



THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT
THE SENATE
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Fifth Session

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PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 16th September, 2026

*The House met in the Senate Chamber,
Parliament Buildings, at 9.32 a.m.*

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

PRAYER

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AT COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Serjeant-at-Arms, kindly ring the Quorum Bell for 10 minutes.

(Quorum Bell ringing)

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

(Quorum Bell was rung)

Hon. Senators, we have quorum now so we will start the day's business.
Clerk, you may proceed to call for the first Order.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

QUESTIONS

Now, Hon. Senators, we have a number of questions today. I am informed that two Cabinet Secretaries will be appearing before plenary for purposes of responding to these questions. We will be managing time. We will be giving limited time per Question so that we cover ground. We will start with the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Agriculture and Livestock Development.

Before I call the Cabinet Secretary, Sen. Boni, what is your intervention?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Parliament is an institution under the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Not just that, it is an independent institution that is critical in running the affairs of this republic. To run, it depends on leadership. You have seen

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that we have taken half-an-hour due to lack of quorum. Part of the reason there is no quorum is that there are no leaders on either side. The Leader of the Majority, his assistant, the Chief Whip on the Majority Side and his assistant, and the same on the Minority Side.

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Sen. Mundigi, you will be given a chance.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to reflect on this because we are coming to do government business that is supposed to address national issues. However, we take it so casually. We must admit that the so-called broad-based government is unable to govern the country because it cannot run institutions in the House. I am sad that I was there when we decided to bring a Motion of no confidence in the leadership of the country. It had to originate from the National Assembly. If it were otherwise, we would have originated that kind of decision---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Boni, is your issue about the leadership in the House or the leadership of the country?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, share with me my frustration because, ordinarily, when you and I were Cabinet Secretaries under the late Mwai Kibaki, he used to consult us and we would tell him how the House was running. If people go to State House just to have tea and prayer, then State House should be closed.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Boni, we need not pursue that line of thinking. Let us handle the business that is before us.

Yes, Sen. Enoch.

Sen. Wambua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Sen. Khalwale, but just to add a rider. The Deputy Minority Leader of the Senate was here before Sen. Khalwale arrived within the precincts of Parliament.

Secondly, not to make what he has said any lighter, it is a bad show. Let us face it. It is a bad show when the leadership of government business in the House is completely absent on a day when the Executive is in the House.

I do not want to drag the Executive into this conversation, but I pity the Cabinet Secretaries appearing today. This is because the people that are supposed to lead the conversation that we will have with the Cabinet Secretaries are not available. I hope that wherever they are, they are listening to what we are saying. We do not want a repeat of this. If the Cabinet Secretaries do not come, we can deal with that as a House. However, if the leadership does not attend, then what do we do? It is a bad thing.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Okay, enough of that. We now move to Question No. 005 by the Senator for Kisumu County, Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda.

Clerk, you may usher in the hon. Cabinet Secretary.

*[The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development
(Hon. Mutahi Kagwe) was ushered into the Chamber]*

Welcome to the Senate.

Where is Sen. (Prof.) Tom Ojienda? That Question is deferred.

Question No.005

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF CROP PESTS AND DISEASES

(Question Deferred)

We will now move to Senator for Kakamega County, Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale.

You may proceed to ask your Question, Hon. Senator.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, before Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale poses that question. I will allocate time. We will do 10 minutes per question so that we also cover the many questions that are directed to the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration. You may proceed Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale.

Question No.062

DELAY IN CONSTITUTING THE KENYA SUGAR BOARD

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to ask Question No.062 to the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development.

(a) What are the reasons for the longstanding delay in fully constituting the Kenya Sugar Board?

(b) What is the operational status of the board in light of the vacancies in its membership, and could the Cabinet Secretary disclose who has been discharging the functions of the board while it is not fully constituted?

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Hon. Mutahi Kagwe): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. From the outset, I also express my thanks and good wishes on my return to this House. I remember fondly sitting in this chair right here and Hon. Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale sat on the other side.

To respond to the question, first, in view of the time that you have given, I will dispense with the background to these questions and go straight to the answers.

(a) As you know, the Sugar Act stipulates very clearly what the nomination process of the Sugar Board is supposed to be. What has happened is that members of the board who are appointed or nominated by the President, the Council of Governors (CoGs), the Principal Secretary (PS), National Treasury and the Principal Secretary (PS), Agriculture and Livestock Development are in place. The absence of the remaining members arises from litigation challenging the board elections designated to the catchment areas.

You will remember that the Sugar Board Act presumes a situation where the board members are elected in catchment areas that are designated as such. This has been a challenge in the way of conducting the appointment of the board.

On 22nd January, 2025, a Constitutional Petition No. E002 of 2025 was filed in Kisumu. That is *Abraham Martin and 19 others Versus the Sugar Board and two others*. In that case, the petitioner challenged the public participation conducted by the board between the 13th and 16th January 2025 on the draft procedures for the election of growers and millers' representatives.

The case derailed the process of conducting elections, since the Ministry needed the procedures to be in place before issuing notice for the elections. However, the case was closed after consent was recorded. Under Clause 4 of the Election Procedures, the Cabinet Secretary is vested with the authority to constitute an 11-member elections committee to manage the electoral process of the growers' representatives to the board.

Another critical case affecting elections was the *Constitutional Petition No. E 013 of 2025 by Boniface Masinde versus the Attorney General and Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development*. In the matter, the applicant challenged the delineation of the sugar catchment areas and the composition of the Kenya Sugar Board, specifically, growers' representation from catchment areas as delineated in the First Schedule of the Sugar Act of 2024.

An injunction was issued on 3rd June, 2025, prohibiting the election of board members to the Kenya Sugar Board based on the representation drawn from the sugar catchment areas, which further delayed the elections.

With the injunctions having been lifted, the board embarked on the electoral process to elect representatives of the growers on 25th June 2026, as per Section 6(1) of the Sugar Act of 2024.

One week before the scheduled elections of the growers, representatives to the Kenya Sugar Board, another case was filed; *Vihiga Petition E 004 of 2026 Silverias Simiyu versus Kenya Sugar Board and three others*.

Upon an application for interim orders by the petitioners, the court declared that the status quo be maintained in so far as the implementation of the First Schedule of the Sugar Act, 2024 is concerned, pending the hearing and determination of the filed petitions both at Kakamega and Vihiga High Courts, respectively.

Immediately thereafter, the file was transferred to Kakamega for hearing and determination on the basis that the subject matters of both were the same. However, the honourable court in Kakamega transferred the matter back to Vihiga for hearing and determination on the basis that the court sitting in Vihiga needed to interpret its orders upon an application by the petitioners. The case is slated for hearing on the 16th September 2026 before the Vihiga court for determination.

(b) On the issue of what is the operational status of the board in light of the vacancies in its membership, we acknowledge that where the board has not been constituted or is unable to discharge its statutory functions, the Cabinet Secretary may exercise only such residual or transitional administrative authority as is necessary to ensure continuity of government and implementation of the Act.

The principle is that where a newly established statutory body is awaiting full operationalisation, the responsible Cabinet Secretary may undertake residual administrative functions as necessary to prevent a governance vacuum until the statutory organs are properly constituted. Once the board is appointed, the statutory powers vested

in the board and its members must be exercised by those organs in accordance with the Act.

Accordingly, pending the full constitutional operationalisation of the Sugar Board, the Ministry is responsible for residual transitional administrative functions as are necessary to ensure continuity in the administration of the sugar sector and implementation of the Sugar Act.

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

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have all heard the Cabinet Secretary. He has spent his entire time telling us the frustrations he is going through because of litigation. That is understandable. However, our problem as farmers and consumers of sugar in Kenya is: who is taking decisions that affect our lives, namely the pricing policy? Farmers just wake up and they are told that they will be paid Kshs4,700 per tonne. At another time, it is reduced and so on.

Number two, it is not a question but on the same concern. That is the issue of importation. The board is supposed to decide how much sugar should be imported to balance against what is produced locally.

Cabinet Secretary, you are very experienced. Could it be that your government is protecting cartels so that they continue importing sugar even when there is not such a shortage?

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Hon. Mutahi Kagwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the issue of decisions being made in the Ministry, we are continuing to manage the regulations of the sugar sector as much as we can.

I am happy that the honourable Senator recognises the frustrations that I personally have gone through in trying to get this board in place. You have heard the chronology of events that have been happening since the board was supposed to be put in place.

I also want to inform honourable Members that we even challenged and discussed the issue of the Act itself. In other words, the Act itself should have been made in such a manner that elections should have been the method by which the board members are elected, but there has been---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, the question is, in the absence of the board, who makes decisions?

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Hon. Mutahi Kagwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Kenya Sugar Board (KSB) still has an able executive in place. As far as pricing is concerned, the Sugarcane Pricing Committee is still in place. It includes processors as well as farmers.

I thank you.

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

Sen. Maanzo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Cabinet Secretary has confirmed that he is acting on behalf of the Kenya Sugar Board (KSB). Recently, you issued orders in terms of importation. On what basis was that? Our local sugarcane farmers are suffering yet you banned importation. What is the deficit and what are the figures?

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

Sen. Chute: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was wondering about the timeline between the first and the second petition. The Cabinet Secretary said that the first petition was lifted. He was supposed to constitute an election committee to carry out the procedure. How much time did it take between the first and the second petition? He would have had the committee in place before the second petition. Why did he not take that opportunity to constitute the committee?

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

Sen. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to get a comment from the Cabinet Secretary regarding an accusation that I picked up when I was in Bungoma last weekend from farmers and their representatives.

Cabinet Secretary, there is a suspicion that some of these petitions that are being put in the way of the reconstitution of the KSB are actually sponsored by the government in order to frustrate representatives of farmers and ensure decisions are taken, like Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale has said, without the input of the representatives of the farmers. Maybe you should give us your comment on that, so that we get assurances that there are no monkey games being played with this particular issue.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Proceed, Sen. Wamatinga.

Sen. Wamatinga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me also add my voice to it.

Bw. Cabinet Secretary, when the Executive decides that a certain quota of sugar has to be imported, what is the procedure for telling Kenyans that we need a certain percentage of sugar imported so that they can submit their bids?

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

Sen. Wambua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question stems from the last response by the Cabinet Secretary that the Executive is in place and so the industry is running. By inference, the conclusion would be; why do we need the board if the Executive can carry out functions of the board? I mean, why should we have the board? Is it necessary?

When I looked at the core functions of the board, they are very distinct from the functions of the Executive. How can the Executive perform the roles of the board?

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

Sen. (Dr.) Murango: Asante sana, Mstahiki Spika. Ninauliza swali hili kama mhusika mkuu katika Kamati ya Mshikamano wa Kitaifa, Fursa Sawa na Utangamano wa Kikanda wakati tulikuwa tunapitisha Sheria ya Sukari.

Ni jambo la kushangaza kwamba wakati wakulima wanaumia, Waziri anakuja mbele yetu na kuanza kutuambia mambo ambayo nitafananisha na Hekaya za Abunuasi na Esopo. Tumeona katika gazeti sio sukari peke yake, mchele pia unakabiliwa na mambo haya. Wakati wakulima wanaumia, wafanyibiashara ndio wanaonufaika kwa kupewa nafasi ya kuagiza mchele kutoka nje.

Ningependa kusema hivi. Amini chochote lakini usiwahi kuamini machozi ya muuza geneza katika msiba, kwa sababu wanaofaidika sana ni wale ambao wanaleta sukari kutoka nje. Ndio maana lazima mkulima afe ili wafanyibiashara wafaidike.

Ningependa kupata takwimu zilizo sawa kuhusu sukari ambayo inaletwa kutoka nje. Labda utaleta baadaye. Je, ni kina nani wanaleta na ni mfumo gani unatumika kutathmini kwamba sukari haitoshi katika nchi hii?

Asante sana, Bw. Spika.

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Hon. Mutahi Kagwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to start with the first issue of importation and the reasons I placed a ban on importation of sugar.

We assess the quantity of sugar carefully in the market to balance two things. The first one is the price of sugar in the market for consumers and the second one is the price paid to farmers. We do it scientifically with constant monitoring by the board of how much sugar is being delivered to millers, which is not a difficult thing because we have millers telling us on a daily basis the amount of sugar they have got and the amount they are processing. We can assess and know that, given the demand in the country, this is the quantity of sugar that we need.

The only time that the KSB gives a license to import sugar, because somebody has to be licensed to import sugar by the KSB, is when there is a shortage of sugar in the country. We assess if there is sufficient production. At the time, I was saying that we do not need importation; for example, we ask them not to give any license. That has been minimal this year.

The sugarbelt is producing sufficient sugar at the moment. Therefore, we do not need to import except for industrial sugar, which we do not have enough of in the country. Therefore, we might need to import 200,000 metric tonnes of industrial sugar. Therefore, the issue of importation is managed properly via applications to the KSB.

There is a committee in place. Like I said earlier, the committee that determines the pricing of sugar as well as the board, are properly constituted and are in place.

The issues of separation of functions of the board and Executive management are very clear. The reason the government could never even think about doing anything of the sort is, first of all, it would be the wrong thing to do. The government is charged with the responsibility of implementing what Parliament has decided.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure Sen. Sifuna that it is not possible and we are not in the practice of doing any such thing. In any event, the lack of a board--- I think this question answers at the same time what the Senator from Kitui had asked.

There are many things, such as the use of the levies charged to the Kenya Sugar Board cannot be touched by anybody else not regulated by the Board. I personally do not have the authority to do so and the Cabinet Secretary cannot take many decisions that are only the responsibility of the Board.

While indeed the Cabinet Secretary can put in place measures that can continue running the functions of the sugar sector, there are many decisions that cannot be made because the Board is not in place. The fact that it is running does not mean that it is doing so efficiently. It is doing so inefficiently because of the lack of the Board.

There lies the reason why the Government itself cannot think about frustrating that exercise. The Government is frustrated because of the lack of the exercise. I think

that also responds to the issue of Sen. Wamatinga on the application of the importation and also the questions on functions that have been asked by the Senator for Kitui County.

