the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK), they have a follow-up department. For instance, if it is Facebook, it can take a long time because they have to contact Meta and it is not within their control, so they have to write and wait. By the time that period passes, harm has already been caused. So, I wish that the committee is going to look deeper into this matter so that, apart from reporting, we have a report showing that there are cases which have been reported on children and followed to conclusion.

Also, on the matter of the closure of our embassy in Bern, I request that the government put efforts into ensuring that there is no interruption, for the meantime, for the services that are actually taking place, so that those that are seeking those services can continue smoothly, even as the government thinks about the move they are actually undertaking of closing down that office in Bern.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Fatuma Dullo.

Sen. Dullo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to respond to a statement raised by Sen. Haji Haji. What is really happening in that part of the country is really unacceptable. What triggered the counter-attack yesterday was about a young man who was shot while they were sitting together. If we do not get an attack as Isiolo people on the Samburu side, there is always an attack from the Marsabit side. If not Marsabit, it is Garissa. If not Garissa, it is Wajir. It has become a battleground in Isiolo County.

Mr. Speaker, this morning, people are running from their homes because of the fear of retaliation. I have spoken to the Inspector General of Police and the regional commissioners as far as this matter is concerned. It is not even cattle rustling. Yesterday, there was a young man who was burning charcoal. He was killed at a place called Almas. This is happening on a daily basis. The livestock are not even recovered whenever they are stolen.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, people have been reduced to poverty. Mothers have been reduced to widows and children orphaned when we actually have security agencies in our country. This is a very serious matter. As a country, we need to take serious action as far as this matter is concerned. We cannot just sit and say that we have provided security. There must be a follow-up. Animals should be recovered. However, what is happening today, in fact, is that there are many young boys and youth who are abducted. In the past three years, more than 20 youths from Isiolo have not been found. Nobody knows their whereabouts. Some of them have families.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think serious action has to be taken and the Inspector-General of Police should come and respond to this matter because it is unacceptable. I will ask the government to make sure that there is no retaliation as far as what happened yesterday is concerned.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

Sen. Tabitha Mutinda: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will very quickly comment on two statements. One is from the Senior Counsel, Sen. Omogeni, regarding the closure of the Switzerland Embassy. I will do so because I have had the privilege to travel to Switzerland.

Honestly, the reception was very warm, cordial and very professional. It is a memory that I still have. It saddens me today to listen to this statement on the closure of such a high level embassy. Today, we are in this House asking ourselves questions on why this has taken place.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I look forward to the committee that will be assigned to look into the issues that have brought the closure of this embassy. They always say a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. This step of closing this embassy, if we are not keen, might set precedence for more embassies to be closed. I do not think that is what we envision as a country going by the kind of plan we have.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to move quickly to comment on Sen. Montet's statement on the issue of the Lang'ata Cemetery. It is very sad. We fought for the Division of Revenue Act (DORA) in this House. We have allocated counties money and

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as far as this Financial Year, 2026/2027, is concerned, there was Kshs20 million that was allocated by the Nairobi City County Assembly for improvement of Lang'ata Cemetery.

Today, the issues that have been raised for many years, not just now, are still prevailing. In 2024, there was a report that indicated that the governor had communicated setting aside 56 acres in this city to have a new cemetery. Nothing has happened. We should start asking ourselves, as Nairobi leaders, what is the problem with our leadership? Starting with our colleague Senator, who has changed his role. He is now a presidential candidate. Has he abandoned his oversight role? There is also the current governor. The other day, we were looking at the Nairobi County Audit Report by the Auditor-General. We have 57 stalled projects. We are asking ourselves, seriously, is the problem with the leaders that we choose or is it the leaders that we put in office?

(The microphone was switched off)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Mwinyihaji, proceed.

Sen. Faki: Asante sana, Bwana Spika, kwa kunipa fursa hii ili nichangie maombi ya kauli yaliyoletwa bungeni kwanza na Seneta Omogeni kuhusu kufungwa kwa Ubalozi wa Kenya huko Uswizi.

Ni masikitiko kwamba tunafunga Balozi wakati upande mmoja wa serikali unasema kwamba mikakati yao ni kuwatafutia watu kazi *majuu*. Kuna kazi majuu? Ikiwa tunafunga balozi, hii kazi *majuu* itapatikana vipi? Watu wetu wanaofanya kazi huko wataweza kusaidika vipi iwapo wameweza kupata shida kama zile zinazopatikana sehemu kama Saudi Arabia na kwengineko? Kwa hivyo, naunga mkono maombi ya Seneta Omogeni na Kamati ya Usalama, Ulinzi na Uhusiano wa Kimataifa ambayo itaangalia kauli hii. Lazima iivalie njuga mambo haya na iweze kuyaona kwa undani zaidi.

Bwana Spika, mambo mengine ambayo serikali yetu inafanya yanatamausha kwa sababu juzi nilikuwa Turkiye kwa Conference of the Parties (COP31). Sisi kama nchi ya Kenya, hatukuwa na mahali ambapo mtu anaweza kukaa. Mheshimiwa Mungatana atakubaliana na mimi kwamba ilibidi tuazime pavilion ya sisi, Wakenya, kukaa. Nchi ndogo ndogo kama Togo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, zote zilikuwa na pavilion, sebule zao ambapo watu walikuwa wanaweza kukaa na kujadili mambo yao.

Kwa hivyo, Bwana Spika, hizi *policies* za serikali yetu zinatofautiana pakubwa. Hatuwezi kujua kama tunaenda mbele ama tunarudi nyuma kwa sababu ikiwa tunafunga ubalozi huko Geneva--- Juzi tumekuwa COP, mwakani COP itafanyika hapa Ethiopia. Ingekuwa ni fursa nzuri ya kuweza kusoma na kuangalia yale mambo ambayo tunafanya hapa Kenya ili tupambane na hali ya hewa nchini.

Bwana Spika, kauli ya pili ningependa kuchangia ni ile ya Seneta Haji ambayo inahusiana na mambo ya usalama. Ni masikitiko kwamba maisha yamepotea tena sio kwa vita dhidi ya watu wa nje bali ni vita vya ndani kwa ndani. Mama mwenye mtoto wa siku kumi alipigwa risasi pamoja na mtoto wake. Ni mambo ya kusikitisha. Sijui serikali itafanya nini kwa sababu tumeona hata lile jukwaa la usalama ambalo lilikuwa, likipigiwa upatu, badala ya kumaliza matatizo kama haya, halijafanya jambo lolote.

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Tumeona kila mahali vita vinaendelea. Kule kwetu Mombasa vijana wa mapanga bado wanatishia watu. Mambo kama hayohayawezi kutufanya sisi tujenge taifa wakati bado usalama ni duni.

(The microphone was switched off)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Thirty seconds!

Sen. Faki: Asante, Bwana Spika. Ningependa kuchangia kauli ya Seneta Ojienda kuhusiana na usalama baharini. Ukiangalia ufuo wetu kutoka kwa mfano Shimoni ama Vanga mpaka sehemu za Kiunga, hakuna kituo kimoja cha usalama baharini.

Usalama tunaotegemea ni wa *Coast Guard.* Kwa mfano, katika Kaunti ya Mombasa, ajali ikitokea katika Tudor *Creek*, watu wa *Coast Guard* wakitoka Kipevu ama kule Bandarini ama *navy* kule Mtongwe mpaka sehemu za Tudor *Creek*, watu watakuwa wamepotea. Kwa hivyo, ipo haja---

(The microphone was switched off)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Your time is up, unfortunately.

(Hon. Faki spoke off record)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Conclude your thoughts

Sen. Faki: Hizi kaunti ambazo zina sehemu za bahari, maziwa, mito lazima zilazimishwe kuwa na vitengo vya usalama. Kama ni bahari, kuwe na usalama wa baharini, kama ni ziwa kuwe na usalama wa ziwa, kama ni katika mito kama vile Mto Nzoia ambapo wengine pia wanakufa maji waweze kuwa na vitengo vya usalama na waweze pia kuokoa maisha katika sehemu zile.

Asante sana, Bwana Spika.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Kinyua, proceed.

Sen. Kinyua: Asante sana, Bwana Spika, kwa kunipa fursa hii. Nataka kuchangia kauli iliyoletwa na Seneta Okong'o Omogeni.

Hatupaswi kuwa tukifunga balozi zetu. Tunapaswa kuwa tukiziongeza. Ukweli wa mambo ni kwamba, ukitembelea balozi zetu nyingi, unapata wanaishi kwa hali ya uchochole na mishahara hailipwi. Tumetembea katika nchi nyingi na unapowatembelea, wanakuambia hawajalipa nyumba wanazoishi, na hata mahali wanapopewa bidhaa hawajalipa, ilhali hawa ni wawakilishi wa nchi yetu. Ni picha gani tunaonyesha katika nchi ambazo tunawatuma wawakiilishi wetu? Kwa mfano, kusema ya kwamba tutafunga Ubalozi huko Uswizi ilhali katika *manifesto* yetu tunasema ya kwamba tutatumia hizi balozi kutafuta biashara na vile vile kazi za vijana wetu.

Kwa hivyo, ni kinaya kwetu kusema kwamba badala ya kuongeza balozi katika nchi nyingi ili tuweze kupata si biashara peke yake, mbali ajira za kazi, tunaendelea kufunga balozi. Hilo si jambo nzuri sana. Kwa hivyo, Kamati ya Kudumu ya Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Mahusiano ya Kimataifa inafaa ifuatilie hili jambo. Hasa, Waziri wa Masuala ya Kigeni na Masuala ya Diaspora anapaswa kuwajibika vizuri. Kila wakati

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tukipata fursa, maseneta wanapotembea, hayo ndiyo mambo ukienda kwa balozi anakwambia, kuwa, tafadhali ukirudi nyumbani, ongea pale bungeni ili bajeti yetu iweze kuongezwa. Hii ni kwa sababu wanaishi maisha ambayo sio uso wa nchi yetu.

Bw. Spika, vile vile, ningependa kuchangia kauli iliyoletwa na Seneta wa Gatuzi la Garissa. Ukosefu wa usalama umekuwa ni jambo la kawaida katika Jamhuri yetu ya Kenya kwa sababu katika kauli yake unasikia akisema mtoto wa miaka 10 na mzee wa miaka zaidi ya 60 wameuawa. Katika kauli yake, anatuambia vita vimeendelea zaidi ya siku mbili na hakuna jambo lolote limetekelezwa.

Tunajua ya kwamba katika serikali yeyote, jukumu lake kuu ni kulinda mali na maisha ya wananchi. Kwa hivyo, wanachama wa Kamati ya Kudumu kuhusu Usalama wa Taifa, Ulinzi na Mahusiano ya Kimataifa wanapaswa kulivalia hili jambo njuga. Kila wakati jambo likitendeka kama vile wizi wa mifugo, mifugo ikipigwa risasi au watu wameuawa, tuache kukimbilia kusema mambo ya fidia.

(The microphone was switched off)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Please add him 30 seconds.

Sen. Kinyua: Asante. Bw. Spika. Tuache kukimbia kusema mambo ya fidia. Mswahili anasema, kinga ni bora kuliko tiba. Kwa hivyo, tujairbu kulinda, tusikimbilie hili jambo tunalosema tutapeana fidia.

Asante. Bw. Spika.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Omogeni, please proceed.

Sen. Omogeni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to comment on the statement on data protection and issues of data breaches.

I have always thought that there was an intention behind every article that was put in our Constitution. Kenyans, in Article 31, enacted an article on privacy. That article says every person has a right to privacy which includes the right not to have information relating to their family or private affairs unnecessarily required.

I have seen what has been happening around the issue of entities, unnecessarily seeking information from Kenyans without any guarantee on whether that information will be protected by those entities. For instance, if you go to open a bank account today, the bank will ask you whether you are married and how many children you have. Why does the bank want to know how many wives a Kenyan has? Why does a bank want to know how many children Sen. Mungatana has? What is the relationship between opening an account and those questions? What is the relation? Moreover, they even ask you where you live. Maybe you say that you live in Kitengela and somebody is wondering, is that where this Senator lives? Those forms were designed by the banks before we enacted Article 31 in our Constitution. I have gone with a friend in a foreign country to open an account. You fill a form stating where you work, your details and that is it. However, in this country, banks are really infringing into our privacy.

There is even another law. I do not know whether you are aware that you are all politically exposed persons in this House. There is a title we have been given, within all banking institutions. We are called politically exposed persons. Myself and Madam Gichangi do not enjoy the same status in this country. Ms. Eunice Gichangi is not a

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politically exposed person. However, me and Sen. Mungatana are politically exposed persons.

