



THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT
THE SENATE
OFFICIAL REPORT



Fifth Session

Wednesday, 23rd September, 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 23rd September, 2026

*The House met at the Kilifi County Assembly
Chamber, Kilifi County, at 9.31 a.m.*

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

PRAYER

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AT COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Clerk, do we have quorum? Serjeant-at-Arms, kindly ring the Quorum Bell for 10 minutes.

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

Hon. Senators, we now have quorum. Serjeant-at-Arms, you may stop the Bell. Clerk, you may call the first Order.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

QUESTIONS

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, we had expected to have four Cabinet Secretaries appearing before Plenary this morning. We expected the Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Education, the CS for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, the CS for ICT and Digital Economy and the CS for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports. Now, the CS for ICT and Digital Economy, the CS for Education and the CS for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs are accompanying His Excellency the President in New York for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Therefore, they will not be able to appear before the Senate for purposes of responding to the Questions that have been posed to them.

Question No.010

STATUS OF BLUE ECONOMY PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN
BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN KISUMU COUNTY

(Question deferred)

Question No.077

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN THE BLUE
ECONOMY IN KILIFI COUNTY

(Question deferred)

Question No.065

CIRCULATION OF FALSE EMERGENCY INFORMATION, DIGITALLY
MANIPULATED CONTENT AND IMPERSONATION OF
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OR OFFICIALS ONLINE

(Question deferred)

Question No.081

PREVENTION OF ONLINE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

(Question deferred)

The Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports is the one who will be appearing before us this morning. However, he did not get an early morning flight out of Nairobi. He will be landing here in Malindi at about 10.30 a.m. Therefore, we expect him to be in the Chamber earliest at 11.00 a.m.

With this, we have prepared a Supplementary Order Paper, which is being circulated in the next few minutes, so that we transact other business as we wait for the CS in charge of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports, who will come to respond to four Questions. This is Question No.053 by the Senator for Nyandarua, Sen. John Methu; Question No.069 by Sen. Hamida Kibwana and Question No.078 by the Senator for Kilifi County.

So, once the CS is here, we will be alerted and we will come back to Order No.7. For now, we will switch to the Supplementary Order Paper.

Clerk, can you confirm that the same has now been circulated to the honourable Senators?

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

POINT OF ORDER

NON-APPEARANCE OF CABINET SECRETARIES BEFORE THE SENATE

Yes, Senator for Kakamega.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while we agree with you that the hands of the Senate are tied because of the Cabinet Secretaries accompanying the President to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), let it also be on record that we are not comfortable with that. Kenya is not a failed state where seven Cabinet Secretaries can accompany the Head of State to the UN General Assembly and the responsibility that they are going to discharge is to sit in the background when the President is reading a statement.

The Parliament of Kenya should be disturbed because this not only has a bearing on the efficiency of how our government is run, but it also has a financial implication. This is to the extent that there are return tickets running into millions of shillings, Principal Secretaries (PSs) and other senior Government officials have accompanied them, together with their security and all manner of retinue. This is assuming that Kenya is running on autopilot.

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

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to respectfully disagree with Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale. We had the chance to serve with him in Cabinet many years ago, and he knows that there are many side meetings whenever the Head of State travels out of the country to do policy discussions. In those side meetings, agreements are made, and I have it on record because I have participated in the past. Whenever we accompany the Head of State, if it is a ministry and there are agreements to be signed, you have separate side meetings and you are able to execute. This is so that in the same trip you multitask; you do many things at the same time, instead of coming back and going.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to urge Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale to also tell the other side of the story, that we need to assist the country to move forward in the most---

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Mungatana, would you wish to be informed by the Senate Majority Leader?

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I know that he will give me useful information.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Sen. Mungatana, I wish to inform you, even as you pursue your line of thought, that Sen. Boni Khalwale is my good friend and I have had the opportunity to travel with him. However, the kind of side meetings you are talking about are not the ones that interest Sen. Boni Khalwale. So, he would not know what you are talking about. I have gone with him to Geneva and other parts of the world and we have attended other side meetings, not the ones that you are talking about. So, be careful as you discuss about the side meetings that he attends.

So, just be properly informed.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Mungatana, can you conclude your thoughts, please?

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am not sure if the information from the Majority Leader was very useful but on a very serious point, honourable Members, because we are occupying an important position to inform the public that when we are going, it is not true that the only duty that the Cabinet Secretaries execute is to sit behind the President and just pass notes. So, I just wanted to inform the public.

Thank you, Speaker.