On the issue of the importation process, as I have said, we do not import in vain. However, if there is importation of sugar, one of the things to remember is that the Government itself does not import or buy the sugar; it is purely the private sector. If somebody is importing sugar, they have to have a market for it. It is not we in the Sugar Board who are going to buy that sugar. I assure Members that, first of all, the process of doing so is by application and it is the businessmen who take the risk. However, there is going to be sufficient functions to do so.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the implementation of the Committee for Elections is concerned, the Committee is in place and has been in place as constitutionally demanded by the Act. The frustration of the elections has nothing to do with the committee being in place.

I rest my case; thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): We will now move to Question No. 070 by the Senator for Kirinyaga County, the Hon. James Murango.

Sen. Boni, proceed.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you forgot to direct me on when I would ask my question. It is a very short one---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): You have already asked your entire---

(The Speaker (Hon. Kingi) spoke off record)

Which of the two was not responded to?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: The issue of importation; I was asking for further clarity on the issue of importation.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Who determines how much is to be imported? Was that your second question?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Yes.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, kindly respond.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, since you have allowed me, may I just clarify?

Cabinet Secretary, you are one of the most respected.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): I thought it was to clarify.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is important to me. Kakamega County is the engine of sugar production. It is a multi-billion industry. On the issue of importation, Cabinet Secretary, you are very respected; you are one of the Cabinet Secretaries who are not corrupt and Kenyans know it. Tell us why you allow everybody to import and yet, you have the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC)? Why are you not allowing that Corporation to be the one to be importing instead, you allow people to steal from our farmers and all of us in the name of importation of sugar?

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Hon. Mutahi Kagwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I explained on the issue of importation, what happens is that people apply to the Kenya Sugar Board for importation. We would be

very happy to allow the KNTC to import. In fact, they do so when they have the funding to do so. However, the decisions of KNTC, as to whether they want to participate in the importation or not, is something that I cannot be able to respond to. As the honourable Senator has proposed, it would be ideal that they do so. In fact, they have done so in the past. You will also recall that the KNTC has had its own challenges which as a Cabinet Secretary in Agriculture and Livestock Development will not be able to explain. We will be very happy to have KNTC alongside the others but we must have competition so that people do not take advantage of shortage situations.

I thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

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

Question No.070

STRATEGY FOR MILK PRICE STABILISATION

Sen. (Dr.) Murango: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My questions are as follows;

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary outline the measures and plans the Ministry has put in place to reduce the cost of milk production, particularly the cost of animal feeds, which remains the primary driver of production expenses, stabilise milk prices, improve the profitability and competitiveness of dairy farming, increase farmers' incomes and boost national milk production?

(b) Does the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development have any plans to review the price paid per litre of milk to dairy farmers supplying the new Kenya Creameries Corporation (KCC) and if so, provide the proposed timelines, criteria for such a review and the expected impact on farmers' earnings and the dairy sector?

(c) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide a comprehensive breakdown of all milk coolers procured and distributed by the Government from 2023 to date, including the total expenditure incurred, the beneficiary counties and the number allocated for each county, as well as the criteria used in the allocation and distribution?

(d) Has the Ministry considered the procurement and distribution of solar-powered milk coolers as an alternative to electricity-powered units, and if so, outline the expected benefits in reducing energy costs and enhancing the affordability, accessibility and sustainability of milk cooling services for dairy farmers?

Thank you.

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Hon. Mutahi Kagwe): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Again, I will go directly to the responses instead of giving a background, because the Hon. Senators have their written responses.

(a) The Ministry has developed an animal feeds programme strategy to address the feed situation in the country, in which it prioritises the promotion of increased production of animal feeds, promotion of animal forage conservation, and the use of technologies such as irrigation to facilitate production of animal feeds in arid and semi-

arid areas. Increased production will ensure availability of adequate forage and concentrate feed ingredients, which will in turn reduce the cost of the feeds.

The Government is also setting up a National Strategic Feeds Reserve. The National Strategic Feed Reserve, once operationalised, will reduce feed fluctuations, facilitate access to animal feeds, reduce dairy production costs and sustain milk production throughout the year. This will also go a long way in stabilising milk prices, since there will be no periods of glut or scarcity.

The Ministry is availing unutilised land for feed production through lease of parcels of land by locals and international investors under the Land Commercialisation Initiative. The land will be used for production of pasture and fodder for commercial purposes and for distribution to farmers. The Government's land, such as the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), livestock farms under the Ministry and former livestock holding grounds, will be utilised under the Land Commercialisation Initiative.

The Government is also promoting public-private sector partnerships to ensure that there is sufficient investment in the livestock feed sector.

For the last three years, the Government has participated in international investment conferences in Rome, where it has pitched for feasible investment options in the animal feed industry. As a result of that, several investors have already arrived in the country to invest. Key among them, if I may give an example, is that De Hues Animal Feeds, which is a Dutch-based company. They will invest Kshs300 million to produce 200,000 metric tonnes of feeds annually in a modern feed milling factory in Athi River. I opened the factory last year and it is in full operation.

The Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with other organisations such as the United Arab Emirates-based Al Dahra Company. The company will lease and manage up to 200,000 acres of irrigation farmland, which will essentially boost animal feeds such as yellow maize.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government abolished Value Added Tax (VAT) on raw materials for animal feed processing in 2018 to make livestock feeds affordable to farmers and to attract investment in the sector. This includes a waiver of duty for local manufacturers to import maize, soybean and other essential ingredients of animal feeds to lower the cost of feeds.

In addition, the Government supplied 500 metric tonnes of sunflower seeds during Financial Year 2023/2024 for planting by farmers. We have already begun to see the impact of that. The seeds produce edible oil, while the by-products, which are in the form of sunflower cakes, are used in the animal feed industry.

In terms of investment and capacity building on feeds, the Ministry is continuously building on the capacity of dairy farms to produce and conserve pasture and fodder in the form of baled hay and silage. Farmers are sensitised on establishing high-yielding forage varieties for optimal feed production.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other issue that is critical for that is improvement of supply and genetics of our dairy animals. The Government has set up an additional semen production facility at the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) Bull Station in

Kitale. This has been operationalised to supplement production and marketing of semen by the Kenya Animal Genetic Resource Centre (KAGRC).

The Government is also in the process of setting up four liquid nitrogen production centres in Eldoret, Meru, Kirinyaga and Kaimosi to make it more available and affordable to Artificial Insemination (AI) agents for cheaper semen. Following the Presidential Directive in June 2025, KAGRC is distributing subsidized semen at Kshs1,000 per dose, down from Kshs2,900 and subsidized all the way from Kshs8,000 and Kshs9,000 based on the occasion. On 10th June, 2026, a total of 11,196 doses of semen had been distributed. Of course, this has increased since then.

The above initiatives ensure improved dairy genetics, which in turn increases milk production in the country. The initiatives are geared towards increasing milk production, making dairy farms more competitive and increasing farmers' income. It is also important for me to add that we are in the process of *gazetting* duty-free importation of yellow maize to supplement the reduction of animal feeds in the country.

(b) Another concern was whether the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has any plans to review the price paid per litre of milk. While producer prices of raw milk in Kenya are largely determined by market forces of supply and demand, the Government has nevertheless provided legal safeguards to cushion farmers from low and unsustainable prices. The dairy industry and pricing of dairy produce regulations mandate the Government to periodically review and gazette minimum producer prices for raw milk. These are benchmarked on prevailing cost of production across the counties, production systems and scales.

The latest study, for example, conducted by the Kenya Dairy Board (KDB), established that the cost of producing one litre of milk was on the average of Kshs39.5 for zero grazers, Kshs37.3 for semi-zero grazers, Kshs24.5 for open grazers and an average of Kshs36.2 across production systems. On average, profits across production systems were therefore at Kshs9.9 per litre, which is about Kshs10.

Since gazettment of the Dairy Industry Regulations in 2021, market forces have pushed up the price of milk, thereby minimising further interventions by the Government as shown in the document that I have provided. This is also consistent in ensuring the interests of consumers are taken care of as high producer prices also affect consumers. You will notice that at the moment, due to the shortage of milk, the prices to farmers have gone up all the way to Kshs55 and even up to Kshs60 by some companies such as Bio Food Products.

Specifically on New Kenya Co-operative Creameries (New KCC), the producer prices by the company have been consistently high in relation to the competition. Again, we have summarised it in the document that I have given. In the interest of time, I will not read the entire list. The long and short of it is that while the Government itself has placed minimum prices, the current prices in the market are above the minimum price that the Government has set.

The relationship to the two questions by the Senator from Kirinyaga is that if we keep the cost of production down, then it becomes more profitable for farmers. I have alluded to the manner in which we intend to keep prices coming down.

(c) Next is the comprehensive breakdown of milk coolers, which is also one of the ways of bringing down the cost of production. What happens is that milk coolers reduce wastage within the dairy sector. When milk is not cooled, the waste levels are very high. We have noticed that farmers benefit from coolers because there is no wastage of milk.

In the Financial Year 2024/2025, the State Department for Livestock Development procured 230 bulk milk coolers at a contract sum of Kshs1.4 billion. The bulk milk coolers have been distributed to 230 dairy producer organisations in 41 counties, serving more than 115,000 dairy farmers. It has helped aggregate 475,000 litres of milk daily, estimated at Kshs23.28 million. This equates to 173 million litres of milk worth about Kshs8.7 billion aggregated annually. The bulk coolers will create business hubs at the aggregation centres, creating employment for about eight persons for every 1,000 litres of milk chilled. That is 3,800 people directly employed.

The breakdown of the bulk milk coolers procured, capacity and distribution to counties will be as follows: Baringo County has got six milk coolers. The document that you have goes into details of 1,000, 2,000 or 5,000. Bomet has nine, Bungoma three, Busia one, Elgeyo Marakwet seven, Embu---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you do not need to go through that table because Hon. Senators have a copy of your written response.

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Hon. Mutahi Kagwe): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The distribution is as per the list that I have provided. Demand for coolers is very high. Consequently, the Ministry is considering Phase 2 of distribution of the same.

The second phase will be as follows:

(a) Where some counties or dairies have requested a 1,000-litre cooler, some of them have grown, upgraded and now need bigger coolers such as 3,000-litres coolers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is important for me to talk about the criteria used for this distribution. The Livestock Value Chain Support Project targeted farmers, pastoralists, traders, processors and government institutions. To ensure that the project achieved its intended purpose, the following criteria were used in the selection of the beneficiaries.

- i) Compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, where the beneficiary groups or cooperatives must be registered with a relevant Government agency;
- ii) Organization or Government framework. The group cooperative must prove that it has a good governance structure;
- iii) The dairy group must demonstrate potential for milk collection of between 1,000 to 5,000 litres, at least, 50 per cent of the cooler capacity;
- iv) The presence of support infrastructure, including accessibility of proposed sites for ease of milk collection, housing for the cooler and the generators as per the specifications provided by the works engineers, access to reliable water supply and access to power supply, availability of wastewater disposal systems.
- v) The cooperative group must make a formal request for support with equipment through the relevant national and county government departments and any other Government agency or institution. The signing

of relevant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry and the beneficiary entities or cooperatives must be in place so that we govern how they are managed; and

- vi) The Ministry has considered the procurement and distribution of solar-powered milk coolers. The honourable Senator will be happy to know that most of what we are giving today are solar-powered bulk milk coolers. This is because the Government realised the high cost of electricity incurred by the dairy groups and cooperatives which use electricity-powered milk and bulk milk coolers. Out of the 230 bulk milk coolers procured, 200 of them are solar-powered. The solar-powered milk coolers are expected to save the dairy farmer organizations a daily power cost of about Kshs200,000 equivalent to Kshs73 million in saved power bills annually. This will ensure sustainability of the milk cooling systems for the farmers. As we move into the future, the solar-powered systems, the solar-powered coolant will be our preferred coolers of choice.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Interruption of Questions)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM MATHARE COMMUNITY
OUTREACH PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SCHOOL, NAIROBI

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Now, honourable Senators, allow me to make this communication before I allow questions. I would like to acknowledge the presence of a visiting delegation of four teachers and 16 students from Mathare Community Outreach Primary and Junior School in Nairobi City County who are seated in the public gallery.

The delegation is visiting the Senate for an academic exposition. On behalf of the Senate and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the delegation and wish them a fruitful visit.

I will call upon the Senator for Nairobi City County to extend a word of welcome. Senator, do it under one minute.

Sen. Sifuna: Thank you, honourable Speaker, Sir, for your kind indulgence. I want the students from Mathare Community Outreach to know that I will be leaving shortly and we might not have an opportunity to interact out there because I have an engagement at 11.00 a.m.

For the benefit of the Senate, these are grade 7 to 9 learners who wrote to my office and said they would visit us. They are members of the Debate and Amani Club. They are conquerors in the debate space. I am happy that they get to come to the Senate this morning and interact with us. There was a very interesting quotation from them about what debating is helping them do which would put this Senate to shame.

I hope that this time around we, the Senate, will be the ones learning from them and not the other way around because they say that debate has taught them to listen

before responding, research before speaking, disagree without disrespect, defend ideas with evidence and appreciate perspectives, different from their own. I need the students to know that we do not often meet that high threshold. No wonder they came second, nationally, in the debate out of 89 Junior Secondary Schools. They are scheduled for a regional debate in Kigali in December. They will be representing us.

I am very proud of them. As the Senator for Nairobi City County, I welcome them to the Senate. I have a small report for them. Their Member of Parliament, Hon. Antony Oluoch, has been pushing a very important Bill, an amendment to the Basic Education Act to recognise institutions that are called informal schools in Nairobi.

As you know, 70 per cent of our kids here, are not in public schools. We have been pushing that amendment with him. I am happy to report that the amendment passed in the National Assembly and it is coming here, to the Senate, and you can count on us, as Senators, to do the right thing. This is because institutions that are majorly in Mathare do not have the land and some amenities required for them to be recognised formally as schools.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for that indulgence. I hope that these students will one day find their way to this Floor and bring that very high standard of debating to the Floor of the Senate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. (Dr.) Murango, do you have any supplementary questions? You may proceed.