Good afternoon, politically exposed persons. You are all politically exposed persons yet, if you read Article 27, it says every person is equal before the law and has the right to equal benefit of the law. Why should we be singled out and put in a class of people who look like criminals?

(The microphone was switched off)

Sen. Omogeni: Please add me one more minute.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): You have one more minute, hon. Senator.

Sen. Omogeni: So, that is clear discrimination. You are profiling a certain cadre of people in the society, and saying these ones are always being looked at as suspects. So, you treat them as criminals, even before we do anything. The committee, chaired by Senator for Bomet County, my friend, Wakili Sigei, needs to sit down and audit some of these laws that were in existence before we enacted our 2010 Constitution, so that we enjoy our privacy as citizens.

I want to walk around as a Kenyan citizen, not as a Senator of Nyamira County. I want to be treated like any other citizen of this country, not to be discriminated and profiled negatively.

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

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

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I hope that this statement by Sen. Mumma will give us an opportunity to audit issues relating to data protection and discrimination against certain cadre of Kenyans.

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

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the Floor.

I would like to comment on the statement by the Hon. (Prof.) Odhiambo Ojienda, SC, on the safety of passengers in our waters. In addition to that safety concern, I was going to request the committee to also look at the safety of fishermen when they go to carry out their duties. The Kenya Coast Guard Service Act, 2018, that was passed by this House, gives the responsibility to the Kenya Coast Guard Services to make sure there is maritime safety. It gives them the responsibility to also make sure that there is rescue whenever we have problems in the sea. However, in my county, the Kenya Coast Guard Services has converted itself into a force that is more on the side of arresting fishermen, getting their nets, being like an oppressor rather than a helper. I am praying that the committee will push the agenda that the Kenya Coast Guard Services must be revamped, so that it can partner with fishermen, especially with counties such as Tana River, which are bordering the ocean, lakes and rivers.

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Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would like to also briefly speak on the closure of the Kenyan Embassy in Geneva. I previously served as an Assistant Minister in the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. Therefore, I know for a fact that Geneva hosts the World Health Organisation (WHO) offices, World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the United Nations (UN) offices, which are very important. Therefore, to close our mission there and say that all the bilateral issues are going to be handled through the diplomatic mission in London, I think we are taking a step backwards. We are not going forward. I know that the Principal Secretary (PS) has justified this by saying that they need to rationalise embassies. You cannot say that the Permanent Mission in Geneva is supposed to handle consular services and yet, you close the most important that is handling bilateral issues between Kenya and---

(The microphone was switched off)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Give him one more minute.

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Yes, I was saying that it is not making sense that Kenya's consular issues are going to be handled by the Kenya's Permanent Mission to the United Nations while the important issues of bilateral diplomatic relations between Kenya and Switzerland are to be handled through our London Mission. I believe that even if we are supposed to be rationalising, they should tell us how much money it actually cost and measure it *vis-a-vis* the benefits of us having an embassy in Luzon, in Switzerland. I think some of these decisions ought to be put through public participation before decisions like these are made---

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

Hon. Senators, we have come to the end of comments on statements; we shall move to the next Order.

Clerk, proceed.

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

Prof. Kamar, is your intervention on the statements?

Sen. (Prof) Kamar: Yes.

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

Sen. (Prof) Kamar: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for giving me a few minutes to just say one thing about data protection. I stand to support the statement by Sen. Mumma.

Last week, I attended a workshop on behalf of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), which was held somewhere in Nairobi under the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) theme and something very disturbing about data came up. We have a lot of data being generated in our health sector in particular. Sometimes you will see a publication talking about trends in the health sector in Kenya and you ask yourself where they got that data.

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The worrying thing is that it is very easy for anybody who is looking for information to research on to walk into Kenya, get into a hospital and collect data. We are thoroughly exposed as a country. This statement should move us towards asking ourselves the big questions of who decides who must research in our country; which data can be collected with or without permission and who actually authorises. Sometimes we find that we cannot control the data when it is out there being used by researchers and even donors to make decisions. Not to mention the fact that some donors come here with an intention of getting data and just go into a collaboration with our research institutions or any other institution to collect the data.

It is a very dangerous trend because our data has been used to make money. They are using the same data to write proposals and come up with recommendations that do not even touch on us. When we are even talking about diseases such as Ebola and COVID-19, you will find that a lot of data was collected in this continent and even from our own country by people who are not Kenyans. We must go beyond and ask ourselves; who should research? Which tools are we going to research? Are there foreign tools or ours? How can we control information that leaves, especially private information, because of the fact that we have a law that protects data?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I support and hope that the investigations will give us more answers than questions.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, hon. Senators.

We should proceed to the next Order, Clerk.

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Hon. Senators, just as a reminder and a way of passing information, the Senate resolved on 11th February 2026, pursuant to Standing Order No. 27(6), that the debate on the Motion on the President's Address to Parliament shall be limited to a maximum of three sitting days, with no more than 15 minutes for each Senator. So, Senators, when you are called to make your contribution, remember you have 15 minutes and there will be no discretion for adding a minute for conclusion, so time yourselves well.

Mover, proceed.

Sen. Veronica Maina: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to move this very important Motion-

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 27 (6), the Senate –

(a) records its thanks for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of His Excellency the President, delivered on Wednesday, 18th November, 2026 and laid on the Table of the Senate on Thursday, 19th November, 2026; and

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(b) notes the following Reports submitted by His Excellency the President in fulfilment of Articles 132 (1) (c) (1) and 240 (7) of the Constitution, laid on the Table of the Senate on Thursday, 19th November, 2026 –

(i) 13th Annual Report, 2025/2026 on measures taken and progress achieved

in the realization of National Values and Principles of Governance; and

(ii) The Annual Report to Parliament on the state of National Security.

Let me, at the very onset, thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Dr. William Samoei Ruto, for ably fulfilling his constitutional duty yesterday, when we converged at the National Assembly Chambers, both the Senate and the National Assembly Members, to receive his report in accordance with what is stipulated under Articles 132(1)(C)(1) and 247 of the Constitution - ably giving a report of how many steps the government has taken under his leadership, to deliver on the mandate under Article 10 of our Constitution and also deliver on the mandate of what he undertook to do in the manifesto that he presented to Kenyans in 2022, when he was voted in as the President of the Republic of Kenya. I also thank Parliament, both the Senate and the National Assembly, who did their duty with clockwise precision and were able to receive the President and help Kenyans receive this report, hence complying with what is stipulated in the Constitution.

Just like our President said, our nation has really made a great comeback and I agree with the President in his report. As per the report, the economy is not where it was in 2022. He has ably demonstrated that there is a lot of improvement in the economy in the nation of Kenya. Even the naysayers would agree that inflation has been reduced. It had reached a high of 9.6 per cent in 2022 and as we speak, in year 2025, it was lowered to 4.1 per cent. That is great news to our nation. These are the kinds of reports I would equate to the good report that was given in the Bible. In the Bible, there was a whole team of men who were sent to survey the land, to see whether the Israelites could occupy that land. They were 12 in number and 10 came back with a bad report. There were two who came back with a good report. They said they were well able to conquer the land.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would call this report that the President gave on inflation as very good news to Kenya, that the economy and the trend of inflation must continue going down. I would encourage the President to continue driving it until it goes below the 4.1 per cent that was reported in 2025. If we were to gauge the report he gave on the foreign exchange reserves and because this is a report that is given under his mandate in the Constitution, the foreign exchange reserves increased from US$7.37 billion in 2022 to a peak of US$15.3 billion this year. I mean, that is commendable and a great improvement. It is also good to note from the report that the US$2 billion Euro bond debt obligation was cleared in June, 2024, thereby our country was protected from having very devastating effects and this boosted the confidence in the economy of Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, the one question that every Kenyan asks themselves even as this report is received is; what about the cost of living? I am happy to note that the President did not shy away from addressing the question of the cost of living because that is a question that you and I wake up every day to grapple with. As we struggle to come to work to earn our living, we are trying to balance how we are spending our

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money, what we receive in our pockets, how much are we spending in rent and how much are we spending in education. He ably demonstrated that the cost of living has been eased because of certain parameters that have gone right, including reforms in the agriculture sector, where we have the 50 kgs bag of fertiliser, the price having been Kshs7,500 in 2022, has been reduced to Kshs2,000 this year.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, indeed, it was so good to note - and I am concentrating on the good because the danger we are having as a nation and as a community is concentrating on the bad and marking the ground with the bad - to look and say that farmers have received 38.5 million bags of subsidised fertilizer. Close to nine million farmers have taken advantage of this affordable fertiliser. This cannot be anything less than commendable. Of course, it is our hope that the way this fertiliser is accessed by farmers should be done in such a manner that even the coffee farmers must be able to access this fertiliser and the tea farmers access it for it to reach their farms without having to expend too much on the logistics used in moving this fertiliser. I know there are farmers who may be crying that the fertiliser sometimes is far but those are logistical details which should be worked around even by county governments. Agriculture is devolved, and I believe that the county governments must put their hands where their mouth is and make sure that agriculture is supported, that when the national Government has done its part, even the county government can do its part.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, let me also pick out one issue that is common to Kenyans. In all our homes, all of us are definitely having *ugali* in our menu. I am a mother and I love cooking. Some may think we do not cook because we are Senators in the house. We do cook for our families sometimes. Even if it is once a month, we make an effort to do that and *ugali* is always on the menu plus *sukumawiki*. I have lately learnt that all of us, even if you are in a skyscraper or an apartment on third floor, you can have a multi-layered kitchen garden in a very small space and you can grow your own *sukumawiki*. However, the good story about how His Excellency together with the government have worked around the cost of sifted *unga* which is used by every Kenyan home, is that in September, 2022 - it is not deniable anymore - *unga* was costing Kshs230. Right now, if you check the price of *unga*, you can google as you are seated there, Sen. Ledama, from Naivas, Carrefour, Quickmart or the many supermarkets we have or the shops, kiosks and kibandas that are next to our homes; the cost of *unga* has come down to Kshs152 this year or thereabouts. It could be between Kshs148 maybe to Kshs155, but the average pricing of that is about Kshs152. Is that not commendable? Indeed, if we can bring the cost of food lower than it was in 2022, this government will have performed part of its mandate.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I come from a coffee-growing zone that is in Murang'a. We grow the best coffee and tea. I will say this; one of the best moments for the coffee farmers was the introduction of reforms within the coffee sector - the Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund (CCARF). So far, the President reported that it has disbursed Kshs15.07 billion to 684,000 farmers, helping them to meet immediate financial needs as they await their final payment. This is an advance. For instance, if you have a coffee farm - but I am not sure you have a coffee farm - Maybe, you have a farm full of cows, whose value could be way higher than a coffee farm. If you have coffee and

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are waiting to harvest coffee cherries, you can fill out a form, go to the bank and get an advance from the CCARF.

Happily speaking, the price of coffee which the farmer was pocketing before these reforms was about Kshs45 to Kshs50 per kilo. Today, as we speak, coffee farmers are taking home or pocketing over Kshs120 per kilo for coffee. Is that not so commendable and so good?

I hope that one day I will wake up in the Republic of Kenya and find social media awash with compliments for the good things that have been done. Not always waking up and finding all the negative things and I am not saying we should not report on the negative things. Yes, they must be reported, so that they can be rectified but let us also balance the way we report, so that we are not reading damning reports every day and thinking that Kenya is closing, when in actual fact, there are some farmers in Murang'a, Kirinyaga, Kwale, Nandi Hills and Narok who are saying they are happy with the price of coffee or they have seen an improvement and they are waiting for more improvement.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we are also very happy to note that the national milk production has increased in this government from 4.5 billion litres to 5.5 billion litres. These are verifiable figures. If anyone has any doubt or does not agree with the report, one of the best things they can do is to come back with facts and figures and tell Kenyans; this report you read cannot be verified. However, if this is an accurate report and data, we must compliment not just the government but your mother who is dealing with that milk, who is making efforts with taking care of the livestock and making sure they have production that is sustaining families in our reserve areas. The average increased earning from milk has moved from Kshs32 per litre to maybe Kshs60 per litre as at last month. I know in Murang'a we maybe still at Kshs55 but the average could be between that Kshs55 to Kshs60.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, there is a sector that had been doomed, and I am sad that --- Is Sen. Boni Khalwale, here? Maybe he will come in. This is the sugar sector. There has been such a marked improvement in the sugar sector that the industry, according to the report by the President, has been projected to produce more than 900,000 tonnes by the end of the year. That is the highest annual production that has ever been experienced in Kenya. These are reports that show that Kenyans are actually working.