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

Sen. Sifuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want Sen. Khalwale to relax because this, as you know, is the last UNGA for the Kenya-Kwanza Administration. Sen. Boni, I suspect that you will be in the next trip to UNGA next year. So, I just want you to relax.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think what Sen. Khalwale was attempting to do is just register our disappointment. Yesterday, as a Member of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, jointly with the Committee on Energy and Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources, we had an opportunity to visit the Kilifi Central Fish Landing Site, a project that has raised quite a number of concerns from the fishermen themselves and the residents of the area. I had given an undertaking that the CS for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs would be here, so that I can directly ask him those questions on behalf of the people. They are very worried, especially the young people there who have not been given any assurance that they will be the ones given priority to work there. We were told there was going to be a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement or arrangement to run the place. People are worried.

Sen. Mungatana was there and you heard the concerns of the beach management units and the area residents. It would have been a very useful conversation to have. I wish we had information yesterday, as the Senate, that this gentleman would not be around. You know, you, him and I used to be friends. I think you and I are still friends. Since I still follow him on social media, I saw him a post late night that he was in the City of New York.

The most interesting thing Kenyans have noted is that this Government delegation has never taken a walk in our own capital, the way they are walking around in other capitals. I have never seen CS Joho walking around in Nairobi because, unlike the United States (US) that has invested in the security of their cities, the infrastructure, roads and pavements, we are doing very badly. How I wish, Majority Leader, that as Kenya Kwanza Administration walks out of power - we want to see them walking out. We want to escort them out as they go when they have put in place security and infrastructure that allows for non-motorised transportation in our country.

Other than that, is just to register the disappointment, on behalf of the young people and the fishermen that spoke to us yesterday at the fish landing site and hope that we will have--- I do not know how long UNGA lasts; I am in the opposition.

(An. hon. Senator spoke off record)

Yes, the UNGA, I know is maize meal. I do not know how long it will last, but we hope that we can be directed to the earliest possible date that we can have those conversations with CS.

I thank you, hon. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Thank you. We will leave it at that and move to the Supplementary Order Paper.

(Interruption of Questions)

BILL

Second Reading

THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO.29 OF 2003)

(Sen. Cheruiyot on 22.9.2026)

(Resumption of debate interrupted on 22.9.2026)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Now, when debate was interrupted yesterday, the honourable Sen. Karen Nyamu had the Floor and she had a balance of five minutes. I do not see her in the Chamber and, therefore, the Floor is open for debate. Any Senator wishing to debate, you may queue.

Sen. Boni, proceed.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to strongly support this Bill. Just to set the record straight, the Senator for Mombasa thinks that fish only exists in an ocean. He is shouting here that there is no fish in Kakamega.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it helps during debate for us to broaden the knowledge of Members. Fish can be found in an ocean, a lake, rivers like in the River Nzoia in Western; the River Isiukhu in Kakamega, River Rukose in Kakamega, and the River Ekoha in Ikolomani. Fish can be found in ponds, and for the information of the Member who needs this useful knowledge, you can also do fish farming, as many farmers are doing. I, therefore, want to support this Bill. However, the biggest contribution I want to make is based on the experience I gained yesterday from the Beach Management Unit (BMU) at the Kilifi Central Fish Landing Site; a very ambitious project, which we all must be proud of.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Boni, would you wish to be informed by Sen. Omtatah?

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Yes. Sen. Omtatah comes from Lake Victoria in Busia.

Sen. Okiya Omtatah: Hon. Members, Kakamega County is one of Kenya's leading centres of pond-based aquaculture, and it is recorded as the highest fish producer in terms of fish farming in the Republic.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. King): You may proceed, Sen. Boni.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope the Senator of Mombasa has heard that loud and clear. Senator for Mombasa, if you were to ask the Senator of Marsabit, who has been to my home, he will tell you that I am farmer, and I live on my farm.

Sen. Faki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to debunk this knowledge by Sen. Khalwale that Kakamega grows a lot of fish. You know their staple food is Ugali and chicken. So, how can you be having fish in your background when you are always on ugali and chicken?

The Speaker (Hon. King): Sen. Faki, the honourable Senator for Busia has given very useful information and statistics on how Kakamega is doing as far as it is one of the leading exporters of fish. You do not need to have fish for purposes of domestic consumption. You can get into fish farming as a business, and I think that is what Kakamega farmers have done.

Senator for Kakamega, you may proceed to conclude your thoughts.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know what is itching the Senator for Mombasa. The Senator for Mombasa was in Ikolomani not more than two months ago, and I remember him feasting on chicken, mutton, beef and fish. I want to invite him to come to my farm in Malinya, where I not only have dairy animals, bull-fighting animals and poultry, but also a fish farm, where I started off with 75 fingerlings. Now, I run in thousands. These are the things we do in the background, but we do not shout about it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so that we could be respected as people who live rural lives, Kakamega is the highest producer of fish that is grown in ponds. We produce 16.5 per cent of all the fish that is harvested from fish ponds, but that is not my message. My message was the fish landing site at Kilifi Central. I was there with the Senator for Tana River, and it is a fantastic project. It is very well done and finished. There is no doubt that it is going to be a success, but there is a serious audit issue.