(Resumption of Questions)

Sen. (Dr.) Murango: Ahsante sana, Mstahiki Spika. Nilitayarisha na kuagiza swali kwa Waziri mwezi wa sita. Nilikuwa nimeona kuwa kungekuwa na uhaba wa maziwa nchini.

Kwanza, ningependa kumpa Waziri maua yake kwa sababu ukilea mwana mwema, haujua atakapokufaa. Ningependa kumpongeza Waziri kwa kubadilisha na kuleta vifaa ambavyo vinatumia miale ya jua. Hivyo vifaa ni nafuu na natija kwa wakulima.

Naomba unikubali niongee kwa ujumla kwa sababu ya hali ya ukulima. Ninasema hivi kwa sababu mimi ndiye nilikuwa mwenyekiti wa kamati ya Ukulima, Uvuvi na Uchumi Samawati.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. (Dr.) Murango, you are supposed to ask a question and not to give a speech.

Sen. (Dr.) Murango: Mstahiki Spika, ninajenga msingi wa hoja ndio niweze kuuliza swali.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Keep it short.

Sen. (Dr.) Murango: Nilipouliza swali kuhusu maziwa, tulikuwa tumemwaga maziwa katika chama cha ushirika cha Kirima eneo la Kirinyaga kwa sababu hakukuwa na soko. Hivi sasa, hatuna maziwa. Kenya haina miundo msingi ya kubadilisha maziwa ghafi iwe ya unga ili iweze tena kutumika na Wakenya. Nilikuwa ninatarajia Waziri aguzie hilo jambo.

Pili, tulikuwa na kilio juzi kwa sababu ya mchele. Tuna mchele kutoka Kirinyaga na hata Tana River. Mchele huwa unaagizwa kutoka nje ilhali tuna mchele nchini. Hilo pia ni tetezi la wakulima wa sukari. Mchele huletwa na majedwali makubwa ilhali hakuna misingi ya kuonyesha ya kwamba hatuna mchele.

Niliwahi kukaa na Waziri katika Bunge hili. Ninafaa kumwambia ya kwamba kunapokuwa na mambo ambayo yanafanywa, ambayo hayadhirishi wakulima, ni sisi ambao tunatusiwa. Sijui kama Waziri aliona kitu ambacho Mkenya mmoja aliandika kwenye mtandao wa kijamii. Alisema ya kwamba haelewi mbona kuna uhaba wa maziwa na ng'ombe wamejaa Bunge. Hiyo sio kazi ya Bunge. Tunapokea matusi ilhali watu ambao wanafaa kuhusika wanaishi maisha yao ya kawaida.

Nilipokaa chini na Waziri, aliniambia ya kwamba atalitua suala la korosho na makadamia kwa wiki mbili zijazo. Alinifanya nikaenda kutangaza jambo hilo. Siku hizi ninakaa kama zezeta; mtu asiyejua kile ambacho anafaa kufanya. Ningependa Waziri aangalie masuala ya ukulima kwa kina na afupishe taarifa. Ukiuliza wakulima, ambao wanaumia, watasema ya kwamba wanateseka sana. Dakika moja ni refu sana.

Nimesikia Waziri akisema ya kwamba “watafanya, watafanya” lakini ngoja ngoja huumiza matumbo. Mimi nimechangia kwa roho mzito, chonda na kibuhuti kwa sababu ya mateso ya wakulima. Naomba uangalie mambo ya sukari, maziwa, chai na wizi wa kahawa ambayo inaendelea sahizi. Akifanya hivyo, hatumuita tena.

Ahsante sana, Mstahiki Spika.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, did you pick any question out of that long speech?

(Laughter)

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Hon. Mutahi Kagwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I picked the sentiments of the hon. Senator, particularly in regards to the issue of conversion of milk to milk powder, so as to preserve it when there is an overproduction of milk. I would like to assure the hon. Senator that, that is already happening. Two companies in Kenya now are capable of producing powder milk. There is demand for powder milk.

However, the issue of fluctuations of availability or production of milk are subject to also very many other factors that are not within the control of the Government or anybody else for that matter. The climate issues that are around us, for example, have caused the current shortage of milk due to lack of rain. Very many high-producing areas like Trans Nzoia, Nandi and Uasin Gishu are all suffering. The feeds are in low supply.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Senator has also expressed himself saying that we have spoken a lot about intent. Everything starts with intent. This is thinking about something, then you do it. There is nothing you can do without intent.

I would like to thank the hon. Senator.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary (CS), as I allow other Senators to ask you questions, kindly get to know that there are some issues that arose during our engagement with your Ministry in Naivasha. So, after you are done with this

question, I will give you about 10 minutes to respond to issues that were left unresponded to in Naivasha.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Enoch Wambua, please proceed.

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

My question is on Government policy on animal feeds in relation to arid and semi-arid lands. I take note of the list provided by the Cabinet Secretary of the counties where they have procured and supplied milk coolers. Unfortunately, Kitui County is not in that list. The Cabinet Secretary has mentioned that there is reason or need for leadership to have intention in doing the right thing.

Mr. Cabinet Secretary, in regard to this conversation around animal feeds, why is it that you have not considered proper decentralisation on the production of animal feeds and taken full advantage of actually those arid and semi-arid lands? I will give you an example of Kitui County where we have vast land, a lot of sunshine and where you can solarise the systems for irrigation of fodder. This is where there is a lot of cheap, available, and even skilled labour; where you can produce fodder for animals to feed an entire country, instead of relying on the traditional areas where you produce fodder. Areas that are densely populated produce just very little fodder for animals.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

Sen. Kinyua: Asante Mhe. Spika. Langu ni kuuliza, Rais wa Jamhuri ya Kenya alitembelea New KCC (Kenya Cooperative Creameries) Nyahururu Factory na kuahidi wakulima ya kwamba watakuwa wakilipwa shilingi 50 kwa lita ya maziwa. Pia aliwaambia kuwa watakuwa wakilipwa baada ya majuma mawili. Hiyo ilikuwa tu ahadi kwa sababu baadaye, kwa muda wa miezi minne hawajalipwa hela zao. Wale wachache ambao juzi wamelipwa, wamelipwa kwa shilingi ambazo ni chache kushinda zile shilingi 50, ambazo aliahidi.

Asante, Bw. Spika.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, please proceed.

Sen. (Prof.) Kamar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to thank the Cabinet Secretary for the responses he has given us. However, I want to further ask: The Cabinet Secretary has talked about yellow maize which is one sources of energy in the formulation of animal feed internationally. What is difficult with Kenyan farmers planting their own yellow maize? We have been told that there is a limitation in the planting of yellow maize to specific areas.

Secondly, the protein sources are the most expensive. With all the commercialisation and public-private partnership (PPP) promotions, how sure are we that farmers will actually benefit? This is because you give a concession to a private person and they still continue to determine the price of what they are selling, their products.

We have been talking about concessions. You will find that the seller--- Even matatu fare does not go down after the fuel goes down. How can we be assured that it will be done? The final one is that the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) is a Government entity. If, according to your answer, ADC is going to give a plan to a private vendor to plant, instead of ADC itself, how sure are we that the cost of soya bean will be lower? Soya beans were being produced in West Pokot heavily. However, the processing

was not being done there. So, most of that soya ended up going back to Uganda for processing before it was resend back here. We need to be assured of the end product. How do we get the animal feed itself? Are we going to raise the raw material and send it to somebody else to go and process, in which case, the cost will be controlled by the person who is selling?

I come from Uasin Gishu County. In fact, the cost of production may not be exact. It may be over Kshs40 per litre, not between Kshs36 and Kshs37 that you have just mentioned. This is because the raw material that we have is soya beans and cotton from Uganda. I agree with Sen. Wambua. Why do we not encourage cotton production in eastern Kenya? We should promote the crop for purposes of getting animal feed. We should encourage farmers to produce soya beans and give us a processing plant that is controlled by Government so that we control the prices. My worry with this answer is that we are promoting the private sector and the private sector will want profits. So, the prices may be worse than what we are getting from Uganda. Eldoret is fed by Uganda. All cotton is from Uganda. We have a problem because, again, that feed---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Professor, what is your question?

Sen. (Prof.) Kamar: My question is: How can the Cabinet Secretary ensure that what he is calling the control of production and pricing will benefit the farmer, not the private sector?

Thank you.

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

Sen. Chute: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Let me thank the Cabinet Secretary for his answers. However, today, the highest milk-producing country in the world is India. In Africa, Tunisia is cheapest on per litre basis. What Kenyans want today is price cost per litre to reduce to a minimum, which is what we have in Tunisia today. I would, therefore, like to ask the Cabinet Secretary a very specific question. In Israel today, they have very good Total Mixed Ratio (TMR) Management System, which is very efficient. It is supplied from one source in a region. So, what is the Government or his Ministry doing?

Sen. Wambua has talked about arid and semi-arid lands. Marsabit is one of them. We have vast land. Marsabit County is one of the largest counties in this republic. We have enough land to produce fodder. So, what is the Ministry doing to bring the cost of milk per litre down to Kshs20? It is possible, even using PPP. What is the Ministry doing to reduce the cost of milk?

Thank you.

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

Sen. Mumma: Thank you, honourable Speaker, for the opportunity to ask. Just allow me to make a small comment.

My question is about food security linked to the question that was asked. You will allow me to just ask the Cabinet Secretary because colleagues are asking questions on issues whose implementation is on county governments. Even as the Cabinet Secretary answers the other questions, I would want to know the nature of intergovernmental relations, cooperation and collaboration that you have to trigger value addition and production activities by the counties because that is their function.

My question is this. This is about your function. Honourable Cabinet Secretary, food security for animals is crucial because what the animals produce feeds human beings. Therefore, the food security around how we manage animal feed has a correlation to the health of the population. Do you have standards around the production of feeds for animals in this country to help stem the illegal or legal importation of toxic inputs into our farms that end up in the animal, milk, eggs and meat that we take and in return harm our population?

What standards do we have around food security that would begin in the agriculture sector both for the animals and in relation to the health of the humans?

Sen. Seki: Thank you, honourable Speaker. I also want to ask the Cabinet Secretary something regarding the issue of feed reserves and land lease for animal feeds that you have mentioned. I would be very happy to know the tonnes that have possibly been manufactured so far for farmers to know that there is no problem in terms of animal feeds.

The Senate Minority Leader (Sen. Madzayo): Shukran sana, Mstahiki Speaker.

Tunakujua wewe ni Waziri shupavu sana katika utendakazi wako. Hata wakati ukiwa katika ile Wizara nyingine ya Afya, ulisifika sana ulimwengu mzima. Ulikuwa unapoongea, sauti yako mpaka katika Jumuiya ya Madola yaani United Nations waliweza kukutambua na hata wakakupatia zawadi.

Swali langu nataka kuuliza lahusu Wizara yako uliyoko hivi sasa, ya mambo ya Kilimo, Mifugo na Uvuvi. Tunajua ya kwamba, Mariakani Milk Factory ilikuwa ikitoa maziwa mengi sana katika taifa letu la Kenya. Iliweza kuwatosheleza watu wa pwani. Ilitosheleza usambazaji wa maziwa katika eneo la pwani na hata ikaendelea mpaka pande zingine zote nje ya pwani. Je, kwa nini tunaona kampuni iliyokuwa ikitoa maziwa sana katika magoti, ikifa polepole? Haitoi vile inavyotakiwa kutoa?

Ikiwa wewe ni Waziri wa kilimo, ni juhudi gani katika wizara yako au Serikali itachukua kuhakikisha ya kwamba wale wakulima, hususan walio na ng'ombe na wanaotoa maziwa kusuluhishana uhaba mkubwa sana ulio nchini Kenya? Wewe kama Waziri, hatuisikii sauti yako kabisa ukiongea kuhusu uhaba wa maziwa. Ni kitu gani Serikali inachofanya kuona ya kwamba kila Mkenya anafurahia na kwamba anaweza kupata maziwa, hususan watoto wadogo wanaokwenda shuleni? Tunajua ya kwamba maziwa pia yanatumika katika kutayarisha uji wanaopewa.

Sen. Abbas: Thank you, honourable Speaker. I have a few questions to the Cabinet Secretary. Your Excellency Waziri, as you rightly said, this country has actually a great deficit of feed production. From the statistics I have, this country requires about fifty-five million metric tonnes of dry matter feeds and yet we are able to produce only forty per cent. Out of the forty per cent that is produced, about twenty million, which is thirty per cent is lost in post-harvest due to lack of proper storage. The fact that the feeds cannot be stored is actually a challenge.

During the drought of 2020 and 2022, in the arid areas, sixty per cent feed deficit was realised. We lost almost 2.5 million animals as a result of drought and disease. Milk production reduced, especially from the Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) port. Deliveries reduced by almost 3.7 per cent.

This country used to have a robust extension services. We used to get a lot of information from research stations like the Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation (KALRO). From inception of devolution, there has been lack of flow of information to farmers. Your Ministry has left everything to the farmers.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Senator Abbas, just pose your question.

Sen. Abbas: Let me just build up my case.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): You are taking too long to build your case.

Sen. Abbas: Okay. Waziri, you know drought is actually a predictable phenomenon. Today, you are talking about El Niño, and that is what you are preparing for. The other day, you were preparing for livestock disease and all this control.

Drought is there with us almost every other year. There is no one time that we are able to plan for the drought. You do not prepare for the feed or marketing for animals. We have no market systems in this country. Animals are just dying. You have an *ad hoc* intervention where you buy animals that are shrivelled, that are almost dying at a very low cost. You pay Kshs5,000 for an animal that should sell at Kshs50,000.

There are also abattoirs that remain idle and yet the Government has spent so much money on that. There is one abattoir in Isiolo, Wajir and Garissa and other parts of the country such as Turkana.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Senator Abbas, just pose your question.

Sen. Abbas: What is your strategy for this country and how will you reduce the disconnect between your Ministry and the counties? What storage facility do you have for livestock feed production?

Finally, what drought intervention strategies does this country have because there are no policies or interventions?

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, kindly respond.