I commend all the Kenyans who are in these sectors, who have made this happen. You know it is one thing for the government to inject investment or to inject reforms and another thing for those reforms to translate into productivity. So, a big thank you and congratulations to Kenyans in the sugar, coffee, tea and livestock sectors, and those doing dairy farming. Congratulations to you for making marked improvement within your sectors. The pastoral communities have not been left behind. We have the livestock insurance that is protecting household assets against drought. More than 245,000 pastoralists have accessed insurance and saving incentives under the drive programme that has protected 3.3 million animals.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, before I came to settle in Nairobi, long before I started politics, this part of my life that now came into the public sector with a lot of politics, and meeting great individuals like Sen. Maanzo and Sen. Ledama, whom I would never have met if I remained in Mombasa, I lived in Mombasa within a blue

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economy jurisdiction. Investments have been massively made in landing sites. If you look at some of the counties that have benefited vastly in these investments, you will have Kwale being one of them. Kisumu, in the lake region, has benefited. I think everybody in Kenya now knows the fish landing sites that have been made in Homa Bay, which are very modern. In Kwale and Malindi, places that Kenyans love to visit, especially over the holidays--- Next time Kenyans visit during this Christmas, they will be in for a good great shock to see the kind of investments that have been made. It is also good to note that markets have been brought closer to producers.

According to the report that has been generated, the government has invested Kshs8.5 billion in 34 counties, with 15 parks complete and allocated resources for common user manufacturing equipment. Oh, this is a great time for *mama mboga*. Over 600 modern markets across the nation are on course.

In Murang'a, just the other day, we opened Kangare Market. It was opened and handed over to traders and to the county government. There are six hundred modern markets across the nation at a cost of Kshs57 billion. This offers dignity to *mama mboga*. For the first time, *mama mboga* does not have to put their wares where they are being rained on, where the sun is scorching on those green products. Right now, we can say *mama mboga* can have a stand.

I urge all the traders, especially my dear *mama mbogas*, who supported us very much in 2022, to ensure that markets standards of cleanliness, together with the county governments, are maintained so that they are hygienic, and that the storage facilities, the refrigeration facilities and the cold storage facilities are already properly maintained by county governments. This will be a litmus test on how effective our county governments can be in managing these markets, especially because the cold room facilities are very sensitive. Unless there is very diligent management and committees that are committed to maintaining the facilities and the services, we will then not have the benefits that we are supposed to enjoy from these markets.

These investments will enable farmers to sell processed products rather than raw produce and reduce the post-harvest losses. If counties can maintain reduction of post-harvest losses, what Kenyans are suffering from right now, lack of food security, will be a story of the past. It was very good for the President to remind us about our forefathers who set a foundation to declare war on ignorance, disease and poverty.

If we are keen on how we manage post-harvest losses, poverty, disease, lack of food and malnutrition, will be issues of the past. We must also adjust our attitude as Kenyans. We must ask ourselves, when the government does A, what am I supposed to do as a citizen to make sure that the benefit of what the government is doing is undertaken and protected and is of benefit to the common wananchi?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I want to single out Article 43 that guarantees economic, social rights, including healthcare, housing, food, water, education and social security. What I see in this report is an injection or a protection drawn to ensure that Article 43 becomes a reality to Kenyans. I want to also single out Article 201 which requires fairness in sharing of public resources and benefits of development. That is why I believe we had the President repeating this slogan, *Usawa Ni Sawa*. Indeed, we must

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understand that this is not a new phenomenon. It is the phenomenon that is carried out under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10, which calls for equality for all.

The SDG five further affirms equality for both genders. This equality is protected under the Constitution in Article 27. So, *Usawa Ni sawa* is not something new. It is just saying that the person who lives in county number one should be equal to the person who lives in county number 47. The person who is studying in a school in Kwale should also have the same benefit of a student who is studying within Nairobi, trying to bring equality, equity, dignity and goodwill to all Kenyans, so that Kenyans can wake up feeling dignified, protected, provided for and that they have access to equal opportunities.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the President also talked about how the connection between production costs, household expenditure and income affect citizens, and how the government is intervening to ensure there is policy reform, and there are programmes that are intended to ensure these reforms are not swept under the carpet. Education is another major household expense which the President tackled. He notified or emphasised to Kenyans that so far this government has employed over 100,000 teachers, and we are all witnesses to this fact, and another 20,000 teachers are in the offing. They will be employed, so that we have the student-teacher ratio good enough for quality education to be carried out.

There is also the building of 23,000 classes. They may not be enough for all the schools we have in Kenya, but it is great work in progress. Also, supported by 1,600 laboratories. Allocation for education has moved to Kshs784 billion in this financial year, meaning that the education sector should be better this year than it was last year.

It would be wrong for me or remiss of me not to mention the affordable housing project which the government has intensely invested in. We have so many houses being built.

Over 313,000 homes are at various stages of construction across the 47 counties. The beauty is that the 313,000 homes will house over Kshs1.37 million Kenyans in the *Boma Yangu* initiative. We are all very alive to the fact that the Social Health Authority (SHA), the programme that is much talked about in Kenya, is benefiting very many Kenyans. So far, I believe over 38 million Kenyans have registered for SHA and are benefiting from this Universal Health Coverage (UHC) programme that seeks to bring health reforms across the 47 counties.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, maybe you know a few people in your county who have benefited from SHA. In my county, I know people who have benefitted from SHA. I have helped people pay the minimum amount of Kshs6,000 for SHA. Sometimes I find it easier to support the Kshs6,000 than to help in paying the hospital bill. All of us in this Parliament have helped one person or another to pay for SHA, so that they can benefit from what the insurance cover gives access to. This is especially when it gives access to better healthcare and the enjoyment of Article 43 of the Constitution.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, regarding infrastructure, the President reported on the Mau Mau roads. I am happy to come from a region that is benefiting from kilometres and kilometres of the Mau Mau roads that are being built and completed by the Government, among other road infrastructure within the Mount Kenya Region.

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One of the most exciting projects is the Rironi-Mau Summit Road, which is being funded not just by the Chinese, but also by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) at 40 per cent. This means that when the investment injected into this infrastructure is repaid, it will no longer be repaid entirely to foreign entities. Through the NSSF, the Kenyan pensioner will benefit from their contributions being paid back with interest out of the infrastructure bonds.

I believe real reforms have been done. I am very proud today to be called a Kenyan, just like the President was proud yesterday presenting this as the Head of State for the Republic of Kenya. I am proud today to know that if I visit the northern part of Kenya, we have a whole 750-kilometre Northern Kenya Gateway Corridor linking Isiolo, Wajir and Mandera.

I am very proud today because, as a Senate, when we have the Senate Mashinani, we have seen the places we visit and the roads we use. Nothing gives a brighter smile than knowing that if you found no road in a certain county, by the time you get back to that county next year, you will find a stretch of tarmac road leading you to the place you are going.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, because of the infrastructure that has been developed, we can say we are proud of what has been done. Allow me to mention this very popular road, which if I did not mention. Kenyans might not even know what we are debating on: ile barabara ya kutoka Isiolo kuenda Modogashe, iteremuke iende Samatar, iteremuke mpaka Wajir, iende Tarbaj, itoke Tarbaj, ipite Kotulo, iende Kombo, iende El Wak, iende Garre, iende Rhamu, ifike Mandera.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I can see you are already smiling because maybe you know those places. One of your clerks, together with I, identify with some of those places. That is the kind of government we want, one that brings a smile to Kenyans. Let us reduce the pessimism, look at what has been done positively and whatever has been done well. Let us be bold enough to say A has been done well, B needs improvement, C is on a poor grade and D is a fail. Let us be fair as we give the scorecard. As we walk towards 2027, let us give a scorecard that speaks to the reality of what is happening.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, in this report, the President has given an account that touches on entire families within the Republic of Kenya. It reports on education, which touches on the children; healthcare, which touches on the whole family; and women, because of the programmes we have had. Certain programmes such as Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) and the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA), have benefited women in enterprise. We talk of equity, when the economy and programmes are touching every single member of the family.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, we cannot close this debate without noting how many title deeds have been issued to different communities that have waited for years to receive them. A mother gets to 90 years or even goes to the grave, without ever touching a title deed. Cheti cha kumiliki shamba hana! They did not have them, but this government has made sure title deeds are given to Kenyans who previously found it difficult to access them.

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I am happy to report that I was glad when the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Alice Wahome, came to Makongeni and opened another land registry. Now, instead of relying solely on the registry we have been using in Thika, which has been a big problem at times, we can have more land registries in our country, so that Kenyans can access ownership.

I am happy with the reforms coming up protecting low-income earners by raising the taxation threshold to over Kshs32,000. That is a very good proposition. We believe that the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) will comply and will not bully anyone earning below the threshold set to cushion them from taxation. That is important because the cost of living has gone up.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I also want to mention the Sovereign Wealth Fund, which will provide a framework for saving, investing and preserving national wealth for future generations. These are the steps we should be taking.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me. Since I want to give my colleagues an opportunity to contribute to this report, let me wind up by saying we are very proud of what our President has been doing together with his Cabinet. We commend him and ask him to continue working. We want to see the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) competing with all other airports within the region. Therefore, we support the development and modernisation programme rolled out for JKIA because that is the face of Nairobi and Kenya. We want every visitor coming to Kenya to access this nation through a modern airport that serves all Kenyans and attracts more tourism within our region.

With those very many remarks, I congratulate the President and the Cabinet. I also thank Parliament for hosting the President yesterday.

I beg to move and ask Sen. Ledama Olekina, the Senator for Narok County, to second this Motion.

Thank you.

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

Sen. Olekina: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I rise to join my colleague in seconding this very important Motion of the Senate registering its thanks and appreciation for a comprehensive and forward-looking Fourth State of the Nation Address delivered yesterday, Wednesday, 18th November, 2026, by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Dr. William Samoei Ruto.

At a defining moment in our nation's trajectory, the President offered a candid, data-backed audit of the tough structural reforms undertaken over the past four years to rescue our economy from debt and set Kenya onto a sustainable path of transformation. In particular, I wish to commend the Head of State on four key pillars highlighted in yesterday's address. Number one is the macro-economic stability and tax relief for ordinary Kenyans. Number two is equity and inclusion, where we all say, *"Usawa ni Sawa*". Number three is job creation and human capital. Number four is a call for national unity above ethnic politics.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as I register my thanks, I want to address this a little bit differently from what my sister has done. I want to focus on what the naysayers might say and counter their arguments. Last night, after listening to this President here for three

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hours, I got a chance to listen to colleagues in Parliament, those who are naysayers and those who are supporting the President. Some argued clearly that the President's speech was nothing but self-praise. They say that it may means nothing to ordinary Kenyans. Today, I want to demystify that, correct it and tell Kenyans exactly why it is contrary to what the naysayers are saying.

When the President took office, inflation in this country was at 9.6 per cent. Yesterday, the President, with data-based facts, was able to demonstrate clearly how he has been able to bring down inflation to 4.1 per cent. Stabilising the US Dollar from Kshs162 to Kshs129 means a lot to ordinary Kenyans. It means a lot to ordinary Kenyans.

I am happy that all of us - some of us, were in this Parliament. I know my good friend was in the Lower House in the last Parliament. I was in this House with you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, and the distinguished Senator from Nandi. In the last Parliament, what used to happen in this country was that we used to borrow money - a lot of money - so that we could try to subsidise the economy, increasing the debt of this country. What the President was able to demonstrate yesterday is that you do not need to subsidise anything to make life easy for Kenyans. What he said, and he demonstrated clearly, is that by merely reducing the cost of fertiliser from Kshs7,000, doing away with brokers, the naysayers are now crying for it because they were the brokers, and they are the brokers - and you bring down fertiliser to Kshs2,000, it means a lot to a poor farmer, to a local farmer.

It is important for the naysayers to appreciate that you may not agree entirely because you have to tell your story, but it has come a time when we have to separate rhetoric from delivery. I love that. I even love the sound of it because I can clearly follow through the President's speech yesterday and demonstrate the difference between rhetoric and delivery.

It is a fact that our savings before the President took office, and you know, I was one of his biggest critics, I was one of the naysayers like my brother, the Senator for Makueni, Sen. Maanzo, but I am converted. I am converted by facts and facts are stubborn. Before this President took over, this country was staring at default in terms of paying its debt, but look at where we are now. This President has been able to stabilise the economy such that we are able to pay our debt.

We have increased our savings under the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to figures that no one would ever imagine, to a point where now we are actually borrowing from NSSF to be able to invest in infrastructure. If that does not mean anything to ordinary Kenyans, then I do not know which country I am living in. It is always good to oppose, but oppose with facts, not just for the sake of it.