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Mutahi Kagwe): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You will notice that some of the questions relate to the supplementary question you had mentioned earlier. Therefore, I will try and move as quickly as I can.

On the question by the Senator for Kitui on vast lands and fodder that is there in Kitui that can be used for development of animal feeds, where we have Government land, for example, the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), we moved quickly under the land commercialization initiative to make that land useful. We believe that the use of this land can reduce cost of animal feeds. I will also refer that question in relation to what Sen. Kamau asked and the one Sen. Mummo asked in relation to the functions of the national Government and those of county governments. For example, some of the functions like the one related to Kitui require a lot of involvement by the county government.

We do have an inter-ministerial county government sector committee that deals with this matter. It is always engaged between the national and county governments. However, at the end of the day, some of these decisions have to come from county governments. Since we are sitting in the right House that oversees the county governments, I believe it is important for us to put some of these questions forward and to urge that our relationship be enhanced.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in relation to the question of how to utilise the land in Kitui and other counties like Kilifi, Tana River and others. That is where we are trying to encourage and work with county governments to utilise their farms. That is also related to the question that was raised regarding extension officers required in counties in order for this to function. This is because, at the end of the day, there are three players that are involved here.

There is the national Government, the county government and largely, the private sector. Let us not forget that cows, fodder, soya and where other crops are growing is private sector land. Therefore, our interaction with the private sector is crucial and important. That is why extension officers become important. As you well know, in Schedule 4 of the Constitution, extension officers are a county government function. That is why the relationship between the national Government, the county government and this House is crucial in implementation of some of these things.

We are doing our part in terms of pushing the county governments. For example, we have proposed the appointment of 1,450 liaison officers because the county governments are clear that extension officers are their function. Therefore, the national Government proposes that 1,400 or so liaison officers at the grassroot level, be appointed through the national Government so that we see the correlation and interaction between ourselves and county governments at the lowest level.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need a liaison officer or the so-called extension officer who is guided at the national Government in order for them to interact effectively with those appointed by the county governments. That interaction, to a large extent, is what has been missing. However, we have proposed to have them in this year's budget.

Regarding the reason why yellow maize cannot be grown here – and it was Prof. Kabalu who raised the issue of yellow maize. There is nothing that stops any Kenyan from growing yellow maize. In fact, we are looking for them. We are urging them to plant yellow maize. This is because when we have yellow maize, we stop the competition for white maize between human beings and animals. Essentially, what happens is that, in this country, people believe that yellow maize is for cattle feed. You and I know that the yellow maize is eaten by human beings in other parts of the world. However, that is what we believe in our nation. There is nothing to stop anyone from growing yellow maize at all.

The ADC farms are an open field and we have licensed them. Anybody can apply to utilize the ADC farms. The reason why the ADC farm is licensing rather than growing the feed itself is because they do not have the capacity to do so themselves. Let us be honest about some of these things. The private sector is a better player at production than the government sector. That is a foregone conclusion because that is what actually happens.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we therefore, believe that the biggest role the Government sector is able to play is to ensure regulation. That is fairly done as well as for the purpose for which it was set which is to bring down the cost of production. This will be met by ensuring that you have supply. Once you have these farms growing fodder the cost of crop will come down. As long as you have sufficient supply of feedstuffs, the price will automatically come down. The problem is when we have neither the Government nor the

private sector participating sufficiently to bring down the cost of fodder and to have the reserves that are necessary.

That also ties up with the question that was asked by the Senator for Wajir regarding the sort of food reserves we have in the country. Up until last year, I can confidently say that we had no plan. There were feedlots but one of the things I found out was that the so-called feedlot was simply an area to gather animals. However, a feedlot that has got no water, no pasture or hay is essentially not a feedlot.

We have been working on, through the Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP), urging county governments that we together build feasible feedlots in the locations they are supposed to be. The national Government cannot go to a county that is working through the county devolved function and build feedlots. We have cooperated with the counties to assist them to build the feedlots.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, last week, I was in Isiolo County. The feedlot that is there, the quantity of feeds that we can keep near the abattoir in Isiolo are not sufficient. We are, therefore, working with the County Government of Isiolo and others to identify and build areas where we can store hay in times of overproduction.

As the Senator rightly said, there is wastage during the rainy season. This does not have to be so if we cooperate with the county governments for them to uptake hay during overproduction. For example, as we head towards El Nino, there is likely to be an overproduction of hay and other fodder that we can store for that purpose.

I, therefore, admit that the manner in which we have worked in the past to secure feeds has not really been sufficient. I have, therefore, proposed that the same way we keep strategic reserves for human feeds, we also create strategic reserves for animal feeds. This can only be managed if we worked closely with the counties. As a policy, that is what we would like to do but the implementation is also a factor of the participation by the counties.

On the issue of cost of production, it is, indeed, true that it may differ from place to place. However, the objective is to bring it down to a point where we have enough. The Total Mixed Ration (TMR) you have referred to, Senator, is something we have worked on through the KALRO. The KALRO has produced a mix that we believe can produce sufficient milk. You also have to understand that there is also overfeeding. We used to call it diminishing returns in economics, where you feed to the extent of diminishing returns.

Therefore, the TMR we have provided through KALRO is what we should be using. That is the exercise you referred to in Israel. The Senator from Marsabit County referred to the issue of TMR in Israel. Farmers are implementing this. For example, I noticed that farmers in Meru are implementing the TMR. They are getting lower production costs and higher milk productivity.

Again, regarding the issue of extension officers, they are the ones who should be visiting farmers and informing them about the TMR. Therein lies the importance of working through county governments to ensure that their extension officers are informed. In fact, we have proposed a programme through which we can have in-house courses through the Kenya agricultural colleges to retrain them. This will enable them to inform

farmers not just on what has been happening in the past but also emerging practices as we move along in the management of the sector.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the question asked by Sen. Mumma, it is also true that standards have been set on toxic importations, especially on matters of aflatoxin in maize imports. We have several organisations that are now onboard to ensure that anything coming into the country is checked. The Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and other ministerial organisations are ensuring that the levels of aflatoxin allowed into the country are within acceptable standards. We have rejected several consignments of both animal feeds and human food. Maize and other cereals have also been rejected because of unacceptable levels of aflatoxin.

Therefore, we are on the lookout. As you rightly said, it is all about One Health. Animal health is equivalent to human health and vice versa. In the management of One Health, we have ensured that toxic importations are managed in exactly the same way as food intended for human consumption.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the issue raised by the Senator from Kilifi County, my brother Sen. Madzayo, there is a substantial difference between health and agriculture, particularly in terms of the return period. When you talk about people using sanitiser, they will do it instantly. Growing maize takes a couple of months. Growing coffee takes even longer. A cow will still take nine months no matter how good the semen given to it. The long-term nature of agriculture is a major difference.

Besides that, the Mariakani Milk Factory, which was originally working through the Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC), falls under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Development, not the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. However, it is still regulated by the Kenya Dairy Board (KDB), which is under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Development.

One of the issues we have been grappling with, not just as a Ministry but as a Government, is the quality of management of cooperatives. If you look around the country, there are milk cooperatives that are booming and making money. One of the largest milk producer cooperative in Africa is in Kenya, the Meru Central Dairy Cooperative Union. It is the largest dairy cooperative on the African Continent. The reason for this is the management of their dairy. It is properly managed.

I know very well that one of the things Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya is working on is to ensure that milk cooperatives are properly managed. The same applies to cooperatives in other sectors, including tea, coffee, milk and others. To me, the key determinant of whether a milk cooperative will do well is the management. Both the county and the national Government must ensure that the Mariakani Milk Factory and others are properly managed.

Therein lies the question Sen. Kamau mentioned earlier regarding private-sector versus government-sector management. The Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC) used to be the largest milk producer in our country. It now ranks about seventh because private-sector organisations pay their farmers on time.

There is a Senator who asked about the four-month payment delay by the KCC. I need to check that, through the Speaker, because I do not know whether it is KCC that has not paid the factory hence the factory has not paid or whether it is KCC itself that has

not paid. I need to check that and come back to you. However, the fact remains that if one processor is not paying you, collect the money owed to you and go to another processor. This is what I tell those who are not being paid by one processor in Nyandarua and elsewhere. That is the beauty of competition. There are other milk processors that are paying people on time.

As far as the New KCC is concerned, we are trying to ensure that it is properly funded to take up the issue of powdered milk production alongside others. It is important for us to have a Government institution that can respond to the demands being made. Again, I come back to the issue of management.

On the matter of milk availability, there are a couple of factors contributing to the current situation. As I said, a lot of it has to do with the drought currently affecting the country. However, the reduction in milk processing is only about 5.18 per cent. The drop is only about 5 per cent, so it is not as huge as it sounds. What is happening is hoarding.

Someone asked about being told at a supermarket that they can only buy two or three packets of milk. The normal human reaction is to go to the next supermarket and take another three packets. As a result, people who would normally have one or two packets of milk in their houses now have six or more. This is because they fear that there will be no milk, particularly where children and their *uji* are concerned.

I would like to assure the public that there is a slight shortage of mil. However, it is being exaggerated because it is only about 5 per cent below the usual production level. In areas where the cooperatives or the processors have not responded in kind to pay the farmers the prices that are now in place because of that shortage, those farmers are not taking the milk to the processors. They are now selling off the process lines and selling it directly to people. So, we would like to do two things. First, is to urge dairy cooperatives to pay farmers what they are due in two perspectives. One, is on time and two, the higher price that the market is currently paying for. The consumer market is paying a higher price. That premium should also be passed on to the farmer.

That is the only way to make sure that we have enough. Having said that, with the onset of the rains as we have begun to see, we believe that this is a temporary situation.

On the issue that was raised by---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you have two minutes to wind up.

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (Hon. Mutahi Kagwe): On the matter that was raised by the Senator for Wajir County, I would like to urge that the only way we are going to increase to 55 million metric tonnes, as rightfully calculated where there is a shortage, is by large-scale, extensive farming.

The small-scale farmers will participate in it. However, you will notice that in this country, there is a definite lack of large-scale production in some of those areas. Through the research that we are conducting, we will get varieties of fodder that are resistant to diseases and can grow in semi-arid areas because that is where the vast areas of land are. That is the future of agriculture.

I rest my case.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, I still have 10 hon. Senators wishing to ask questions to the hon. Cabinet Secretary. I am afraid I may not be in a position to

allow you to do so. This is because we have spent over 40 minutes on this question as opposed to the 10 minutes that we had allocated to each of these questions.

You will notice that we have nine more questions to go that have been directed to the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration. Therefore, I will allow the hon. Cabinet Secretary to retire at this point.

In fact, hon. Cabinet Secretary, you will have to pen the issues that you are supposed to respond to that arose in Naivasha during our engagement with the Ministry and respond to them when you appear next. You are therefore discharged.

Yes, Sen. Wakili Sigei.

(Sen. Wakili Sigei consulted loudly)

I have just discharged him. We have nine questions to handle from the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration.

Sen. Wakili Sigei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a House of record. I wanted to have clarification from the Cabinet Secretary. The response he has given us, particularly on some deliveries of certain coolers to Bomet County which I represent, is reflected as nine. However, I am aware of only one. This is a House of record. The people we represent take note of the responses that we receive here. Unfortunately, he is not here. We definitely have no other intervention other than probably you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senator, it will be communicated to the Cabinet Secretary. Certainly, this is not the last time we will have the Cabinet Secretary appearing before us. He will have the opportunity to respond to that.

*[The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development
(Hon. Mutahi Kagwe) was ushered out of the Chamber]*

As I give opportunity to hon. Senators to ventilate, Clerk, can you usher in the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration?

Yes, Sen. Veronica.

Sen. Veronica Maina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also wish to express my reservations on the quick and hasty exit of the Cabinet Secretary, though you discharged him. This is because we wanted to have clarity on some of the answers he gave to this House, especially on the stabilisation of milk prices.

While the Government directive has been that every farmer should be paid at least Kshs50 per litre, his Ministry has superintended on processes that have seen farmers being paid even up to Kshs35 per litre, especially in Murang'a. So, I would want to ask that this question be on-boarded to him to answer. This is because this is one of the Ministry that needs to perform better than it is performing, in my own view, because it is affecting very many farmers in the country. So, we are not done with the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development. He needs to come back to the House to respond to these very critical issues. Our mothers are suffering.

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

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Very well, hon. Senator. The hon. Cabinet Secretary, will certainly be back before this plenary.

Sen. Cherarkey: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Cabinet Secretary has spoken about the issue of animal feeds, shortage of milk and stabilisation of milk prices. However, what he has said is not what is in Nandi. He has mentioned the issue of coolers that came to Nandi but they are not there. Under Standing Order No.1 of the Senate Standing Orders, is it in order, through your clerk, since it may take some time for the Cabinet Secretary to come back, to direct that we raise those questions to the clerk, then they be transmitted to the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and respond as soon as possible? This is because some of these issues are too alive to wait for another few weeks or a month.

I am aware after Senate Mashinani, we might come back for one week and then we go for another three weeks break yet the issue of milk prices, coolers and animal feeds is affecting the country. It is alive at the moment and might be overtaken by events. So, we need your solomonic wisdom on this matter. You can invoke Standing Order No.1 and direct the House on how we can proceed.

I yield back the mic.

Sen. Joyce Korir: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was part of the team that went to the ground. May be, it is the Committee of this House to ascertain whether the said coolers were delivered to the number of stations that were listed. I think that is the only way out.

Sen. Dullo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to raise matters of abattoirs in this country, more specifically Isiolo County. Governors are constructing abattoirs that are not beneficial to the people and it has lost its meaning. For example, the one for Isiolo, is supposed to have been for export purpose. However, right now, it is reduced to a slaughterhouse to manage slaughtering of animals within the county. So, as the rest have requested, I would request the Cabinet Secretary, because he was in Isiolo last week, to tell us the status of abattoirs in those counties. It would have been a life changer for people in pastoral areas.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, I direct the secretariat to put the questions that have not been responded to due to time constraints before the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. This is because they cannot wait until the next time that the Cabinet Secretary will appear before plenary.

These are urgent and weighty matters that the country is currently grappling with. Therefore, I will direct that the same be placed before the Committee so that the hon. Cabinet Secretary can be invited to appear before the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries for purposes of responding to those questions and a report be compiled and tabled before the Senate.

We will now move to Question No. 018, directed to the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Interior and National Administration.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, welcome back to the Senate, where you rightly belong, as you always say.

Question No.018 is by the Senator for Makueni County, Sen. Daniel Manzo. You may ask your question.

Question No.18

INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE DEATH OF
MR. SAMMY KYENGO

Sen. Maanzo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration the following Question.

(a) What are the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Sammy Kyengo, a construction worker who was reported missing on 6th September, 2025, and later found dead at Talanta Stadium construction site in Nairobi City County on 13th September, 2025?

(b) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the current status of investigations into the incident, including any preliminary findings on the cause of death?

(c) Have the police identified and arrested any suspects, and if not, could the Cabinet Secretary outline steps being taken to speedily identify, apprehend and prosecute the culprits?

(d) What form of support has the Government provided to the late Mr. Kyengo's family?

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

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

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as usual, I am very happy to be here once again to respond to questions by hon. Senators. In the interest of time, I will go straight to the responses because I can see time is far much spent.

(a) The Senator for Makueni County, Sen. Daniel Maanzo, has requested to be apprised of the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Sammy Kyengo, a 35-year old construction worker. The hon. Member particularly sought to be informed of three issues. The first was circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Sammy Kyengo. I would like to respond as follows—

On 10 September, 2025, at about 4.27 p.m., a report was made at Jamhuri Police Station indicating that Mr. Sammy Kyengo had not returned home after work. On 11th September, 2025, a missing person signal was circulated to all police stations across the country.

On 13 September, 2025, a report was made at Jamhuri Police Station by a casual worker at Talanta Sports Stadium construction site, stating that he had seen a body

floating inside a water sump located behind the terrace that was under construction. Police officers visited the scene, documented it and recovered the body.

A preliminary examination revealed injuries to the back of the head. The body was later identified as that of Mr. Sammy Kyengo who had been reported missing from the site on 6th September, 2025, at around 5.00 p.m. The body was moved to Nairobi Funeral Home for preservation and post-mortem examination.

Part (b) is about the current status of the investigations and preliminary findings on the cause of death. A post-mortem examination conducted on 16th September, 2025, revealed mild head injuries. The pathologist formed the opinion that the cause of death was consistent with drowning, although examination was limited due to decomposition. Specimens were collected during the post-mortem and forwarded to the Government Chemistry for toxicological analysis and results are still pending.

Further investigations included forensic analysis of the deceased's mobile phone records which showed that his last communication was with his father on the morning of 6 September, 2025, the day he went missing. Investigators also established that although the construction site had CCTV coverage, the internal camera that could have captured the incident had been disconnected due to ongoing roof installation works, while the gate camera did not provide useful footage.

A total of 11 individuals connected to the site were interrogated and their statements recorded. However, none provided information capable of advancing investigations significantly. The case remains under investigations by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

(c) The third question was whether any suspects have been identified or arrested and the response is as follows. A total of 11 individuals have so far been interrogated and their statements recorded. As of now, no suspect has been arrested in connection with the death of Mr. Kyengo. Investigators continue to pursue all available leads, including awaiting toxicology results and reviewing recorded statements and forensic evidence with a view to identifying any persons of interest and ensuring that any culpable individuals are brought to justice.

(d) Number four was support provided by the family of the late Mr. Kyengo. The National Police Service (NPS) has maintained regular communication with the family of the late Mr. Kyengo and has kept them informed at every stage of investigations. This has been done to ensure transparency, build confidence in the investigative process and assure the family that every effort is being made to establish the truth surrounding the death of their kin.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Ministry remains committed to ensuring thorough, impartial and professional investigations into all cases of unexplained deaths and will ensure that appropriate action is taken once investigations are concluded.

I thank you.

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

Any supplementary questions?

Sen. Maanzo: Yes, I do have a supplementary question.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Make it brief, please.

Sen. Maanzo: Yes, very brief.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, bearing in mind that Mr. Kyengo passed on while working at the famous Talanta Sports Stadium, it is not right that it has taken a year for the Ministry to do something to make sure that there is compensation for that particular person. Given the circumstances surrounding his work for the Government of Kenya as a casual worker, there should be some humane treatment for his family, so that his children and wife have a way forward while we await further investigations.

I thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Abdul Haji): Cabinet Secretary, you may proceed.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, there are two issues. One is that Mr. Kyengo, to the best of my knowledge, was not working for the Government of Kenya. He was working for the contractor for the Talanta Sports Stadium.

The second one is the question of extending support to his family by the same contractor. That would have been established if the Senate sought the information through either the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports which is involved in the construction of the stadium or the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. Ours is just to focus on investigations and ensure that justice is served.

I thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Abdul Haji): Thank you.

Sen. Madzayo, you may ask your supplementary question?

The Senate Minority Leader (Sen. Madzayo): Bw. Spika wa Muda, ningependa kumwuliza swali Waziri anayehusika na mambo ya usalama wa ndani katika nchi yetu ya Kenya.

Bw. Waziri, Mtwapa ni mji ambao unaendelea kupanuka usiku na mchana. Hivi sasa tuna watu zaidi ya 200,000 wanaoishi katika eneo hilo na ndio maana ikafanywa kuwa *municipality* mwanzoni mwa mwaka huu.

Kumekuwa na visa mbalimbali vya watu kuvunjiwa nyumba na wizi umeongezeka. Licha ya hayo kuna kituo cha polisi kimoja katika eneo hilo kinachosaidiwa na kile ambacho kiko Ndonya. Hata hivyo, askari hawawezi kudhibiti visa ambayo vinaendelea katika maeneo ya Mtwapa, Majengo na Kikambala. Hakuna *police station* nyingine---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Madzayo, sijui iwapo ulipata nafasi kumsikiliza aliyeuliza swali na kuangalia iwapo swali lako linaambatana na swali lililoulizwa. Kwa ajili ya wakati---

The Senate Minority Leader (Sen. Madzayo): Bw. Spika wa Muda, inahusu hali ya uhai wa Wakenya ambao Waziri anafaa---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sawa. Uliza swali lako ili Waziri aweze kujibu.

The Senate Minority Leader (Sen. Madzayo): Waziri, ni hatua gani ambayo umechukua kuhakikisha kwamba polisi wako kwenye hili jiji la Mtwapa na vifaa vya kuwawezesha wale askari kufanya kazi? Hakuna hata gari la polisi ilhali *population* ya watu ni zaidi ya 200,000.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Waziri, jibu kama unaweza.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Asante Bw. Spika wa Muda. Ningependa kujibu Kiongozi wa Walio Wachache Bungeni. Kwa mambo yanayohusu Mtwapa, ningependa kupewa swali rasmi ili nilete jibu ambalo litastahimili maswali ya ziada.

Pili, ni kweli kumekuwa na shida kidogo katika nchi nzima kwa sababu ya uchache wa afisa wa polisi ambao wanatumwa kufanya kazi katika sehemu tofauti. Lakini, tulifanya usajili mpya mwaka jana na wengi wao wamefuzu juzi. Kwa hivyo, sasa tuna uwezo na tutawatuma ili wape nguvu vituo tofauti vya polisi, kikiwemo cha Mtwapa.

Tatu, tuko katika harakati za kununua magari mapya. Magari yakiwa ya kutosha yatasaidia; hatutahitaji tena kuongeza vituo vya polisi kwa sababu magari hayo yatawasaidia kufika sehemu tofauti tofauti nchini.

Kwa sasa, hayo ndio majibu yangu kwa wakati huu. Nitakapopata swali rasmi, wale walioko kwenye idara ya polisi watatupa majibu yatakayostahimili maswali ya ziada ya Seneti.

Asante.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Asante Bw. Waziri.

Next is Question No. 020 by Sen. Shakila Abdalla.

Question No.020

DEPLOYMENT OF KDF PERSONNEL IN KIUNGA WARD

Sen. Shakila Abdalla: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to ask Question No.020 to the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration.

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary clarify the basis of deploying Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) personnel in Kiunga Ward Lamu East and outline their scope mandate and duration?

(b) Could the Cabinet Secretary clarify the measures in place to prevent human rights violations and enforce disappearance in Kiunga Ward? Outline the accountability mechanism for monitoring the conduct of security personnel and indicate whether independent investigations will be initiated into the reported cases of bombings, abductions, harassment and intimidation by masked officers.

(c) Could the Cabinet Secretary outline the measures being taken to restore normalcy and rebuild community trust in Kiunga Ward and detail the immediate and long-term interventions to protect livelihoods, stabilise the area and prevent further displacements?

Thank you.

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I will proceed straight to respond to the questions.

Part (a) is the basis for deploying the KDF in Kiunga Ward. Kiunga Ward is located in Lamu East sub-county has in recent years faced significant security challenges. The region is proximate to the international border with Somalia, an area historically vulnerable to cross-border threats including insurgent activities by extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab and other criminal networks that have exploited porous borders and remote terrains.

These threats have at times manifested in sporadic attacks targeting security forces and civilians alike contributing to instability in the wider Lamu-Garissa-Mandera border region. In response to these threats, the Government has maintained a sustained joint security presence in Lamu County through coordinated multi-agency operations aimed at protecting lives, property and economic activity including in Kiunga Ward.

Part (b) is measures put in place to prevent human rights violations and enforced disappearance in Kiunga Ward and the accountability mechanisms for monitoring the conduct of security personnel. The Ministry has instituted the following measures aimed at preventing human rights violations including enforced disappearance and strengthening accountability within the security operations in Kiunga Ward:

- (1) Compliance with the law and human rights standards- security officers are regularly sensitised through structured training, workshops and operational briefings on their obligations to uphold the Constitution, respect due process and adhere to established operation procedures. These programmes also cover ethical conduct, professional communication and conflict resolution to ensure that security operations are conducted in a manner that safeguards the rights, dignity, safety of all civilians.
- (2) Investigations on complaints and allegations - all complaints related to the alleged human rights violations including reports of enforced disappearance, abductions, harassment and intimidation incidents are subject to thorough investigations by the Internal Affairs Unit of the National Police Service.

In addition to the internal mechanisms, the conduct of security personnel is subject to external oversight by the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) which is mandated by law to undertake independent and impartial investigations into complaints against police officers.

Where credible allegations of misconduct arise, IPOA initiates investigations and recommends disciplinary or criminal proceedings against the officers found culpable. The Ministry remains committed to ensure implementation of the recommendations arising from such investigations and taking appropriate action where wrongdoing is established.

On community engagement; the Ministry through the National Police Service and National Government Administration officers continue to promote public engagements through community policing and Nyumba Kumi initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation and trust between security agencies and residents. Our officers are under instructions to engage local communities through open dialogue, public barazas and regular consultative meetings to provide platforms for residents to raise concerns, express grievances and seek clarification of security operations.

Members of the public are also encouraged to report security or human rights concerns through established and confidential reporting channels including the

Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) toll-free number 0800722203. I must emphasise this point that; without the support of local community, we would not have succeeded in combating the threats of Al-Shabaab.

For a good number of years now, we have a very robust programme that engages local communities. By just working with local communities, we can win this fight. This process should be continuous; I encourage the Hon. Member to also engage security officers through your good officers as a Member of the Senate to see how best you can provide a forum for the security officers to work with you and clear issues. All of them do not have to come to the Senate, some can be cleared on the ground when you have public barazas with the community and the security officers.

During the Jukwaa la Usalama engagement in Lamu, this issue also came up. We encouraged the county and sub county security teams to continue holding consultative meetings not just in Lamu, but also in Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit and other border counties where these challenges have been raised in the past.

Number C is measures being taken to restore normalcy and rebuilding community trust in Kiunga Ward and long-term interventions to protect livelihoods and prevent displacements. The Government has implemented the following measures aimed at stabilising the security situation in Kiunga Ward, restoring normalcy and rebuilding trust between security agencies and local communities:

1. Stabilisation of security in the area. Targeted security patrols and operations continue to be conducted to deter criminal activities, enhance public safety and create an enabling environment for residents to resume their daily activities without fear.

2. Strengthen communication and early warning mechanisms: Communication channels between the community and security agencies have been enhanced to ensure timely reporting of security threats and prompt response by law enforcement agencies. Local police commanders maintain regular contact with community leaders and stakeholders to improve situational awareness and facilitate rapid intervention when required.

3. Enhanced community engagement and policing: Security agencies have prioritised sustained engagements with local leaders, elders, youth representatives and other community stakeholders through consultative meetings and public barazas. These engagements are aimed at addressing community concerns, enhancing transparency and rebuilding confidence in security institutions. Community policing and Nyumba Kumi structures have also been strengthened to promote information sharing and collaborative approaches to addressing local security challenges.

4. Protection of vulnerable populations and livelihoods: Security operations in the area are conducted with due regard to civilian safety and protection of property with the objective of preventing unnecessary displacements and enabling residents to safely continue their livelihoods, including fishing, farming and small-scale trade. The Ministry is working in collaboration with relevant national agencies, the county government, as well as local leaders to ensure that essential services and economic activities are sustained.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the Ministry remains firmly committed to upholding human rights, ensuring accountability within the security agencies and safeguarding

safety, dignity and livelihoods of all residents in Kiunga Ward and across the country. I am also aware that through security committees, including the National Security Council (NSC)---

When we held public barazas, including Jukwaa la Usalama, there were recommendations for certain development programmes to be undertaken in Lamu. That will ensure that people feel part and parcel of Kenya and contribute to safety and security of their brothers and sisters who are hinterland, considering that that is a border county.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I know there is a plan to construct a road in Kiunga. I hope that that will be actualized by the Ministry of Roads and Transport. It is a request that was made through the Ministry in charge of security sector but to be implemented through the Ministry of Roads and Transport.

I thank you.

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

There are communications from the Chair.