Yesterday, after the President spoke, we had predictable noise from naysayers. Some of them chose to boycott the President's Address, like the good Senator from Makueni County. They said, "Oh, the President was praising himself, but the President clearly indicated, and it is a proven fact, that there are those Kenyans who could not afford to live, to own a house, but today, with only Kshs 4,000, they can own a house. If that does not mean anything to the naysayers, it means a lot to ordinary Kenyans.

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We heard also from the naysayers that just by saying that you build roads, it does not mean anything to the ordinary Kenyans. Just recently, even with all these problems internationally, with the war in Iran or the Middle East, fuel prices here in Kenya have remained almost constant, stable. They are not like those other countries. If a country is able to invest Kshs4.1 billion to lower the cost of fuel from the Petroleum Levy Fund, does that not mean anything to ordinary Kenyans? We can object and argue, but let us argue with facts.

When I was growing up, coming to Nairobi would take us about eight to 12 hours. Our roads were dilapidated. It would take us almost eight hours from Narok Town, which is about 150 kilometres from Nairobi. But now, I am looking into the Narok International Airport being opened. It was never done in all those years.

What this President has been able to do, which I support, is to drive and force a form of equity, even if not equality, across the 47 counties. Today, I am very happy that very soon, Narok will have the first international airport and mind you, one day I will take these naysayers on a fully paid *per diem.* I will pay for them just to show them, because the money that I would spend, you know, having to repair my vehicles when I am traveling from Nairobi to Narok, I am saving it now. I can use it to pay for a helicopter to take the naysayers to show them how Narok is developing.

The railway network, something that I never thought I would be able to see during my lifetime, is now a stone throw away from my house. What do you call that? Does that not mean something to an ordinary Kenyan? A farmer, a Maasai man who would ordinarily lease a truck, carries his cattle from Narok all the way to Nairobi to come and sell, and he would get stuck in my mind here for eight to 10 hours, even with this traffic. Soon, they will be able to haul all those cows by train and bring them to Nairobi within 40 minutes. Does that not mean anything to ordinary Kenyans?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, it is important to note that in any country, people must pay taxes. However, I want to commend the President for having taken a very bold step to reduce taxes that are paid by ordinary Kenyans. Senators who are seated here with a lot of money, you have ordinary Kenyans who work for you and you pay them between Kshs10,000 and Kshs32,000. With the President's innovation, they do not need to pay any more taxes. Does that not mean anything to an ordinary Kenyan?

Let us just be clear here. What the President has been able to do is something that a lot of people cannot even fathom. He has been able to make sure that we move away from Sessional Paper No.10, which discriminated against other ethnic groups and made sure that all Kenyans are equal. That is why he kept on insisting on *Usawa ni Sawa*, meaning we are all equal.

Finally, because of my time, I want to end by appreciating the President, by reminding us, politicians, to stay away from divisive politics. There are no Kenyans who are superior to others. It is wrong for some regions or some politicians to balkanise others and make them voting blocs.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, my good friends from Mt. Kenya region should get this message straight: In Mt. Kenya, all 45 ethnic groups of people live there. So, it is wrong for us to consider others as being special and moving, while the rest of the country are not considered as being any different. We are all one. Moving away from divisive

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politics and uniting as one to build this country is what will guarantee a safe place for future generations.

I hope that the naysayers will appreciate that in 2022, the inflation rate in this country was at 9.6 per cent. Just in four years, it has dropped to 4.1 per cent. That means something. That is the reason the cost of food and the cost of *unga* has gone down. This is what we must support. Today, any home you go to you will find *ugali.* The cost of *unga* has come down from Kshs250 to almost Kshs150. That is about Kshs100 that has been saved.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I know for a fact that as the Senate and Parliament, we must remain vigilant when it comes to the issue of oversight, to ensure that all promises that have been given by this administration are delivered. When the administration delivers, we must appreciate them for having delivered.

Let me end by recording my appreciation. I hope that my colleagues will equally analyse the President's speech and give credit where it is due. Even for the naysayers, it will not hurt if you appreciate that today, Sen. Maanzo, going to Kitui is much faster than a few years ago.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Hon. Senators, I will propose the question.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Senators, I will now give Senators an opportunity to make their contributions, starting with Sen. Wakili Hilary Sigei.

Sen. Wakili Sigei: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to appreciate, first of all, the Mover as well as the Seconder of the Motion. They have given this House and the rest of the country a highlight of what exactly the President said yesterday in his Fourth State of the Nation Address (SoTNA).

I want to confirm that yesterday, I sat for the period that the President presented his report to the House. One hour and 45 minutes was enough time for the President to tell us what he has done for this country and not what a number of our colleagues have said. The naysayers, now that they have been given that name, have said that the President was praising himself.

I have sat down here and I saw my learned senior, Sen. Maanzo, nodding his head when Sen. Veronica Maina, the Mover of the Motion, as well as Sen. Olekina who seconded the Motion, were highlighting those facts which we all agree are factual. In most of those comments, it is what we desire to say. We need to give it a fair appreciation and judgement. When facts are there, they are there.

I sat down and listened through it. I have read this report. The 41-page report that the President read to the country yesterday highlights where we are from where we were. He went ahead also to give a prospect of where we are headed to as a country. This is the conversation we are supposed to have as a country. This is the conversation we need to debate as a House, so that when we get in here and speak about that particular State of the Nationa Address, we deal with it on matters objective to issues that were raised and the

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position of certain status in terms of this country. As the leadership in this House, we should therefore speak to those facts as they were laid out and also appreciate where it is supposed to be appreciated.

I would not mind criticism from Members here and also those who are outside because any leader with responsibility should be ready and willing to be criticised. He or she should be ready to be corrected where he or she has gone wrong. They should also be appreciated when they have done the right thing. When there is progress, we must say there is progress. When there is no progress, we must comment that.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, when we look at the number of items the President spoke about in his State of the Nation Address, he began by highlighting the fact that, as a country and as leadership, we must, in most of the decisions that have been made, lead. As a leader, you do not have to make what most politicians would say popular decisions.

What President William Ruto has done for the four years he has been in office is to make deliberate decisions which are in most cases very unpopular. That is what most of our friends find very difficult to do. These are decisions which are equally very difficult to make, but they must be made because we need to progress this country. We need to develop the country. We need to sustain the reforms and the agenda that the Kenya Kwanza Government gave out to the people of Kenya when they were seeking to be given the office and, indeed, they were given.

The resilience as well as enterprise of Kenyans which have been fed by positive unpopular decisions made by the President is what has taken us to where we are. I would like to highlight, as a matter of fact, the few which I am directly affected, as well as quite a number of Kenyans, including those of us who are not supporting the kind of leadership of President William Ruto.

I am happy because it is important to have an opposition that will give you some criticism and oppose some of the things that you do. However, we look forward to an opposition that will speak against certain ills for purposes of giving Kenyans what is rightfully theirs. Unfortunately, where we are right now, we do not have an opposition that can speak objectively to the interests of the people of Kenya. We do not have an opposition that can give an alternative voice in terms of what Kenyans and the young generation of this country need in terms of development, technology and infrastructure development. What we have instead is an opposition that sits back and picks any matter that, according to them, should be given priority by media houses and in social media because it is fun. We have all said that sometimes it is fun but life is not fun all the time.

(The microphone was switched off)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Give the Senator the mic.

Sen. Wakili Sigei: I have it. Thank you, Sen. Cherarkey.

I would like to encourage my colleagues in the leadership to focus on giving the current government criticism on matters which are objective and criticisms on leadership which is available in their plan instead of just making us wait for the next slogan that does not make sense. We wait for the next statement that attacks personalities without giving us alternative options in terms of alternative leadership if at all they have.

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Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, when the President ran this country through that particular statement on matters infrastructure, I come from Bomet County and one of the things which we can speak to as a matter of fact in matters infrastructure is the road network. The improvement of Bomet Town as the headquarters of Bomet County is now something that we can proudly speak about as a beneficiary of the leadership and the government of President William Ruto.

Having a 15-kilometre tarmac road, something that we have never had since devolution and during previous governments, in itself is an achievement that we must speak to. I am aware it is not only in Bomet County. I know Kenya is almost a construction site. Every part of this country, name them, from Turkana to Baringo, from Baringo to Mombasa, from Mombasa to Tana River, from Tana River to Kisumu, Homa Bay, everywhere is a construction site and we cannot be talking about a construction site without anything positive happening. Whether it is in form of a road infrastructure that is being done, whether it is the affordable housing, whether it is the stadia that we are talking about, we are able to name those places, and are able to see that there is something that is going on.

Further, in Bomet County, I know that in the next few weeks, we are going to land. Just the same way that Sen. Olekina said he is willing to invite and facilitate the honorable Senators to Narok to witness for themselves the benefits that would come by the international airport that is going to be very soon ready, I similarly have the same testimony in the County of Bomet, where an airstrip that had been lying idle for the last over 20 years is now up and running, the contractor has been on site for the last one year and we will soon be landing there. The cost that we will be saving in terms of the time that we will waste from Nairobi all the way to Bomet will be reduced by over 60 per cent. That in itself is an achievement and something that we must speak about.

The Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) that is going all the way from Narok, that had stalled in some landlocked place somewhere, is actively going on. Bomet is one of the counties that will have a station, meaning our farmers, who are great in livestock and almost every sector in agriculture, will have an opportunity to even transport their produce from Bomet through the SGR all the way to Nairobi and even sometimes to Mombasa for export. That in itself is going to reduce the cost of production and transport to the market, and create an open market available to the farmer. That is what the President and the Kenya Kwanza Government have done in order to reduce the cost of living.

We were told and we will continue witnessing such efforts which are being done in order to make sure that we avail opportunities to the Kenyans to reduce the cost of living, facilitate the market for their produce and give them an opportunity to grow and have money in their pockets. That is exactly what the President is doing and was giving a scorecard and a report to the people of Kenya, so that we look forward to the options available for us in the next coming months.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the education sector is one other example that we cannot afford to miss from commenting on. From 1963 when this country gained independence, it is in the government and the leadership of President William Ruto that in under four years, we have been able to recruit over 100,000 teachers. I am aware that

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we still have a deficit of over 16,000 teachers but the effort that this government has done is worth making reference to, letting Kenyans know and appreciating because it takes deliberate and very hard decisions to be made in order to make sure that we employ that number of teachers. That employment alone is not to the teacher who is going to be getting a salary. It directly affects the parent who ordinarily would be expected to pay for a teacher who has been employed by the board of management of the school. That means that parent will have surplus resource in order to divert to other business commitments to serve their families and to engage in other activities that are income generating, besides, of course, the fact that the over 100,000 teachers are fathers, brothers, husbands and wives. Therefore, to so many Kenyans, and by getting their employment, they are definitely going to support their families because they are now salaried. This is something that we are saying, the additional numbers that are coming, over 20,000 in the next coming year is a testimony of the great effort.

For the first time, we were told that examination papers were printed in this country. It took the decision of the leadership to make sure that instead of wasting resources to print examination papers outside the country, we have our own institutions that can do that assignment and that is the report that we got yesterday.

Examinations are being done in an environment of peace where we do not see police officers guarding. Why? Because there is stability in the leadership, both from within the political space, all the way to the education sector because that is something that we would want to have. When we print these exams within the country, what are we telling Kenyans? We are telling them that we are capable of doing it. The Government is willing and when there is willingness and leadership that is appropriate, we can do almost all the things that we generally in most cases import from outside, take the resources that we have outside the country when we can do it from within.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the projects under the Affordable Housing Programme have been a subject of discussion for the last over three years. Some of our colleagues here are talking about it not being important. Some are saying we do not need them but at the same time, they are talking about improving the livelihoods of Kenyans. This is one of the things that we say is not just about the House; it is not about the apartment that somebody who is getting one and living in the affordable housing in Bomet that we are talking about. We are talking about the market for the materials that are used in that particular construction site. We are talking about the engineers, masons and the professionals who were employed for the last over three years in the construction site in the Affordable Housing Programme in Bomet, where right now over 240 housing units are fully taken, purchased and occupied, not by non-Kenyans but by Kenyans who have been given the opportunity by the government of President William Ruto to own a house in an environment where they have beyond the power, that is electricity, they have a reasonable environment to work, are at peace and their families can also live in a dignified environment. So, we are not just saying the President was giving Kenyans a status report of what his government has done. He was giving a scorecard on the direct benefits that the people of Kenya are getting.