(Interruption of Questions)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM MBITINI MIXED SECONDARY SCHOOL IN KITUI COUNTY

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Hon. Senators, I would like to acknowledge the presence of a visiting delegation of three teachers and 42 students from Mbitini Mixed Secondary School in Kitui County who are seated in the public gallery. The delegation is visiting the Senate for an academic exposition.

On behalf of the Senate and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the delegation and wish them a fruitful visit.

VISITING DELEGATION FROM NDURURUMO HIGH SCHOOL IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Hon. Senators, I would also like to acknowledge the presence of a visiting delegation of three teachers and 40 students from Ndururumo High School in Laikipia County who are seated in the public gallery. The delegation is visiting the Senate for an academic exposition.

On behalf of the Senate and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the delegation and wish them a fruitful visit.

(Applause)

Hon. Senators, because of time, I will not give any Senator an opportunity to welcome them.

(Resumption of Questions)

Sen. Shakila, do you have a supplementary question?

Sen. Shakila Abdalla: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. First, I thank the Waziri for his answers.

It is very unfortunate that cases of abduction, bombing, harassment and insults by the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) are continuing more so in Lamu East. Apart from this question, on 4th June, 2026, Siyu Village was vandalised and people were insulted. My question is yet to appear in the Order Paper, which is still in the Speaker's office.

On Friday 11th September, 2026, in Witu, a businessman called Mohamed Mire was abducted. That is a family man with nine children and a wife. His house was broken into. Six uniformed police officers with masks and armed threw a grenade, then picked him up and the children were beaten badly. How long will this continue?

It is unfortunate that officers from the Ministry went and caused damage, then threw the blame to the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) for them to investigate without a timeline, more so, when questions and statements are raised---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Shakila, please, ask your question.

Sen. Shakila Abdalla: The question I am asking is; why did the Ministry throw the blame of investigation to the IPOA after statements are raised by the Senate without a timeline then they come here and give us half-baked information, throwing the blame to the IPOA that they are still doing investigations? This question was from last year November. Up to date, no proper answers have been given.

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Let me say this. First of all, national security issues are sometimes very sensitive and require proper interrogation. Some of the issues that Sen. Shakila has raised are not within the Statement. Every incident is investigated independently to verify and establish facts before we provide them to Parliament.

Be that as it may, I agree with you that perhaps the IPOA should provide clear timelines on when to complete certain investigations. Since they exercise independent authority, that question can be directed to the IPOA. Alternatively, if it is deemed fit that the Ministry can respond on their behalf, that Question can be channeled through the Cabinet Secretary so that we can forward to the IPOA to provide us the necessary timelines for investigations.

Our interest is to ensure that the State fulfils its primary responsibility to protect its citizens. We cannot protect citizens by hurting other citizens. So, the process of law enforcement must always adhere to human rights principles and I agree with you entirely on that. However, when violations occur - given that the Inspector General of Police will not be there every day policing every police officer - the Constitution and the law provide clear mechanisms and for holding errant police officers accountable. Unfortunately, this accountability process can only be done by the IPOA.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you Waziri. Proceed, Sen. Kinyua.

Sen. Kinyua: Waziri, there is something you mentioned regarding the death of Sammy. You said that toxicological results are still not there and it is about seven months after the death. How long do toxicological results take?

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I think that is a different question because we had passed that. However, be it as it may, one of the challenges is equipping the capacity of our forensic laboratory. We are currently equipping it to ensure we can conduct toxicological tests locally. Sometimes we have to rely on private laboratories. In some cases, people even prefer to send samples out of the country.

The challenge is in the costing and budget processes to make sure that we get this. The good news is that we have been pushing for more resources so that the forensic laboratory at the DCI Headquarters can have that capability, so that we no longer have to rely on raising resources to get reagents and for us to have the results. That is the real challenge regarding toxicological results.

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

We will move to the next one, that is Question No.021 by Sen. Mohamed Chute.

Sen. Chute: Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I am wondering why Sen. Cherarkey is sitting on the minority side.

Anyway, let me proceed. I thank the Cabinet for being here today. I also want to thank him for the calm security situation in Marsabit. We have a Border Post Unit (BPU) in Moyale and a Quick Response Unit (QRU) in Badassa, Marsabit County. I thank him for that.

Question No.021

MANAGEMENT OF POLICE POSTS IN MARSABIT AND TURKANA COUNTIES

Sen. Chute: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the following Question to the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration:-

- a) What were the reasons for the closure of Administration Police (AP) camp at Kurkum in Marsabit County and could the Cabinet Secretary clarify whether there are plans to reopen the camp and if so, indicate the number of officers proposed to be deployed in the camp.
- b) Could the Cabinet Secretary also disclose the criteria the Government uses to allocate infrastructure development funding to police stations and security posts across the country and indicate whether installations situated in border and conflict-prone areas are accorded priority?
- c) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide a detailed assessment of the condition of housing, office infrastructure and basic operational resources in police stations and security posts in Marsabit and Turkana counties and also indicate whether

there are mechanisms in place to ensure proper and timely maintenance of those facilities.

- d) How much money has the Government set aside in the 2025/2026 financial year for infrastructural rehabilitation in police stations and security posts in Marsabit and Turkana counties and specifically, Illeret Police Post in Marsabit County?

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

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and National Administration

(Hon. Murkomen): It is now okay. I thought it was an opportunity for me to go to the Dispatch Box.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I will go straight to the responses.

I will give the reasons for the closure of the administration police camp in Kurkum and plans for its re-establishment. Hon. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the closure of the AP camp at Kurkum in Marsabit County was undertaken pursuant to the Government policy decision made in 2018 aimed at restructuring and streamlining the operation of National Police Service. The reform sought to enhance efficiency, strengthen command and control structures and optimise deployment of personnel across the country.

As part of this restructuring, AP camps that had been established at the ward level were consolidated and officers redeployed to sub-county headquarters to improve operational effectiveness. The reestablishment of the Kurkum AP camp may be reconsidered upon successful recruitment and training of additional police officers which has now been done who will thereafter be deployed proportionately across the country based on the prevailing security needs. Under this administration, we brought back the National Government Administration Police Unit, (NGAPU) hence there is a possibility of restructuring that to ensure that we have a presence of NGAPU officers' closer home.

Part two of the Question sought for the criteria used to allocate infrastructure development funding and whether border and conflict-prone areas are accorded priority. In September 2018, the Government adopted a policy framework for the reorganization of the National Police Service and provision of decent affordable housing for police officers. This policy introduced a shift from institutional housing to the payment of housing allowances to officers across the ranks, enabling them to secure accommodation within the communities they serve.

Following this policy shift of the National Police Service, the National Police Service ceased to receive a budgetary allocation for the construction, renovation or maintenance of police housing infrastructure. These responsibilities were transferred to the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, which is now mandated to plan and implement development projects related to police stations, security posts and associated facilities. Prioritization of the infrastructure projects, including those located in border and conflict-prone areas, is, therefore, undertaken within the planning and budgetary framework of the State Department of Housing.

We are currently working with the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development to construct 17,000 houses for the National Police Service and another 28,000 for the prisons officers. That collaboration is ongoing between us and the

Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development. Prioritization and identification of the areas for these projects is ongoing.

Part three of the Question sought for the conditions of Housing, office infrastructure and basic operational resources in police stations and security posts in Marsabit and Turkana counties. Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry acknowledges that the current state of infrastructure in several police stations and security posts in Marsabit and Turkana counties fall below the desired standards necessary for effective service delivery and optimal working conditions for police officers. In view of this, the Ministry is engaging relevant stakeholders and will be seeking additional budgetary allocations to support their rehabilitation, upgrading and construction of police infrastructure in these and other underserved regions.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the Government has made progress in improving infrastructure in the region. A modern office block at Laisamis Police Station has been completed and is currently in use. Additionally, construction of a residential block comprising of 12 type E housing units is ongoing in the same station in Laisamis.

Part four of the Question is on the funds allocated to the 2025/2026 financial year for infrastructure rehabilitation, including Illeret Police Post. Hon. Speaker, Sir, as I stated earlier, the National Police Service does not receive a direct budgetary allocation from the National Treasury for infrastructure development or rehabilitation of police stations and security posts. As such, no funds have been allocated in 2025/2026 and financial year for rehabilitation for development work, including Illeret Police Post. I recognize, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that these Questions came in the last financial year. I also dare say that there is no budgetary allocation even in the 2026/2027 financial year.

The Ministry remains committed to strengthening security infrastructure and improving service delivery across all regions of the country, particularly in historically marginalized and security-sensitive areas such as Marsabit and Turkana counties. However, the Ministry continues to face resource constraints that limit the pace at which critical infrastructure and upgrades can be undertaken.

In this regard, I wish to encourage the Hon. Member and other Members representing similar affected areas to consider prioritizing improvement of police stations, security posts and related facilities where permissible under the law. This does not apply to Sen. Chute. It applies to the Members of the National Assembly, who patronage the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NGCDF), which has been used in many areas of the country to build good police stations.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, Sir, part of the justification for retaining the NGCDF was to support both education and security infrastructure. I want to encourage Hon. Members of the National Assembly to consider improving the police stations. We continue working with them and we also do so during our *Jukwaa la Usalama*.

I am particularly sympathetic to the case of Illeret and in as much as we do not have a budget, we will find ways, even if it means doing it through friends, development partners and so forth, to support the Illeret because it is a marginalized community and it is situated in a fairly remote area and is underserved. I want to encourage Sen. Chute to pick this conversation between me and him in another forum, as shall be agreed between the two of us.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Waziri. Sen. Chute, I hope you are satisfied with the response to the Questions so that we can give another Member an opportunity to ask a supplementary question.

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

I am satisfied with the answers. However, for the benefit of the Senators who are here, Ileret is the furthest point in Marsabit County, and also the remotest.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Chute, I wish we really had the time to listen to you.

Sen. Chute: No, I just want to be specific. Just give me one minute.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Chute, please, I hope---

Sen. Chute: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I will be very specific. I just wanted to say that there is a column here that says police officers can get accommodation in the towns, cities or somewhere. However, in Ileret, what we have is Maasai design houses. Do you expect police officers to live in those houses? That is not possible. So, I just wanted to say the correspondence between the Ministry or Department of Housing and the police should continue. It is not a question, so that we would know exactly what is going to happen in places like Ileret and other places in Marsabit County.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Sen. Chute. Sen. Wambua, please proceed.

Sen. Wambua: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Before I engage with the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Murkomen, allow me, if the students from Mbitini Secondary School are still around, to join you and my colleagues in extending a hand of welcome to them and their teachers. This is the place where your Senator, who is also your incoming governor, sits with colleagues to process business, especially on matters of devolution.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, having said that, in the interest of time, CS Murkomen, the responses that you are giving to these questions, to be fair to all of us, are outdated. The questions were asked in the last financial year. A way should be found to make both the Questions and the responses relevant to the reality of our time.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Wambua, please go straight to your question.

Sen. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I am already where I wanted to be.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): If it is a comment you want to make, I will give an opportunity to somebody else who has a question.

Sen. Wambua: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, allow me, please, to ask my question and to ask it in the manner that I planned to. The question relates to the circumstances surrounding the disappearance and death of Sammy Kyengo. The Cabinet Secretary has said that investigations are ongoing, more than one year down the line. My question is, since he is supposed to provide policy guidelines to investigating officers, what is the policy guideline from his Ministry in relation to disappearances and deaths, which are piling every passing day? If one case takes two years, how much time will we take to have investigations completed on the hundreds of deaths that have been reported?

I thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): *Waziri*, you will bear with the Senators. Due to time constraints, the supplementary questions can cover any of the questions that you have already covered. So, if you can respond to that as well.

The Cabinet Secretary for the Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Quickly, on the question by Sen. Chute, I agree with him that that policy of 2018 perhaps may not have considered the police officers who are operating in areas like Ileret, Kibish, Kiunga, and other places that you may never get even a facility in the first place. The assumption was that most of the police officers are operating in areas with an urban settlement facility. In fact, it is even more interesting if you send someone to a place like Ileret, for example, did you expect them to go and build their own manyatas? We do not say that manyatas are less of good facilities for police. They are good for police officers, but are they going to build it for themselves? So, that policy, as we have said, with this housing programme, will have to be relooked at, to respond to the realities.

It is easier if the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) could be applied in such areas, so that as you build a police station, you build together with at least the housing for the police officers who are operating in that area. It becomes easier than to wait for the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development to do all the work. The Ministry also keeps making a case for the infrastructure fund. If we were successful, we would then prioritise marginalised areas where you cannot get a house to lease or affordable housing programmes because of the nature of location where they are.

On the question of disappearance, let me just say that generally from an investigation perspective, you cannot close the file just because you did not get evidence. The report of Mr. Kyengo that he drowned, if, for example, the drowning would be found to be without foul play and you have clear evidence, if the Closed-circuit Television network (CCTV) cameras, for example, had shown that he only fell from a building, then you would close the file and say, investigations are over. Unfortunately, and as you may have watched and seen, even globally, you do not close files where you have no evidence to enable to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to close the file. So, the file continues to be open. If new evidence is established, your action is going to be taken.

As we speak at the moment, however, the 11 people who are investigated did not give material evidence that can sustain any conclusion that someone has to be charged for that reason. Of course, there are people who believe within that area that it could have been an accident, he might have fallen from the building and so forth. However, again, the DCI cannot buy that. There must be clear evidence to show, whether it was an accident or there was foul play. That is why the file will be as open as possible for as many years as it can, until you can really find evidence that you can close the file.

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

We will move on to the next question by Sen. Catherine Mumma, Question 021. *Waziri*, when you are responding, if you could just please skim through the answers, in the interest of time.

Proceed.

Sen. Mumma: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, thank you. I hope my Question will be answered and not skimmed through.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Mumma, you are also a members of the Speaker's panel, and you realise that we are trying to manage time, and you already have the response.

Sen. Mumma: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I know that, but this is a very important Question, and it has taken quite a long time for the CS to come.

Karibu sana, CS. This is my Question.

Question No.030

GENDER RATIO ACROSS PUBLIC SERVICE SECTORS AND SCOPE
OF GBV GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary disclose the male to female ratio among individuals serving in each county as village elders, assistant chiefs, chiefs, deputy county commissioners, commissioners and regional commissioners?