Lastly, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, because of time, I will not miss to make a comment about the agriculture sector. Reduction of the fertiliser cost has touched each

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and every household. When this government was elected into office in 2022, the cost of fertiliser was at Kshs7,500. As we speak, a 50-kilogramme fertiliser bag is going for Kshs2,000. That in itself directly goes into the savings of the farmer, and to the input that we require because we are aware Kenya is an agricultural economy, without which we cannot survive. In my county, Bomet, farmers are in almost every family, from tea, maize, name them. This is a direct benefit that we are saying this government committed when it sought to be put in office, have done it.

We might say they have not achieved 100 per cent of their promises, but it is a positive trajectory. I am sure that the opportunities that we have got for the people of Kenya in every sector of their operation is one which an objective Kenyan, leader and a patriotic Kenyan will appreciate what the President said. That child who is studying in a school with a tarmac road next to it, which means they are able to access a facility called a clinic or dispensary, will have a more likely chance---

(The microphone was switched off)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you. Sen. Sigei, we pronounced that we will not even add a minute to conclude. You have actually spent your full time.

Sen. Cherarkey, proceed.

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity; let me pick it from there.

For us who were in that attended the Joint Sitting of Parliament yesterday, the President highlighted his achievements and it was very important. From the onset, the President laid down his agenda of *Usawa ni Sawa*. I need to appreciate that the President has achieved a lot and he gave out his track record. I have seen media outlets trying to highlight a number of people who avoided attending the President's State of the Nation Address. In fact, they violated the Constitution because the President has the power of the Constitution and at any given time, he will and should address Parliament.

The reason most of these individuals, especially Members of Parliament (MPs) allied to disunited opposition avoided coming to Parliament was because they feared the truth. They were running away from the truth because they feared to be confronted with the facts. That is why they went and hid in some funny places taking *chai* and *mandazi* and some drinks I do not want to mention on the Floor of the House because this programme is Parental Guidance (PG)-rated and children are watching.

On the State of the Nation Address, I celebrate the President. The people who did not attend should know that the day the lion will talk about the story of hunting, it will be the end of the hunter. The reason there are naysayers is because they are brokers and cartels that were cut out of the dairy sector. You remember, there is one company led by the former President that controlled 40 per cent of milk share in the country. The cartels and brokers in various sectors such as fertiliser, coffee and tea have been cut out. That is why they even have gatekeepers in Parliament and in the Senate making a lot of noise.

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Those cartels and brokers come from one region that is why they have coalesced and are sponsors of the disunited opposition. They are aware that brokerage was thriving when one of them from that region was leading this country. Therefore, we will not allow that and that is why we are saying *Usawa ni Sawa*.

Many people, especially those from the empty party of Kenya are asking why the President is saying *Usawa ni Sawa*. Under Article 43, the Constitution is very clear that every Kenyan has a right to equity and equality.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for somebody from Garissa like yourself, when a tarmac road is done in Garissa, it should also be done in Wajir, Makueni, Nandi and Tana River counties. That is what we say is *Usawa ni Saw*a. It is anchored in Article 43 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kenya; that is why we celebrate the President.

In the agriculture sector, we have nine million farmers who have been registered under the programme of subsidised fertiliser. It is a fact that when President William Ruto took over in 2022; farmers used to buy 50 kilogrammes of fertiliser at Kshs7,000 and now, we are buying it at Kshs2,000. For the maize farmers, we are buying 50 per cent of the maize seeds and the bumper harvest has risen from 40 million bags to 71 million bags of maize in this country. What we are only appealing for is that; we need to move 50 kilogrammes. As farmers, we package our maize at 90 kilogrammes. We need the 90 kilogrammes reduced to 50 kilogrammes just like it is for all the cereals in this country. In the dairy sector; a litre of milk was Kshs32 but now it is Kshs62. There are 245,000 pastoralists that are under insurance for 3.3 million animals.

What we are saying is that the President has done extremely well. You are aware that according to reports, there was a shortage of 116,000 teachers. The President has employed 100,000 plus. He will be employing 20,000 more this season which will total to 120,000 teachers. I was in the Jubilee Government with President Uhuru Kenyatta and for 10 years, he employed only 5,000 teachers. That is a fact. I do not know why the naysayers do not want to accept those facts which are stubborn. The fact is that President Uhuru Kenyatta's Government employed 5,000 teachers while President William Ruto has employed 120,000.

I met a Member of the National Assembly who is not aware that the Tertiary Education and Placement Funding Bill, 2026 that will allow every child qualified to tertiary and higher education access education, is under public participation. I am surprised that disunited Opposition is running away from Parliament, yet this is where the budget, laws and oversight are made.

On the issue of Social Health Authority (SHA); you know our story. This should go on record that under the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), there were only eight million Kenyans registered and it covered people who were employed like us, the privileged. However, under SHA, everybody can register, even the *mama mboga* and *mtu wa kibarua*. That is why we have more than 33 million Kenyans plus under SHA which is working. I have met many successful stories in Nandi. I met a parent who was telling me that they had a hospital bill of Kshs1.2 million and SHA paid Kshs700,000 plus.

Even if you go to London today, the Great Britain, the National Health Service (NHS) does not pay 100 per cent insurance cover. I am challenging the naysayers to give us a health insurance that pays 100 per cent premium. I am happy the Commissioner of

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the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) is here because, even for us, our ears, nose and throat (ENT) insurance given to MPs has a limit. We must be honest that even our insurance cover, which is Kshs10 million plus---

(Sen. Omogeni spoke off record)

I have not mentioned the figure; you will reply when you have opportunity. The insurance that we have---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Yes, stop his time. What is your point of order?

Sen. Omogeni: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this is a House of record and we do not like interrupting. We like patiently listening, so that Kenyans can pass judgement. However, Sen. Cherarkey has made a statement that the medical benefits enjoyed by an MP is the same as that of SHA cover sold to Kenyans.

Sen. Cherarkey: I did not say that.

Sen. Omogeni: No, that is what he said. He said that even in Parliament, our insurance does not cover everything. I want to go on record that there is no MP that has a cover, goes to hospital and is told that their bill is Kshs1.2 million, the insurance cover will pay Kshs800, they should top up with Kshs500. That is misleading. Is he in order to mislead Kenyans that the medical cover enjoyed by MPs does not pay everything the way SHA does not pay everything?

(Sen. Cherarkey stood in his place)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Cherarkey, take your seat.

Sen. Omogeni: Is he in order to mislead the public? Number two, he has said that medical insurance in other countries does not give full benefits. I want to ask if Sen. Cherarkey is in order, whereas we know that in Australia, the Medicare Card pays for your full medical cover. If you go to hospital in Australia and that hospital does not have the drugs to dispense, you get the drugs. Whereas in this country, people who go to hospital under the SHA medical cover are told to go and buy medicine from pharmacies.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Sen. Omogeni. Sen. Cherarkey, if you could please clarify what you said and what you meant.

Sen. Cherarkey: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, my brother from Nyamira should learn to listen and not hear. I was just doing comparison and I said; the insurance covers do not cover 100 per cent. I did not even break it down to benefits. So that I do not get distracted because they were not there during State of the Nation Address, they might have been doing other things.

On the issue of pending bills, the Social Health Authority (SHA) has paid almost Kshs10 billion.

(Sen. Omogeni spoke off record)

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

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Sen. Cherarkey: I have clarified on both his issues. Others are just pedestrian arguments. So, I have just dismissed them. I did not compare SHA with the medical benefits of MPs. It was just as an example because he is a Commissioner. I did not say they are the same. Why is he bringing the similarity?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, can I be protected? He will have his own time to rebut.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Let the Senator be heard in silence. Proceed.

Sen. Cherarkey: The Social Health Authority is working and those of us who know the value of SHA, I can tell you the number of *harambees* from where I come from has declined significantly because of the SHA cover. We have had many successful stories from Kenyans doing SHA.

On the issue of affordable housing, I am happy that 18,000 plus Kenyans continue to receive their homes and 313,000 are under construction. There are 1.37 million Kenyans who have applied.

On the pending bills, I am happy that the President indicated that Kshs16 billion will be paid to offset the NHIF claims. What is of concern is on the Kshs18 billion that will be given to issues of universities. I am happy because Moi University, which was almost collapsing will get an opportunity to be revived going into the future.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, on the issue of title deeds, 1.8 million has been issued. This is very significant. I am happy he mentioned something about counties. For the last four years, President William Ruto's government has ensured counties have received Kshs1.55 trillion. My only challenge is that counties should use the money appropriately because we do not see development in *mashinani.*

Governors, including the governors of Garissa, Nyamira and Nandi, we do not see value from the money given to counties. Therefore, we must ensure that there is enough value for the money we devolve going into the future.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, on the issue of compensation, Kshs12 billion has been allocated to post-election victims and 1,476 beneficiaries have been paid. I would add a rider - that we need to add other Kenyans who continue to suffer. You brought a statement about the killings that just happened at the Isiolo-Garissa border. There were killings that happened in Mandera. I lost a young man called Joseph Kimaru Bitok in Kabiyet Police Station. I am now told the policemen from Kabiyet Police Station are now harassing the ordinary *wananchi* for demonstrating against the killing of the young man in a police station. I challenge IPOA to move with speed and investigate about his death. Even the pool attack you saw in Nandi town of young people playing pool--- It is not an offence. Three people were killed in Kimwani. I therefore appeal that in this compensation--- and we should include people who are victims of police brutality but I am not saying all police are bad people. It is only a few criminal elements within the police service.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, although I was being distracted, they say when you go hunting and are chasing a gazelle, you should not be distracted by a squirrel.

On the issue of infrastructure, I thank the President, just like my brother in Bomet. We got over Kshs20 billion for upgrading the roads in Nandi County to bitumen

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standards. I am happy all the tarmac roads are ongoing as per the law, so that we can get and continue to get value for all of us.

Even the issue of Rironi-Mau Summit Road and the one in your area, Mogodashe-Wajir, all the way to Rhamu, Northern Kenya. For Rironi, we are proud. Even in Nandi, Nandi-Simaki, Anabai Kapkoros, Maraba, Lesos, Kaiboi, Talai, Selia, Kaiboi, Chepterwai, Turbo, Chemuswa Danger, Eldoret-Kapsabet dualling - what I am saying in short is that the President also made a pregnant point, that we should not reduce Kenyans to tribal voting blocs. I wish the agents and gatekeepers of the opposition were in the House because the disunited opposition are using voting blocs. There are people who believe and want to take Kenyans as voting blocs. That is why when President William Ruto came to power, many Kenyans are asking what Uhuru Kenyatta was doing with our money.

This is because, we are seeing Bomas coming up, the Rirori-Mau Summit, Mau Mau road and Rhamu-Mogodashe to Isiolo Road. We are seeing the airport being upgraded, the dualling of the Galleria-Karen to Isinya. We are seeing affordable housing, markets, the SGR that is going to Nyamira, all the way to Kisii, Kisumu and Uganda. What was Uhuru Kenyatta doing with our money? That is the question Kenyans are asking. If there is a President that has performed more than all the presidents combined, from President Jomo Kenyatta, President Moi, President Kibaki and President Kenyatta; it is President William Ruto and it is only under four years.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am telling you, if President William Ruto and God willing, he will be re-elected in 2027, he will transform this country to Singapore as we go through Canaan. The naysayers, the brokers, the sponsors will never have an option but to toe the line because even for us who are Christians, during the time of Jesus Christ, there were many doubting Thomases. I know my brothers are Christians and they know. Even when they were being told Jesus has risen, they still wanted evidence. The evidence is under their noses. Everywhere you drive in this country, you see a market, a road and affordable housing. You see an airport being developed, an airstrip, even in Suneka, Migori and even in Kisii, they are being constructed.

What the President is saying is *Usawa ni Sawa* but we want to warn our colleagues. I saw they ran away from the IEBC because they have smelt that they will lose an election. That is why today when the IEBC called them, they were running away helter skelter.

(The microphone was switched off)

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, if you can add me one minute because my friends consulted, so that I wrap my thoughts.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Add him some time because he was interrupted.

Sen. Cherarkey: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. The people of the disunited opposition have realised they are losing an election. That is why when IEBC called them today, they ran away because they are smelling defeat. We want to assure

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them no part of this country will be left out. For the first time, the people of Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Makueni, Nyamira, Kisii, Nandi, Bomet, Nairobi, Kisumu and Migori are proud of the Kenyan Government more than before because they feel they are part of this country. I want to tell the country, let us give the President a second chance and there is no President that has served only five years. All the Presidents have served for 10 years.

I want to assure you that Kalonzo Musyoka was in North Rift yesterday. We welcomed him very well. He addressed a rally in Eldoret and Elgeyo Marakwet. We are very tolerant, so we want to ask our friends in the disunited opposition that when we come to campaign in your regions, you should be very welcoming the way Kisii was and welcomed the President. That is how we welcomed Kalonzo Musyoka. With those many remarks---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Omogeni?