(b) What is the male to female ratio among police officers serving in the various ranks within the National Police Service in each county?

(c) What policies and internal operational frameworks has the Ministry established to integrate gender considerations into its operations, specifically with regard to-

(i) ensuring compliance with the two-thirds gender principle in appointive positions across all ranks of the National Police Service; and,

(ii) protecting government officers from all forms of gender-based violence, while fostering service delivery culture that upholds gender equity?

(d) Could the Cabinet Secretary also provide details on the scope and effectiveness of all Government programmes and initiatives to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide generally, and explain the mechanisms in place for the successful implementation of the programmes and initiatives?

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

The Cabinet Secretary for the Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. In the interest of time also, I will go straight to the Question.

One, we have provided a table of the male-to-female ratio among individuals serving in each county as assistant chiefs, chiefs, deputy county commissioners, county commissioners and regional commissioners. For the regional commissioners, we have six male and two female. It keeps changing. For the regional commissioners, we have six male and two female. It keeps changing so by now it might have changed because people retire and are reappointed and so forth but this was by the time this statement was provided.

For county commissioners we have 44 male and five females. For the Deputy County Commissioners, we have 468 men and 130 females. For the chiefs and assistant chiefs, we have 8,917 men and 2,430 females. I do not think you had asked for village

elders but I will give you the answer. For village elders we have 78,740 men and 25,530 women. That makes it 104,270. Just to say here at this point that we are very proud that finally under this administration the village elders have been recognised formally. I am very excited about that because it was something we used to debate when I sat here some years back.

It is instructive to note that although the current male to female ratio does not meet the two-thirds gender principle as provided by the Constitution, the State Department has subsequently put in place measures to progressively address that imbalance. In particular, the Department has incorporated targeted recruitment aimed at increasing female representation in accordance with the Affirmative Action Implementation Programme. The upcoming recruitment exercise will continue prioritising gender balancing while maintaining merit and compliance with relevant public servant regulations for the public service. These deliberate efforts are expected to gradually align the Department's staffing composition with the Constitutional requirement that not more than two-thirds of members should be of the same gender.

The only thing that becomes debatable is which unit to use. Do you do that as per the whole country, you come and sit here and say there are 8,000 chiefs who are male, we reduce them or should we do that per sub-county, so that then we balance. Once you achieve the balance at the local level, the balance is achieved nationally.

Traditionally where we have come from, chiefs and assistance chiefs have in most cases been men, but as we progress women are now coming out. When those opportunities are seen during interview then affirmative action is done to make sure that that balance is achieved and that applies to the other cadre of public officers.

On the male to female ratio among police officers serving in various ranks within National Police Service (NPS) in each county, I wish to table data showing the distribution of male to female ratio among police officers serving various ranks across the counties. It was shared with you as an attachment.

Yes, the data was submitted and the men in the police service are 91,814 while females are 16,768. That was before completion of this recruitment. There was more; about 23 or 24 percent of police officers were women but that needs to be confirmed. So, the number that now alters the ratio after this pass out parade. At that point in time, we had 108,000 police officers.

On the question of compliance with the two-thirds gender principle, let me let me skim through that and say that it is progressively being achieved through subsequent recruitments and so forth. I do not know if you watched and followed the Jukwaa la Usalama conversations. There are areas that female officers are not deployed because of the challenges they face. There are certain formations where we do not put female police officers for obvious reasons. So that usually will continue altering the numbers based on the requirements that we need in dangerous areas and remote places, difficult places to operate where men because of their physical capabilities, can only be deployed. This will be for good order and for the welfare of the female gender.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, on protecting Government officers from all sorts of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the Service has put in place the following measures to ensure that GBV cases in the workplace is eradicated-

(1) Enforce key legislation that promotes gender equality and combats GBV, including the Domestic Violence Act, Sexual Offences Act and Prohibition of the Female Genital Mutilation Act.

(2) Integration of gender-based violence prevention response measures in the Standing Orders Procedures of the National Police Service.

(3) Development of Poli-care policy of 2021 that established poli-care centres within select police stations to offer integrated survivor centre support services and formulate the gender mainstreaming workplace policy aimed to promote gender equity and inclusivity.

(4) Establishment of 384 gender desks in police stations across the country. That will be increased as we progress.

(5) Implementation of the recruitment strategy progressively to bring in more women to service.

(6) Establishment of operational social support and counselling centres as well as strengthening collaboration with Government agencies and civil society organizations to enhance national response to GBV.

(7) Establishment of specialised units, including the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Child Protection Unit, Homicide Unit and SWAT to strengthen the capacity and response to GBV.

(8) Revitalising the community policy initiatives including Nyumba Kumi.

(9) Establishing crime reporting mechanisms, including the DCI line which I read earlier on and the Childline - 0722116166.

On the details on the scope of the effectiveness of Government programmes to address GBV, the enactment of GBV specific roles and policies has significantly strengthened investigative capacity of the NPS leading to more effective prosecution and successful arraignment of offenders in court. The establishment of specialised units, including a forensic laboratory and Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit, Transnational Organised Crime Unit and the Homicide Investigations Bureau has improved the investigations capacity in complex GBV cases.

Ongoing policy reviews have facilitated timely legal and institutional response to GBV cases. The wholistic integration of medical, legal and psychological support services has improved the quality of care provided to survivors and contributed to their quick recovery. The roll-out of 384 gender desks nation-wide has expanded the reach and efficiency of GBV responses at the station level and providing the safe numbers to report to DCI has also given opportunity to victims to report anonymously.

I thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Waziri. Sen. Mumma, you have a supplementary?

Sen. Mumma: Thank you, Cabinet Secretary for your response, which is good material and data for analysis. I would want to know whether your Ministry has an internal safety and security sub-policy on GBV beyond the operational policies of the police. I ask this because the response around teen pregnancies in this country falls below par.

It is reported that in 2025, we had 233 and beyond teen pregnancies. You are a lawyer and you know, these are defilements. Your office is the first response. The assistant chiefs and the police would be the ones to move these cases above. Many of them negotiate those children to marriage which is another offence. What policy do you have that specifically guides your officers, the chiefs and the police as the first responders in GBV matters?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Senator. We will take a supplementary question from Sen. Wamatinga Wahome.

Sen. Wamatinga: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. In the interest of time, I will be brief. I also wish to thank the Cabinet Secretary for the Jukwaa la Usalama initiative. Most of the issues we raised and the commitments made by the Cabinet Secretary have been implemented. However, there are police officers and other security personnel who have served in marginalised areas for more than eight years. You had promised that they will be transferred, as that is only fair.

These are young men and women who need the opportunity to reunite with and take care of their families. What is the Ministry doing to ensure that officers who have served the country in such areas for over eight years are transferred and given the opportunity to go back to their families?

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. First, our Ministry does not have an independent policy on Gender-Based Violence (GBV). In my view, the best approach is to address the issue nationally and holistically because the Ministry is responsible for enforcing past laws. These include the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2011; the Sexual Offences Act, 2006 and the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, 2015. It is from this legislation that we derive our mandate to support the National Police Service (NPS) in ensuring effective enforcement.

Administrators play a critical role through the security committee. At the county level, the County Commissioner is a member of the County Security Committee. At the local level, chiefs work closely with Officers Commanding Stations (OCSs) and other security personnel. The Ministry has ensured that administrators are trained and equipped to understand their responsibilities under the law, including reporting procedures.

A major concern, particularly in cases of defilement, is the practice of resolving such matters through kangaroo barazas. In some parts of northern Kenya, this practice is known as Maslaha. Where I come from they are called Kipkaa. These mechanisms are sometimes used to resolve cases of gender-based violence, including rape and defilement. Defilement can affect both girls and boys. There are instances where an adult woman abuses a minor boy and that still constitutes defilement under the law.

Our position is clear, that we have trained chiefs and assistant chiefs and will continue training village elders to ensure they understand this. While barazas may be used to resolve minor disputes, they are not appropriate for criminal offences such as rape, defilement or domestic violence. However, I appreciate the concerns you are

raising. It may be necessary to develop a policy to guide administrators within the Ministry on GBV matters and that is an area we can explore.

The second question was raised by Hon. Wamatinga regarding transfers. The issue came out strongly during the Jukwaa la Usalama engagements. The National Police Service (NPS) subsequently took up the matter. We agreed that upon the deployment of newly recruited police officers, the policy already pronounced that there must be a clear timeline for service in frontier areas. There is already a consensus that an officer should serve in such areas for a maximum of three to five years.

There is also a strong view among Kenyans that police officers should not remain in the same station for more than three to five years. This would help prevent overfamiliarity with local environments and reduce the risk of officers becoming part of the challenges they are expected to address. The Inspector-General of the National Police Service is finalising the matter. Now that the recruitment process is complete and the final pass-out parade will take place on Friday, I expect the Inspector-General in the next one or two months from now to implement that promise that we gave to the people of Kenya. This will also ensure that we give relief to our police officers who have served in hardship areas for five, 10 or 15 years. It is only fair that everybody is treated fairly. However, this will not apply to certain specialised formations. If you are specialised to serve in certain formations that can only serve in certain areas, a different approach will be applied. Officers are allowed to be in the field and are given a month or two off to be with their families then come back. This is because of their level of specialisation and training, they specifically provide security for certain areas.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, *Waziri*. You are not doing very well in terms of responding in a short period of time. So, I urge you as we go forward to keep it as short and precise as possible. We will move to the next question.

Sen. Hamida, please ask both your questions; Nos.046 and 052.

Question No.046

SHOCK-RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES FOR VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS

Sen. Kibwana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I will go right to my question.
Bw. *Waziri*-

(a) State what systems the Ministry has put in place to swiftly identify and support vulnerable households during floods, droughts, food shocks and other emergencies?

(b) What measures ensure Kenya's social protection system is shock-responsive, specifically interoperable databases, trigger mechanisms, emergency scale-up protocols and payment continuity during crises?

(c) Has the Ministry assessed the speed, accuracy and adequacy of social protection targeting in recent emergencies and what key findings and lessons have been drawn?

(d) What reforms, informed by comparative lessons from other countries, is the Ministry pursuing to guarantee rapid and fair support to affected households?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, can I go to Question 052?

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

Question No.052

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE NATIONAL
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2025-2030

Sen. Kibwana: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration the following Question.

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide a status update on the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy 2025-2030?

(b) Could *Waziri* state whether the Government has in place approved drainage master plans, flood-risk maps and emergency preparedness plans and, if so, provide details on the institutions and stakeholders involved in their development, as well as dates when such plans were prepared and last reviewed?

(c) What systems and coordination mechanisms exist to ensure the timely translation of adverse weather and flood-risk warnings into actionable measures, including pre-emptive evacuation of at-risk households and closure of flood-prone roads, among other mitigating interventions?

(d) Could the Cabinet Secretary also indicate whether a framework exists to facilitate the relocation of persons from designated flood-risk areas and, if so, clarify whether the framework provides for financial support to the affected population and, where applicable, to the host communities receiving them?

I thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Thank you, Senator. Hon. Senators, before the Cabinet Secretary proceeds, I shall be extending the sitting time to 1.15 p.m.

Cabinet Secretary, you may respond.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I know we are all pressed for time. So, I wish it was possible because we supply the answers, to only come here and make clarifications without having to read it to the record. I will try to skim through and hope Hon. Hamida will bear with me as I try my best.

On the question on the system that the Ministry has put in place to swiftly identify and support vulnerable households during floods, droughts, food shocks and other emergencies, there is a multi-agency team that was established in March this year by the Government.

The team comprises of members from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and the State Department of Special Programmes. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development provides information regarding the food situation in affected areas and special programmes and the Ministry of Public Service and

Human Capital Development is the one that will ensure that humanitarian assistance is extended.

Additionally, the Ministry receives donations of food and non-food items from well-wishers. That is the State Department for Special Programmes for purposes of support. Sometimes the Ministry of Interior and National Administration also receives food donations for us to distribute. The team is coordinated through the National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) under the Ministry of Interior and National Administration.

Two, on operationalisation of the Flood Command Centre, the Ministry also established the Flood Command Centre at the Ministry Headquarters. The centre is responsible for collecting and coordinating data received from national Government administrators across the country. Daily situation reports on persons and households affected by floods are transmitted to the centre through SMS and other communication channels to facilitate timely response and resource allocation.

Part (b) was about measures to ensure a shock-responsive social protection system, specifically an interoperable database, trigger mechanisms, emergency scale-ups, protocols and payment continuity during crisis. This matter falls under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. Therefore, we request that it be referred accordingly.

On the question of speed, accuracy and adequacy of social protection targeting recent emergencies, again, that is better served and answered by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

Finally is what reforms by comparative lessons from other countries is the Ministry pursuing to guarantee rapid and fair support to affected households. The newly enacted National Disaster Risk Management Act, 2026, will significantly strengthen disaster preparedness and response mechanisms in the country. The law establishes the National Disaster Risk Management Authority (NDRMA) that will provide a more robust institutional framework for supporting affected citizens. It further establishes regional and county offices to decentralise disaster response services and bring them closer to the people. In fact, it is intergovernmental in nature. The law recognises the role of county government across the country in this regard.

Additionally, the Act addresses staffing challenges that have affected emergency response operations by establishing a Disaster Risk Fund to ensure adequate resources are available to support citizens affected by floods and other disasters.

On the second question which was more elaborate, part one is on the status of implementation of the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy 2025-2030. That is very elaborate. I would like to say that this was launched officially last year in June, together with other line Ministries. The strategies are aligned with national and international frameworks, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Kenya Vision 2030, the Constitution of Kenya, the Disaster Risk Management Policy of 2017 and the National Climate Change Action Plan. All these provide strategies on ways and involvement of various actors in so far as this is concerned. The strategy also includes coordination that brings together national security council structures, line Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) that work on areas of disaster under the NDOC.

There is notable progress that includes disaster risk management priorities in the medium term matching them with the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) to monitor issues of disasters across the country.

Regarding part (b) about drainage master plans, the Government has put in place several frameworks to address flood risks and enhance preparedness, although implementation levels vary across counties and regions.