Sen. Omogeni: Yes, thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to also contribute. I have listened to my good friend, Sen. Cherarkey.

In the 16th Century, when the French people were coming out to riot because the cost of living was unbearable, the likes of my friend here, Sen. Cherarkey, wondered and asked: "you mean you cannot afford bread? Why not buy cakes?"

We must connect with our people, the people we represent and we must speak while understanding the pain that Kenyans are going through. We are doing this because we love this country and the President should listen to some of us. As he said in his speech, we should criticise him, so that he knows where he has not done things right. If we all come here and join the choir, we will not be helping the President.

We should be serious when we are talking about the pain of Kenyans, when Kenyans are not able to spend because we are part of the community of the nation. We are seeing what is happening in other countries. If we do not put in place measures, we will be overwhelmed. You are seeing what is happening in Germany and France and you should understand the debate, the concern of citizens of those countries. You can build many tracks of railway lines. You can construct roads, you can build houses but if Kenyans are not able to eat, they have no food on the table, that will not make any sense. You go to America, we had elections in America two weeks ago. There was no debate on the table; how many kilometres of tarmac has Trump constructed? How many railway extensions has Trump constructed? No. The issue was the cost of living. Americans had an issue with the rising cost of fuel and those are the same challenges we are facing here as a country.

Sen. Cherarkey, through Mr. Temporary Speaker, you know what the cost of diesel was when President Ruto took the reins of power in 2022. Now we are in 2026. You have said he is the best President but no President has ever seen the cost of diesel cross Kshs200. It has never happened. The President you are criticising, President Uhuru, tried to cushion Kenyans. That is why governments exist. We had removed some portion of Value Added Tax (VAT); this regime restored it. You are saying that Kenyans have confidence. Go and read the latest Trends and Insight for Africa (TIFA) report on public perceptions; 61 per cent of Kenyans have no faith in this government. Ask yourself, how

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can a President be rated at 31 per cent, tied with a newcomer in a presidential race? Thirty one per cent each. It is a problem.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, you can talk about housing, but I want to ask, how many people in Nandi, the people who voted for Sen. Cherarkey, have bought those houses? Those houses were constructed for business people. I listened to the speech of Sen. Cherarkey. He is saying it is good we came up with housing. He talked of engineers. He talked of quantity surveyors. He talked of business people.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Omogeni, would you like to be informed?

Sen. Omogeni: No, I do not want to be informed. Not by Sen. Cherarkey. Then he is talking about agriculture. Where I come from in Nyamira, we have tea farmers. In 2022, tea was earning bonus ---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): What is your point of order, Sen. Cherarkey?

Sen. Omogeni: I hope you will freeze my time.

Sen. Cherarkey: Why are you worried? You are a commissioner.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I rise under Standing Order No.105 on statement of fact and No.101. The distinguished Senator for Nyamira, Senior Counsel, has indicated how many people have bought houses in Nandi yet he does not have the facts. The statement of fact is that more than 202 units have been bought by the people of Nandi under Emgwen Affordable Housing Programme. I can give you the facts. So, he should be factual. He should only speak about Nyamira.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Very well, Proceed, Sen. Omogeni.

Sen. Omogeni: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, that is not a point of order. I am expressing an opinion, and I have a right to express an opinion. You cannot challenge me on an opinion.

What I am saying is that I know Kenyans, whether it is Bomet or Nandi, the poor farmer in Nandi has no money to pay a deposit to buy a flat of Kshs4 million. I know it. You can go to Nyamira and call a political rally but housing does not make sense to the residents of Nyamira.

The World Bank is telling us the jobs that we are being told have been created are in the informal sector. I have the World Bank report here; 87.3 per cent of those jobs are in the informal sector. Those people cannot afford to pay a deposit to buy a house of Kshs4 million. You are telling a Kenyan who cannot even afford to put a meal on the table to buy a house for Kshs4 million. Oh, my goodness. How can such a government be out of touch with the reality?

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

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

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, do you know that even the question the President was posing about the high cost of electricity---

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(Loud consultations)

It is unbelievable that the cost of electricity in this country is ---

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, can I be heard in silence?

I heard the President ask: What can we do as a country to bring down the cost of electricity? The answer is in the report that has been released by the World Bank. The World Bank is telling us that we are stealing, through corruption, from poor Kenyans. We are charging Kenyans high costs on electricity because we have allowed corruption to permeate that sector. They are telling us that because of conflict of interest, people occupying high positions in government are the ones engaging in those malpractices. The World Bank is telling us that we have disregarded our procurement laws, so that we can look for our friends where we have kickbacks to get those contracts of supplying power.

How can Uganda be supplying electricity that is 50 per cent less than what it costs in Kenya? How can our electricity be twice the cost of electricity in Vietnam? It is because of corruption, and that is what the World Bank is telling us that we are so insensitive as a country that we are making that poor *mama mboga* pay very expensively for one unit of electricity because we want to satisfy our greedy stomachs. We must tell the President that when you are speaking to the country, understand what is ailing this country.

The biggest problem we face as a country is corruption. I did not see the President coming out to address that issue of corruption. Look at our railways. Do you know the difference between the cost in Kenya and our neighbouring countries? Listen to this: The Mombasa-Nairobi railway, which is now being extended to Kisumu, cost US$7.6 million per kilometre - Diesel propelled. In Tanzania, the line from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma that is electrified, meaning they are modern like what we see in Europe, cost US$5.7 million per kilometre. The line from Djibouti to Addis Ababa, cost US$5.3 million per kilometre.

We are a cabal. We are talking of people in government who are just criminals, thieves. They are worse than murderers. The World Bank is telling us that we have lost over US$900 million and in the Address to the nation, I did not hear the President mention anything about it. This issue of direct contracting instead of competitive procurement is what is making our electricity cost more. We must tell Kenyans that if this government cannot deal with corruption, then we kick it out in next year's election. When you are telling us about Usawa--- go to Kisii where the President was; we have a Level 6 hospital. The only money that has been allocated in our budget for development is Kshs1 billion. In the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, it is Ksh2 billion. For recurrent expenditure, Kisii Level 6 was allocated zero while Moi Teaching and Referral has Ksh11 billion.Where is *usawa?*

Look at the report that was tabled on this Floor on employment. When President Kibaki was in office and Sen. Mungatana was an Assistant Minister then, the late Hon. Michuki directed that during the recruitment of police officers, each district should be allocated 50 slots. If we want *usawa*, why can we not say we are recruiting 20,000 teachers and let each county get an equal allocation of those positions?

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Where is *usawa* when some people can go to funerals and say, “We are close to Government, we have been given letters of employment; here they are," flashing them, when you are not giving other people opportunities? I pay taxes as a member of the Minority Side, the way people from the Majority Side pay taxes. If we want *usawa*, why can we not revert to the system that used to be there before, so that we take teachers going by the year of graduation?

When we left university, all teachers were absorbed, but we want to politicise the recruitment of teachers, so that you cherry-pick. Why should a teacher who graduated last year be given an opportunity to be employed, yet there is one who has been at home for the last nine years? Where is *usawa*? That one is not *usawa.*

When we talk about the idea of giving opportunities to people through the electronic Government Procurement (e-GP), the World Bank is telling us only five per cent of people who are doing business are able to get jobs through e-GP. What is happening? Due to corruption, people want to give contracts to "who knows who".

If we want *usawa,* let us go the Belgium way where the Government is shared between the French-speaking 50 per cent and the Dutch-speaking 50 per cent. Let us look at the Principal Secretaries we have. We know how many tribes we have in Kenya. We should share those positions among all those tribes. If you have a Cabinet Secretary from the Kisii Community, let a Luhya be the principal secretary. That is how they do it in Belgium.

Let us have this honest debate. We look at our parastatals. We have qualified people from all tribes; even among the Pokomo. We have Pokomos who have degrees and can also occupy those positions. There is no Cabinet Secretary from the Pokomo Community, nor is there a principal secretary that I know of yet there are people from that community who have gone to school and are qualified.

When you talk about the Social Health Authority (SHA), I have so many people from my county who go to hospital every day. They only see a consultant, then they are told to go to the pharmacy and buy medicine. Meanwhile, us here, when you go to Nairobi Hospital because you have a medical card, it is a one-stop shop; consultation, X-ray, blood test and drugs are dispensed. We do not want to speak for the poor here.

I have friends even in Migori, where Sen. Oketch comes from, when they go to hospital, they present the SHA medical card, but they are not given drugs. There is no drug dispensation from these government hospitals where these Kenyans go. If we want *usawa*, the way we enjoy our medical cover, let the poor Kenyan who have the SHA card also enjoy the same benefits. You cannot just tell us about numbers. You can have 33 million people registered, but they are not enjoying the medical cover that should be enjoyed by a Kenyan, so that we feel that we are all one.

When we speak about voting blocs, do not balkanise the country - including the Rift Valley, Nairobi, Kisii, and all other regions. Do not tell us here that there should not be any voting bloc, yet we know that in some regions you will not even be allowed to be elected a Member of County Assembly (MCA) if you are not aligned to a particular political party.

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Let us walk the talk and be honest with ourselves. Let us ask ourselves: Has the income of a Kenyan improved? Are Kenyans happy people? Look at the happiness rating in the world. Where are we?

(The microphone was switched off)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Senior Counsel, Sen. Okong'o Omogeni, take your seat. I am very sure you must have watched yours truly when he was denied a second because a policy was passed and he wanted to comply with that. The Speaker had indicated that it was because of interruption. Allow the rest of your colleagues to comment on it.

Sen. Maanzo, proceed.

Sen. Maanzo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I have the Speech of President William Ruto which was delivered yesterday, paragraph by paragraph. There is reality on the ground and there is politics. There are quite a number of things which are true. It is true that the maize flour price has reduced from Kshs250 to Kshs150. However, the reason is that Kenya is very blessed. For the last three years, we had rains and Kenyans have worked very hard across the country. Every time it rained, just like it has currently, all the farmers I know are very busy; they have planted and are going to have a bigger harvest. So, we had a lot in store.

Previously, there had been drought and shortage of maize and therefore, the price was high because of supply and demand. Therefore, we have been very lucky in these three years. We should be thanking God for the rains over the last three years, not just thanking ourselves. Any country that goes through drought goes through a lot of suffering.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I have heard allegations that the issue of the shortage of milk in the country is created. The truth of the matter is that it is not created. There has been shortage of milk. You saw animals being shot dead by some police officers who have never been arrested to date. You also heard the conversation that we could consider milking buffaloes. The truth is that it dawned on the government that there was shortage of milk. Every farmer wants to milk in the morning and sell; there is no farmer who wants to milk and then pour down the milk. In fact, we are going to have a milk glut once the rains set in and we have enough grass. This means the New Kenya Co-operative Creameries (New KCC), which you know very well is going through a lot of trouble, should be able to dry the milk for a dry season. Unfortunately, that is not happening in the country.

Every Kenyan is aware of what happened in 2024. The fact of the matter is that the cost of living went higher when the Finance Bill, 2023 increased taxes. The cost of fuel has also significantly gone up due to taxes. When you compare us to neighbouring countries, Uganda and Tanzania, which I visited recently, and even Rwanda and Burundi, whose oil products pass through Kenya, you find that their products are cheaper than ours.

The difference is the taxes in the country. The moment the cost of fuel goes up, the cost of everything else goes up since the cost of production increases. Kenyan

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electricity costs are also very high, meaning a lot of investors are sent away when the expense to invest in the country is too high.

Therefore, I submit that the cost of living is high in the country. As much as we, politicians, can cheer the President and say that it is low, the truth of the matter is that many households in the country are suffering. If you go to the rural areas, many people are living below a dollar a day. They have just been patient and have hope because they know they will be voting in 2027 and they have a right under the Constitution to change the government if they so wish.

I encourage Kenyans, and I am pleading with the four million or so young Kenyans who have an identity card (ID) but have not yet registered as voters, to do so, so that they can make a statement. Instead of holding demonstrations after the elections, let them demonstrate now by registering as voters and demonstrate while voting, so that they can vote overwhelmingly for a government of their choice and for change of leadership in this country.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, there is an education issue. There is a new system, which means that we must have electricity in every single school in the country. That is not the reality. You do not have internet everywhere in the country. So, it is not *usawa*, actually, which is equitable balancing of things. This *"usawa"* word was borrowed from Sen. Sifuna's The Equitable Party (TEP). The moment it came up with the policy, it was quickly picked up, and now the government is running with it.

So, there must be equal opportunity for every Kenyan under the Constitution, and that is not what is happening when you look at the education sector. This is not what is happening when you look at the universities. In fact, at the Technical University of Kenya (TUK), we have a report here that it is going into insolvency. How can it be happening when there is supposed to be *usawa;* when there is supposed to be improvement? So, there is a lot of talk, talk, and very little action.

This is not the only university in trouble. Every university in this country is in trouble. University education is what equalises people. University education is what gives opportunity. The reason Kenyans were very upset in 2024 is that many young people are graduates with no job opportunities. That sadness has not disappeared from them. That hope has not been given by the current government. Therefore, I believe Kenyans are just patient enough. They do not want to cause trouble now. They want to cause trouble at the voting line and the ballot boxes by making sure that the Ruto administration is sent home.

When you come to housing, there are many housing projects going on, but wait a minute. Why are houses collapsing so often and the two levels of government are blaming each other? Why are people dying?

The biggest promise in the Constitution is the security of a person. Life is the most important thing in the Constitution. However, when you kill demonstrators, when you abduct and some people are never seen, are you telling me there is *usawa*? Then, when you abduct, like in the case of Mr. Abshu, which is still pending in court - We have the *Mlolongo four*, where two people were found dead and two have never been found and they have not been compensated with the alleged Kshs3 billion or so, which came from the budget of the Office of the President. This money should be spent usefully for the country. This is taxpayers' money, which has gone to the wrong use.

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I remember, a year ago during the National Prayer Breakfast, a preacher was talking about rebuilding walls. When he gave that suggestion then, he was fought very badly and was asked to leave the country and go back to America when he told the truth. But because the truth is persistent, eventually the President admitted he refused to listen to some of his advisors who told him not to accept this, not to seek forgiveness. He decided to admit to his government's killings.

When you kill a young person so unexpectedly, a young graduate, you change the trajectory of that family permanently. When Mr. Albert Ojwang was arrested, a normal arrest, everyone knew what he had done. Instead of being taken through the trial process, he ended up being killed in a police station; some police officers were charged. What do you call that? The only promise you have from the president is that police officers who are involved in this will be charged. That has not been seen; there are no investigative files, so it can only be described as a way of police---

The Presidency has been very expensive. While we know that life is very hard in Kenya right now, the President is ever moving across the country, launching projects that cabinet secretaries can do. When he came to Makueni County - there was a Thwake River spillage, which we are handling. It has been pending before the Senate since 2015. That spillage has not been addressed. When he went to the ground, he said he would do it by October. However, up to now it has not been done. In short, there are many promises which have not been covered. President William Ruto is doing too little, too late.

For the last four years, there has been no positive activity in the country. Now all of a sudden, he is launching every single road in the country, knowing that there is no budget. One was launched in Makueni and within the last six months, only four kilometres have been repaired. There is a new section of a kilometre or so which we have tried to dig up. However, it was not done professionally because when it rains, vehicles are stuck and there is no communication between Emali and Wote in Makueni County. That is the sort of thing you want us to praise President Ruto for. When vehicles are stuck, people cannot move. There is no equality. There are all manner of problems in the country.

Health is a big issue. I have three, four or five cases. In one case in Makueni, a person has a bill of Kshs3 million and only Kshs120,000 has been paid by the Social Health Authority (SHA). I have another bill of Kshs2 million, where the person died and we are still fundraising. Out of Kshs2 million, SHA paid Kshs100, 000 for that family. Therefore, let us admit that something needs to be done about SHA. We know the biggest problem was the procurement. Why not tell us the real cost of this project?

The markets belong to the counties. Why are we doing the work of counties? We know there is devolution under the Constitution. This still amounts to abuse of the Constitution of the Republic of Kenya that the President never supported. That is why he cannot implement it sufficiently because he does not believe in it.

The story of the fake fertiliser has never been sorted out. It was here on the Floor of this House. Therefore, you cannot really convince Kenyans that we are doing the right thing. This Address was just a story. The President needs to improve. Kenyans are suffering yet they have paid taxes.

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As sure as the Lord lives, I assure the government that Kenyans are not happy. It needs to listen to Kenyans, do public participation and not over-cover or over-tell the story. There is a Swahili saying that, *kibaya chajitembeza kizuri chajiuza*. If you know you have done a good job, you do not need to run around the country. Everybody will know you have done a good job.

If I were the President of the Republic, I would have sent to the counties all the money that he is using to travel. Every single road in the counties would have been graded and murramed and everybody would have known that President Ruto has done it. I believe that would have earned him more votes. However, now when he goes to the people, he is actually causing annoyance. There was a lot of annoyance in Kisii and there is evidence. There was a lot of annoyance in Makueni when he visited. There was also a lot of annoyance in Busia where people were wondering what he had gone to do.

This idea of giving people handouts will not help Kenyans at all. President Kibaki never gave anybody handouts but he left a stable country. He left a country with hope and aspirations. He was a happy and relaxed man.

The President of Kenya cannot do everything for everybody. He cannot do the work of every single Cabinet Secretary. All he needs to do is allow Cabinet Secretaries to do their work. Hire competent people. Remember he dissolved his Government in 2024 because he had many incompetent people in the Government. Thank God, Raila Odinga and Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) for stabilising his government, so that we may send him home in 2027.

I submit and oppose.

(An hon. Senator Spoke off record)

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana MGH: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I rise to debate and support this Motion of the President's Address. It records the thanks of the exposition of public policy by His Excellency the President that happened yesterday, Wednesday 18th November, 2026. I tell Kenyans listening to me that there are things this President has done that have never been done before. This country has never had a National Infrastructure Fund (NIF). This country has never had a Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF), amongst many other things.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I will speak about the NIF. Kenyans listening to me out there will remember that the President signed into law on 9th March, 2026, the establishment of the NIF. This Fund is supposed to help us deal with infrastructure projects. Instead of us borrowing from the national budget and stressing what the national budget is supposed to provide for, we can fund projects that will help this country go forward.

As I stand here today, I am a very proud supporter of His Excellency the President. He said, in his speech, that his priority will be the transport sector when it comes to the NIF. He also said 7,000 kilometres of roads are under construction and in the future, within the next decade, we want to do 28,000 kilometres of road in this country, and then to dual 2,500 kilometres.

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I am a very proud person today, to say that what the President says is what he does. I have been saying this. In Tana River County, I raised this in public, and even in private with him. When he came to Garsen, Hola and Bura, in his speech, he told us that he was going to upgrade the road between Tarasaa Junction and Ngao to bitumen standard. He also told us that he was going to upgrade the road from Kipini to Witu into bitumen standard - He was going to do the road in Boji to bitumen standard. As we speak today, the processes have begun, and the opening of those tenders, will happen on 3rd December.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the road from the junction of Tarasaa towards Ngao Airstrip, nine kilometres bitumen standards--- We have spoken for so long about this road, which leads to the only girls' national school. A big hospital is now a reality there. The Witu-Kipini Road is now covering up to Ziwani, 10.5 kilometres. We are saying that things that never happened before are happening, for instance, that Boji Road in Galole Constituency.

We have a President who is serious, who does what he says. We, the people of Tana River, are grateful. I am taking this Floor as a Senator of that county, and I am saying that we will return the favour. We will stand with the President because we have seen the changes that have happened within our county.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, when you look at the discussion around sugar production, many people think about the western side, and the President referred to it, and talked about how many more tonnes of sugar has been produced in this country. Part of that increment in the production of sugar is the sugarcane that is being grown in Tana River County.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, did you know that as the President said, the cane that was crushed between January and October this year increased by 57 per cent? Sugar production rose by 60 per cent and the industry is now projected to produce 900,000 tonnes by the end of the year, which is the highest annual production ever recorded in history - Another thing done by this President that has never happened before. Part of that sugar is coming from Tana River County.

As we speak, we are having trials in Bura Irrigation Scheme, thanks to the President. The water has been made cheaper because more than Kshs1.5 billion was invested so that water can flow by gravity. With that infrastructure, investors have found it profitable to come. Now we are looking at the sugar industry, maize production and massive rice production. Just two or three weeks ago, the Permanent Secretary in charge of irrigation, took all the Permanent Secretaries to see what is happening in Galana-Kulalu Irrigation Scheme. The Galana-Kulalu Irrigation Scheme production is 80 per cent on the side of Tana River County and 20 per cent on the side of Kilifi County. Pictures were aired all over the country.

If you go there today, with the amount of maize production happening there, Trans Nzoia, Kitale and all those regions will be of the past. Tana River County is going to produce so much food from Galana-Kulalu Irrigation Scheme. Looking at what we saw there, things are changing from a county that was food deficit to a county that is going to have enough to feed this nation. What happened? It is because of the infrastructure

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investment that was done in Tana River County. Roads going to the irrigation schemes areas were built and electricity was connected.

Right now, as we talk, plans are underway to do the dam that will help again to manage the water resource that is there. Things are happening in this country that never happened before. When the President stands to say he wants to get a second term; for us, there is a Kiswahili saying that goes, *Mgala muue na haki yake mpe*. It means that you can execute a person if he is doing something wrong, but give him his right. The right that we are talking about here is that; even if you criticise the President, stand and be honest enough as a leader to tell the people the truth, that what is happening today, has never happened before.

We have something called the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) that has been created. Previously, we had titanium somewhere in Kwale, but that titanium has been taken away. Future generations in the coast province will never know the benefit of that titanium. Sovereign wealth is saying, we are not going to take everything and put it in the national budget, we are going to reserve something for future generations to enjoy the wealth of this nation. Some of the most powerful and richest countries like Norway are rich because they have created very strong sovereign wealth funds.

Kenya is listening to me and starting this year, we are going in a different tangent. Our country is going up, up, up, up. It is not going down. These politicians who are looking for a reason to dislodge William Ruto, must again tell us what they are going to tell the people of Tana River County besides standing up and shouting slogans.

I am going to tell the people of Tana River--- Apart from standing up and shouting slogans, what is your argument for the increment of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in this country? What is it that you are going to do? The time for empty sloganeering is gone. We are moving to a time where politics must be done with --- since people must understand and even the opposition must understand that Kenyans are more informed. You are not going to sway these people and it does not matter how many crowds you pull. When it comes to the voting date, we shall win, not because of anything but because this administration has delivered.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we just came from the Conference of Parties (COP) 31. I keep saying Atlanta but it was Antalya in Turkiye. We land with the Turkish Airline and we go to Terminal 1E. From that airport where we came from, we look like we have entered the worst slums ever created because Terminal 1E is made of canvas. To hear that now President Ruto is putting Kshs154 billion towards the construction of a new terminal in this speech, something is happening in this country. We are proud of what we are doing with this President. It does not matter what people say, we are proud of what we are doing with this President.

This President has seen the opportunity that this nation has and Kenyans listening to me, there is a time to joke and there is a time to be serious. I keep telling my constituents, my voters, that there are two seats which are so critical. We can even do politics with any other seat but we cannot play around with the seat of governor and the seat of president because those seats run resources. You cannot be tribal about the presidency. You cannot be tribal about the governorship. You cannot play petty politics

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about the presidency and the governorship because they handle resources. You must have a person who has a vision on where this country needs to go.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, when I hear our colleagues saying that there is no *usawa*, what other *usawa* are they talking about? For the first time, title deeds are being issued in the coast region. We have sung this song for many years. Every political season, a presidential candidate comes and says they are going to issue titles. It is only President Ruto who has put it in the budget and we have seen those titles being issued.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Sen. Mungatana. I will call upon Sen. Eddy Okech. I will give you your 15 minutes.

Sen. Oketch Gicheru: Okay. That means you will give me time should the time go overboard.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Do not worry. I will do the necessary.

Sen. Oketch Gicheru: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. This is a very important speech that I would want to contribute to sufficiently.

What the President did was a requirement of the Constitution; that every year or any other time, under Article 132 of the Constitution, the President will address the two Houses of Parliament and update us on national values and give us an account of what he has done as a President to achieve those goals, including economic rights under Article 43 of the Constitution.

I am extremely disappointed by some Members who constantly boycott this kind of presentation by the President because if you boycott it, sometimes you lose a lot of information. You then act on rumours. I have heard the conversation today by some Members speaking in this House and I feel like, because they were not present, including people like my good Senator for Nyamira, hon. Omogeni, he is a senior Senator. I was expecting that you would sit there even if you do not like a President. Sit and listen to what he is saying because you are representing people.

I remember when I first came into this House, if you look at my speech in the HANSARD - I went and sat for that particular speech, so that I could listen to the President and look at the hits and misses, despite the fact that we were in a very serious, contentious political moment at that time. That is why you see these empty debates that we are seeing in this House that have got no facts at all. For instance, we know very well that the country today is still facing a seriously informal sector economy, that people in the informal sector do not actually contribute to the tax bracket directly.