With regard to drainage master plans, Nairobi City has developed a flood resilience master plan valued at approximately Kshs47.2 billion, targeting improvements in drainage system, flood control infrastructure, climate resilience and urban development over the period of 2026 to 2028. Other urban areas have integrated drainage planning into broader urban master plans, while the National Water Master Plan, 2030 identifies key flood-prone basins across the country.

On flood risk mapping, the Government has developed county multi-hazard risk profiles, also known as hazard atlases, which inform planning and responses at the county level. In addition, basin-specific flood risk maps have been developed for areas such as Tana River and Lake Victoria basins at the community level. Geographic Information System (GIS)-based mapping initiatives have also been introduced to facilitate modern flood risk assessment which allows the Government and stakeholders to collect, analyse and interpret spatial data related to floods in highly detailed and dynamic ways.

In terms of emergency preparedness for the national response plan 2020, the National Emergency Response Plan, 2020 provides the overarching framework for coordinated response. County governments have also developed county emergency operations plans tailored to local risk profiles. These plans are coordinated by the National Disaster Operations Centre in collaboration with the key stakeholders, including the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), sector ministries and county governments. The plans are continuously reviewed and updated to reflect emerging risk and lessons learned from past disasters.

Part (c) is systems and coordination mechanisms for early warning and early action. Again, we have the ministries, departments and the KMD to give us early warning and information. We also create public awareness. In the Ministry we are using the National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO) to carry out public awareness and disseminate timely alerts to communities, engage communities to identify vulnerabilities and plan evacuations, educate the public on evacuation procedures and safety measures, activate preparedness and response plans at national and county levels and mobilise resources, including personnel, logistics and emergency supplies.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, regarding the impending *El Nino* phenomenon, it is important that this is adhered to. I request the people of Kenya to listen to the NGAO when they ask them to move from even their own personal homes. It is better to become a squatter for a short time; an Internally Displaced Person (IDP) or go live with relatives for the time being than lose lives. I am a witness of what happened along the Kerio Valley Escapement. We have instructed all the NGAO, including our chiefs and assistant chiefs, to ensure that citizens are evacuated in dangerous areas, so that when the rains come, we protect citizens.

Using Government departments, we will of course provide certain essential needs such as tents and food supplies. However, we need to ask our people to become alive to the advice given. If you are living in the Tana River areas and you have been warned, let us take it seriously. That is the same to Lake Victoria areas and many parts of the country that warnings will be delivered directly to your doorstep, to your chief and your assistant chief and now, your village elder. Please take it seriously.

The roads agencies especially the Kenya National Highway Authority (KENHA), Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) and Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) are now undertaking preventive measures. They play a key role when there is an impending disaster based on the early warnings by preparing proper drainage across the country.

On framework for relocation and financial support; I have summarised that a lot of this is budgeted for in different departments and through the Ministry of Public Service, Human Capital and Special Programmes. Food stuff and other personal needs that may be needed are given to those affected to ensure that they are protected in cases of disaster.

I think we have provided a detailed answer and so, in the interest of time, I will stop.

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

Sen. Kibwana: No.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Let us proceed to the next Question No. 056 by Sen. John Methu, which should be asked by Sen. Murango. Sen. Murango, you can also proceed to ask Question No. 068, which is your own question.

Sen. (Dr.) Murango: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, before I read this, perhaps the Cabinet Secretary should clarify one issue. I have heard you state that you are not building police stations due to budget constraints. In Kirinyaga County, we have Gitwi Police Station which was built in 2012 through the Local Authorities Transfer Fund (LATF). However, no officers have been deployed there. Perhaps you could clarify that. We have a population of over 13,000 people at Kirinyaga University.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I will first ask the Question by Sen. John Methu, my Secretary General.

Question No.056

INCARCERATION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF YOUTHS SINCE 2022

Sen. (Dr.) Murango: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the following Question on behalf of Sen. Methu.

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide statistics on the youths who have been incarcerated from 2022 to date, disaggregated by their counties of birth, age and gender?

(b) How many of the incarcerated youths were imprisoned due to involvement in criminal gang activities, violent extremism, political goonism and

related offences, and could the Cabinet Secretary indicate the minimum, average and maximum jail terms imposed by courts for the offences?

(c) Could the Cabinet Secretary outline the rehabilitation programmes currently being offered to incarcerated youths, and provide details on the specific skills being taught, the type of certification awarded upon completion and the number of youths who have successfully completed the programmes and been reintegrated into society from 2022 to date?

(d) What interventions is the Government implementing to curb involvement of youths in crime?

I will now ask my own Question.

Question No.068

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVALENCE
IN KIRINYAGA COUNTY

Sen. (Dr.) Murango: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration the following Question.

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide statistics on the prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse in Kirinyaga County and outline actions taken to combat the menace, which has been identified as a major contributor to mental health issues and suicide cases in the county?

(b) Which facilities has the Government established in the county to provide psychological and rehabilitation services to individuals dependent on alcohol and drugs?

(c) Are there plans to establish additional support facilities within the county and, if so, could the Cabinet Secretary provide details on the same?

(d) Could the Cabinet Secretary also state the steps taken by the Ministry to secure additional funding for alcohol and drug abuse interventions, and disclose any joint initiatives with development partners and the private sector?

I thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration (Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen): Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, in the interest of time, I will go straight to the answers.

Question No.056

INCARCERATION, REHABILITATION AND
REINTEGRATION OF YOUTHS SINCE 2022

The total number of youth incarcerated since 2022, disaggregated by their counties of birth, age and gender, has been provided in our written response. Since the Member has the answers, I will present a brief summary as follows-

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A total of 121,000 youth have been incarcerated in correctional facilities across the country between 2022 and 2026 as follows-

In 2022 there were 20,000; 2023 they were 27,000; 2024 they were 31,000; 2025 there were 21,000 and January to April, 2026 when the question was presented the number was 7,000. The details of county segregation are provided and the hon. Member has the list.

Regarding how many of the incarcerated youth were imprisoned due to involvement in criminal gang activities, violent extremism, political goonism and related offences, the total stands at 11,000 individuals: Criminal gang activities are 9,959 individuals, with males forming the vast majority at 9,816, and 143 females. On violent extremism, there are 676 individuals, comprising 653 men and 23 women. Concerning political goonism, the number is 1,189 individuals, comprising 1,053 men and 136 females. This data serves as clear evidence for those who claim that the police are doing nothing to arrest goons.

As you can see, 1,189 individuals have not just been arrested but prosecuted and incarcerated. Sentences imposed by courts for the above offences vary depending on the gravity of the offences committed. The prison terms range from as short as two days to indefinite sentences, including life imprisonment and death penalty, where applicable under the law. The average definite custodial sentence imposed upon youth offenders was approximately four and a half years.

Part (c) of the Question was on rehabilitation programmes. A total of 4,610 youths have successfully completed rehabilitation programmes while serving custodial sentence since the year 2022. The Kenya Prison Service (KPS) currently offers a broad range of rehabilitation integrated programmes aimed at equipping youth offenders with practical skills, behavioral transformation and employability competences.

These programmes include counseling and psychosocial support, formal education at primary, secondary and adult education level, vocational and technical training, creative arts and tailoring, sports and recreational activities, mental health support service and specialised treatment programme, including sex offenders treatment programmes. Vocational and technical skills training offered include welding and fabrications, carpentry and joinery, electrical installation, masonry and plumbing, motor vehicle mechanics, coding and robotics, gaming and animation and fashion and textile design.

Upon successful completion of the training programmes inmates are awarded national recognition certificates to support reintegration and employment opportunities upon release. These include Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) certificates, national industrial training certificates, technical and vocational education training certificate, digital literacy and technology certificates and certificates of completion for behavioral and life skill programmes.

On interventions that the Government is implementing to curb involvement of youth in crime, Hon. Speaker, the Government has employed the following interventions to curb the involvement of youth in crime.

One, implementation of the county action plans on preventing counter violent extremism in hotspot counties.

Two, expand youth empowerment initiatives to reduce unemployment. These include youth enterprise and use of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), Ajira digital programmes, affordable housing programmes, employment opportunities, Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project (KYEOP), Climate Works Programme (CWP) and the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement Programme (NYOTA).

These are some of the programmes that the Government has set up. We also have housing programme. I know that Sen. Methu was a great defender of youth employment though I have not heard him talk about it of late but I believe he is still an advocate of youth employment through the housing programme.

Number three is increased access to vocational training institutions and technical skills development programmes to equip youth with employment and employable skills in areas such as ICT and digital skills, automotive engineering, construction trades and agribusiness.

Number four is intensified operations against criminal gangs, drug trafficking networks and organised criminal groups involved in recruiting and exploiting young people. Hon. Chair, the Government recognises that youth involvement in crime is driven by a combination of economic, social, behavioral and security related factors. Consequently, the interventions being implemented focus not only on enforcement but also prevention, rehabilitation, skill development, environmental engagement and socioeconomic empowerment to provide sustainable alternatives for young people. That is insofar as Sen. Methu's Question is concerned.

Question No.068

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVALENCE IN KIRINYAGA COUNTY

I will move to the answer for the Question by Sen. (Dr.) Murango which seeks for statistics on the prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse in Kirinyaga County and actions taken to combat the menace.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, Sir, according to survey conducted by National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) in 2022, 17.5 per cent of Kenyans aged 15 to 65 years were currently using at least one drug or a substance abuse, 11.8 per cent, which is 3.2 million, were currently using alcohol, 8.5 per cent which is 2.3 million, were currently using tobacco, 3.6 per cent, which is 964,737, were using Khat, 518,807 were using cannabis and 0.2 per cent, which is 60,000 were using prescription drugs.

The NACADA is planning to undertake county-specific surveys to provide county-based data on drugs and substance abuse for all 47 counties. However, enforcement data indicates that there is a problem of drugs and substance abuse in Kirinyaga County. In 2025, statistics show that 112 kgs of cannabis and 9,410 litres of illicit alcohol were seized in Kirinyaga County.

The Government has undertaken the following measures to combat alcohol and drug abuse menace in Kirinyaga County-

(1) Establishment of Kirinyaga County NACADA Programme's Coordination Office brings service closer to the people. The office works in close collaboration with the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) and other security agencies.

(2) Strengthening Kirinyaga County's Multi-Agency Committee on Control of Alcohol and Drugs, chaired by the County Commissioner. The Committee brings together two levels of government to ensure that there is proper coordination.

(3) Multi-agency enforcement crackdown on counterfeit and illicit alcohol on drugs in the county.

(4) Targeted public education and advocacy campaigns towards demand reduction in learning institutions and the community and grassroots institutions through roadshow caravans and *barazas*.

(5) Rollout of positive parenting programmes to equip parents with knowledge and skills to deal with these issues.

(6) Leverage on sports, talent development and entrepreneurship to provide constructive alternative to drugs.

(7) Partnering with youth organisations such as *boda boda* riders to deal with this menace.

(8) Partnering with religious leaders and clergy across the denominations to leverage on their influence in shaping values and guiding young people.

In reference to facilities that the Government has established in the county to provide psychological and rehabilitation services, there are three private own treatment and rehabilitation centres licenced by NACADA in Kirinyaga County. They are-

(1) Azriel Counselling Rehabilitation Centre in Mwea, Kimbimbi.

(2) Mwea Serenity Counselling and Treatment Centre in Kagio, and;

(3) Prompt Rehabilitation Centre.

Azriel Centre is accredited by NACADA where the two have been advised on areas of improvement, so that they can achieve their accreditation.

There are plans to establish additional support facilities in the county. Indeed, all the governors have been requested to provide land to build public rehabilitation centres. Therefore, once Kirinyaga County confirms availability of land, the Government will establish a public treatment and rehabilitation centre. That was then. By now, the information I have is that they have provided the land. So, the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development under the Affordable Housing Programme are going to help in building a rehabilitation centre in Kirinyaga in the provided land by the county government.

In regards to steps taken to secure additional funding for alcohol and drug abuse interventions and joint initiatives with development partners on the private sector, the Ministry is implementing a multi-pronged strategy to secure funding for alcohol and drug abuse interventions.

(1) The Ministry is working closely with the National Treasury to secure increased budget for the NACADA and related agencies.

(2) The Ministry has proactively sought an expanding collaboration with international partners to supplement the Government resources.

(3) The Ministry is promoting public-private partnerships through strengthening partners and stakeholders programme on resource mobilisation.

I thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir.

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

Hon. senators, we only have two minutes. So, I will give two Senators to ask a question. If the CS can answer, he will answer. If not, you will have to go to his office and get further clarification.

So, Sen. Dullo and Sen. Joe Nyutu please ask your questions, very briefly and to the point.

Sen. Dullo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir and *Waziri*. I have two issues. Number one, the issue of my shooting is still with the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI), six months down the line. Kindly take away that issue and deal with it. It is really very sensitive.

Number two---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Sen. Dullo, please ask one question.

Sen. Dullo: It is a bit sensitive and urgent. We have three people who were killed this morning in Isiolo County. Although we have discussed, I hope a serious intervention is going to be done, especially Gotu area, which is a hotspot area. If we can have something there, we will really appreciate.

Sen. Joe Nyutu: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. My question relates to the CS's response on incarcerated youths and especially those that have been arrested for political goonism. My question to you, Hon CS, through the Speaker is, what are you doing to see to it that besides arresting goons, that the sponsors of the goons are also arrested and action taken against them? We have seen goons in this city saying that they have executed the job as given by the Governor of Nairobi City County. What are you doing to see to it that as you charge youths with terrorism, that the police do not weaponise this to charge youths who may not be in support of the Government?

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

Cabinet Secretary, because of time, we will have to stop there. I would probably urge your office to see the two Senators and clarify on those matters raised.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Abdul Haji): Hon. Senators, it is now 1.15 p.m. and having concluded the business for which I extended the hours of sitting pursuant to Standing Order No.34(2)(A), the Senate stands adjourned until later today, Wednesday, 16th September, 2026, at 2.30 p.m.

Thank you.

The Senate rose at 1.17 p.m.

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