If you talk about things like deductions to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), the savings we are having in this country, the middle class might feel the heat because they have got payrolls. So that if you look at the increased savings that the President has done in NSSF from Kshs300 billion to now approaching Kshs800 billion, it is because he has been innovative around the idea of payroll individuals who can then be able to contribute to this - To the extent that our savings as people who are in the payroll have improved from 12 per cent to 16 per cent.

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So, you will understand if somebody says that perhaps the macroeconomic indicators of our country are doing so well, but there is no money in the pockets of those who are on the payroll. That is understandable, because that is exactly what an economy is supposed to run like, because if you are doing things like aggregated savings, then it means that disposable income for those individuals will shrink a little bit, but it does not mean that they do not have money to consume. They do. The only thing that has shrunk is money for disposable income. However, if you look at folks who are not in the payroll in this country, and those folks, even the report that my brother was reading in this House, the World Bank report appreciates that this country is still predominantly an agricultural economy and predominantly a service economy.

What does that mean? It means that if you are running policies, you must run policies that then target the agricultural economy, despite the fact that people in the agricultural economy like small-scale farmers are not necessarily people with payroll. If you look at those particular sides of the economy, the President has done critical interventions that have been able to solve the problems and enable those agricultural sectors to grow. You can go to all elements of agriculture and all sectors of agriculture and see serious improvements.

I heard Sen. Omogeni arguing here that tea farmers' bonuses and tea farmers' payouts have been a problem because of these interventions by the President and high taxes. That is simply not true. We know very well - because I also come from those areas and I take my time to study what is going on in those places - The issue of bonuses and payouts to tea farmers is not an issue of price and retail pricing in the tea sector. It is an issue of the deposits that were given out over time, that when Chase Bank and Imperial Bank were going down - remember the defunct Chase Bank and the defunct Imperial Bank - they had over Kshs3 billion of deposits of farmers that the respective tea industries could not be able to recover. When Chase Bank went down, this mone, was taken to the Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation.

It has been a nightmare to get that money to give bonuses to tea farmers. It has got nothing to do with the price factor and retail price of tea. The update that the President gave - given a number of times - in November this year, finally, the President succeeded to get Kshs2.6 billion recovered from the Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation and it was given to the Kenya Tea Development Agency to give farmers just in November this year so they can get their bonuses.

Bonuses have got nothing to do with this issue of price. Even if you were to go to price and retail pricing of tea, you will find that because of the intervention that the President has made, the retail price of tea has improved from Kshs51 to now Kshs64 per kilo.

Our export earnings from tea have risen from a mere Kshs138 billion that we used to get during President Uhuru Kenyatta's time, to now hitting the highest level of Kshs250 billion. Why would you be so hateful to the President to the extent that you do not appreciate facts the way they are?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, if you look at the coffee industry and I know the President also touched on this, it is a fact that the retail price of coffee has improved, meaning that the retail price share to the farmer has also improved. We used to get about

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Kshs69 for a kilogramme of coffee cherry. Right now, we are at Kshs130 per kilogramme. If you compare the period between President Uhuru Kenyatta and President Ruto, it is like day and night. There is about an 88 per cent increment on the share of the retail price of coffee. Why can you not appreciate that?

If you look at the numbers, our export earnings have doubled. We used to do Kshs28 billion in the coffee industry during President Uhuru Kenyatta's time. Right now, we are hitting about Kshs52 billion. Just appreciate and engage so that even if you are going to criticise, you do so with the intention of making improvements, not with the intention of spreading propaganda and lying to the people about what is not going on.

I have heard my friends here arguing today about the issue of milk. They are saying that the President has not been able to deal with the issue of milk and that the President's interventions have made it impossible for the milk industry to grow. The President is actually doing the opposite. He is trying to intervene where the previous regime affected the milk industry. Remember, 83 per cent of the milk produced in this country is by small-scale farmers. Those small-scale farmers sometimes prefer to sell to small enterprises, like what my brother, Sen. Ledama Olekina, is doing in Narok. He has small outlets that can buy milk from farmers in a friendly way.

Remember in 2021, the previous regime under the previous President passed regulations under the Dairy Industry Act called the Dairy Industry (Dairy Produce Safety) Regulations. Those regulations intended to kill small milk processing plants like Sen. Ledama's and give the market to bigger players like Brookside Dairy Limited, making it impossible to allow farmers to sell their milk where they can quickly access.

When the drought came and affected pasture in this country, it became impossible for farmers to even access farm feeds because of those who control the biggest dairy industries in this country, among them Brookside, Danone in France, which has shares in Brookside and Abraaj from Saudi Arabia, which also had shares in Brookside. These are the people affecting the milk industry yet the President has made sure that through fertiliser subsidies, farmers can improve their pasture and compete in terms of production.

The truth is that the milk industry is suffering in terms of current demand for milk, not production. If you look at production, milk output in this country has improved from four billion litres per year to 5.5 billion litres per year now. This is because of interventions such as giving farmers subsidies, subsidising farm inputs and even providing veterinary drugs to take care of their animals.

Therefore, it is not fair to the President when Senators come here, fail to sit through the Speech and speak non-factual things without appreciating the effort that has been made. I even heard my brother, Sen. Omogeni, here talking about the issue of drugs in our hospitals. How does the President come in on the issue of drugs? The issue of drugs in this country has been the issue---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Oketch, just a moment. Hon. Senators. I take note that it is just about 6.30 p.m. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No.34, I extend the sitting of the House for at least 15 minutes to allow Sen. Oketch to conclude in the next three minutes and 25 seconds and then allow Sen. Olekina to proceed.

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Sen. Oketch Gicheru: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I was actually heading towards the conclusion. I was debunking some non-factual statements in this House.

You heard my friends who are anti-development, because if you are *anti-usawa* and anti-equality, then you are anti-development. I heard my friends saying that the President's interventions had affected the issue of drugs in our hospitals. This is simply not true. If you go to our hospitals, first of all, most of the drugs that are going to hospitals are going to devolved units. Those being Level 5, Level 4, Level 3 and Level 2, dispensaries and all health centers.

What we have seen times without number is a number of corrupt governors going to give their relatives, friends, girlfriends - whichever kind of people that they are working with - the power to open chemist shops. Then those chemist shops are where they take our drugs to. They take drugs from KEMSA to the chemist shops, so that when you go to these county hospitals, you are told that you have been diagnosed with X, Y, Z, go to those chemist shops and buy drugs there.

This is not only happening in places like where I come from. It also happens in Nyamira County. I would expect Sen. Omogeni to actually oversight the Governor of Nyamira for the 10 chemist shops that are related to the Governor of Nyamira so that he can actually catch the thieves who are there - not put it to the President.

In fact, if there is one myth that I wish the President could have talked about is the state of devolution in relation to national government; so that the country could see how much effort the president has put in buoying and bolstering devolution through what we pass here always as additional revenue allocation to the counties.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, lastly, as a youngster, I appreciate the fact that the President acknowledged one of the hardest issues that we have dealt with in this country, on the Gen. Z protest and the things that happened in the hands of the police at that time. You remember when Mr. Albert Ojwang was killed, it is this House that brought sanity and tried to fight for the rights of those people who were being killed by police at that time. He said that we are going to have compensation and that compensation does not equate to justice. He made a commitment that we will make sure that justice is also served for those people who were affected at that time. I hope this continues with the strength that it deserves because it is the one thing that the President perhaps is faced with to confront in terms of the things that have happened in the past on human rights, on the Gen. Z's time, and also in 2017, 2022, and the years before.

I also hope that the President will acknowledge some of the issues we are fighting for in this House, including my Creative Economy Bill that is in the National Assembly that can address youth unemployment in this country. That is one thing that is still a miss for the President, despite the fact that people are employed in these programmes in the roads and housing. We need to improve and have more innovation on the creative economy to give young people more employment in this country.

So, I appreciate the report and support this Motion by Sen. Ledama Olekina. I hope that even if you differ with the President---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Give him a minute to conclude.

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Sen. Oketch Gicheru: I hope that even if you differ with the President on some things, but on things that unite us together like distributed economic opportunities, I hope our fellow Senators and parliamentarians will support the President in the speech that he gave.

I support.

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

Honourable Members, in the absence of any other Member requesting to contribute, I will call upon Sen. Olekina to reply to the Motion.

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

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. Olekina, just to inform you, as regards to the timeline and the extension that was granted under Standing Order No.34.

Sen. Olekina: Thank you very much. Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I rise to reply to this Motion.

I begin by thanking all distinguished Senators who have contributed to this recording of the thanks by the Senate, those who praised the President and those who gave sharp criticism. The sentiments of those who praised the President and those who gave sharp criticism have been noted. A vibrant House is not measured by the uniformity of praises but by the diversity of opinions.

Having said that, I appreciate those distinguished Senators who have clearly followed through the President's speech and can attest to the development. Kenya has turned a corner. When the President took over, and this is evident even from the contribution made by the distinguished Senators, this country was staring at total economic collapse. The country's inflation rate was at 9.6 per cent, which the President has successfully brought down to 4.1 per cent. You cannot say anything more than that. The economy has been stabilised.

When we were running for office in 2022, some of us funded our campaigns using dollars, and we depleted all the dollars in this country. If we had continued with that trajectory, this country would have faced the same consequences other countries such as Sri Lanka and Ghana did with the type of economic collapse.

I have listened to colleagues and I want to respond to my good friend, Sen. Omogeni, who clearly pointed out that the cost of living is quite high, which is a fact. The problem was that he was comparing Kenya to Australia, which is like comparing the difference between oil and water. Australia is a much further developed nation compared to Kenya.

The truth of the matter is that Sen. Omogeni asked a simple question, which is what I want to further demystify. He said that the cost of fuel is at Kshs226 a litre. I want to be very clear that if President William Ruto did not deal with inflation, which was at 9.6 per cent, the cost of fuel today would have been at Kshs2,000. If the President did not set aside Kshs4.6 billion from the Petroleum Development Fund to cushion Kenyans, the cost of fuel would have been at Kshs3,000. It is good to give credit where it is due. Rhetoric alone will not help. Facts are what will help Kenyans understand the steps that this government has made. Slogans do not create jobs, investments do.

In his speech, the President was clear and demonstrated that over 707 Kenyans have been placed in overseas employment. Hundreds of thousands of Kenyans have also

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been given jobs in the affordable housing programme, where houses are being built. They are not being built by robots but by Kenyans. If those affordable houses were not being built across the country, then Kenyans would not have those jobs. The naysayers, as my good friend Sen. Okong'o Omogeni, his views then would be valid, but in this case, they are only rhetoric and slogans.

It is very clear that the President and the distinguished Senators who supported and acknowledge the work that has been done on infrastructure development noted that 750 kilometres road opened up the northern part of Kenya. That has indeed been done by the President, who was quick to note that.

The President cares so much for the poor Kenyans, who understand that, yes, indeed, it is becoming very very expensive. The more you keep money in your payslip and you reduce the taxations, the more Kenyans will be able to survive. So, by proposing to Parliament that we do away with Pay As You Earn (PAYE) or taxation for Kenyans who earn Kshs32,000 and below, is putting money back into the pocket of Kenyans, so that they are able to continue supporting their families. Doing away with excise duty and duty or taxes on importations of telephones is also helping farmers and Kenyans invest in the digital world to be able to communicate and create businesses using technology. So, that is indeed caring for the Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would like to end by stating the following-

It is good to criticise, but it is good for you to also demystify what this government has been able to do. I am a farmer. Previously, I would buy fertiliser at Kshs7,000. Today, a farmer in Nyamira County is enjoying fertiliser at Kshs2,000 for a 50-kilogramme bag.

In Sri Lanka, where the economy collapsed, that country produced a lot of sugar and tea. However, today, when that country collapsed, fertiliser was trading at almost US$100 for 50 kilogrammes. Farmers were not even able to get it. So, it is important that when we are arguing and debating, we debate based on facts.

Therefore, I would like to reply and request that the putting of the question to be deferred to another time.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Sen. Olekina. You may take your seat.

ADJOURNMENT

Rise, honourable Members.

(Hon. Senators stood in their places)

Hon. Senators, it is now 42 minutes past 6.00 p.m. Having concluded the business for which I extended the sitting pursuant to Standing Order No.34(2)(a), the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, 24th November, 2026 at 2.30 p.m., when we shall put the vote on the request that the Hon. Senator has made on this Motion.

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(Putting of the Question on the Motion deferred)

Thank you.

The Senate rose at 6.42 p.m.

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