Here is a project about fisheries. Fishing, as you know, colleagues, is fully devolved. It is a project for the County Government of Kilifi. The World Bank released Kshs275 million towards this project. Somebody came from the national Government - in fact, two people - one from the Ministry of Interior and National Administration and another one from the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development. They went and played their poker there, and they ended up implementing that project. So, the project is here in Kilifi and the Governor of Kilifi is just a spectator. The people who implemented the project are some tomcats from the national Government; which is completely unconstitutional. So, now the Governor of Kilifi is being invited to come and join them when they are trying to tell Parliament what has been going on. This we must refuse, as Government.

If the money came from the World Bank as it did, we, in this House, converted that money into additional allocation. How did the national Government end up spending

money which this House passed as additional allocation and built the project? That Principal Secretary (PS) knows me because I have worked with him. Shame on you! What is going on in this country? People in senior positions cannot stop the temptation of wanting to jump and hijack a project for personal gain. It is just that there are remaining only nine or 10 months. Otherwise, these are people who should have been removed from office, and they should be found to have fallen short of the Leadership and Integrity Act.

The Governor of Kilifi is now going to start facing pending bills when he will want to be constructing. What is more, at these projects, we talked to villagers and fishermen, and they told us that when these guys came from Nairobi - Senator for Bomet, you know them, but you do not know their names - they came to site the project. So, they came during a season when the sea water had moved---

An hon. Senator: Receded.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Yes, receded, that is the English word. The sea water had receded. So, they came, sited the project, bla! bla! bla! and then they started. Now, when the project was up and going, the sea water came and landed where it was. So, they had to look for an additional Ksh45 million to now put a sea wall. Reason? There was no public participation because they wanted it to be hush, hush, for them to get away with the money and go to Nairobi, so that they become rich. How lucky are you? In which life are you going to spend that money? Which one? This one of 68, 70 years old? Will you be able to spend this billion in a year? You are lying. We are going to catch you up next year at the general election.

I support, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Eddy Oketch.

Sen. Oketch-Gicheru: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for this opportunity. Because this is also my first contribution in this House since we came to Kilifi, allow me to extend my gratitude to the warm welcome we have received here, of course, starting with your own courtesy as a leader in this community and region. It has been amazing being here. I also wish to recognise the Governor of Kilifi County and the County Assembly of Kilifi. The visits we have had so far, including visiting different projects in Kilifi County, have been amazing.

I also hope that conversations such as this Bill will highlight some of the problems affecting this community, so that the Senate can voice them and ensure that they are solved. Yesterday, we did not get an opportunity, as you had promised, to comment on some statements. However, because I do not want my contribution to this Bill to be irrelevant, I still wish that we could get a chance to highlight some of the issues raised in the statements we had yesterday.

That said, I appreciate this Bill because it would reform and rethink the entire fishing industry. As presented, the Bill proposes measures that would significantly help the fisheries industry. I have heard people bragging about fish production in Kakamega. However, it would be unfair to say that Kakamega is the highest fish producer. The highest producer, in terms of wild catch, is not Kakamega. Wild catch refers to fish harvested directly from lakes and rivers without any farming practices. We also have inland fish farming. I cannot even brag about my own county, Migori County, because the largest producer of fish in Kenya is Homa Bay County. In terms of wild catch, Homa

Bay still leads at about 75 per cent. This can be verified through the Ministry. In terms of inland aquaculture, Homa Bay also leads because it hosts some of the largest fish farms.

The biggest fish farm currently operating in Kenya is Victory Farms. It is an investment that I am well versed in because I have engaged with it a number of times. I believe it is also among the leading fish farms in the region and on the continent. It competes with a farm in Ghana. The second fish farm that is also doing very well, which is very close to my heart because it is home-grown, is Rio Fish, which is in Suba South and it has a plant based in---

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

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): What is your point of order, Senator for Kitui County?

Sen. Wambua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleague, the Deputy Minority Whip seems surprised that I am raising a point of order. We have students in the House. I am hearing Senators cite different figures and contradicting numbers. What is the source of these numbers, so that we do not confuse the students and mislead the nation?

Today, when the Senator for Migori County speaks, Homa Bay County is leading. When the Senator for Kakamega County speaks, Kakamega County is leading. I am very sure that when the Senator of Kericho County stands, he will say Kericho County is leading. What is the source of these numbers, so that we do not confuse the students and mislead the nation?

I thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Senator for Migori County, as you continue with your contribution, you may indicate the source of those statistics for accuracy purposes.

Sen. Oketch Gicheru: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. My source is the Kenya Fisheries Services (KFS) that produces annual reports. If the Senator for Kitui County wishes, I can share the report that I am reading with him. I will table it when I get a chance to print it. It is also common knowledge. We are in a country where commerce is doing very well. If one does not know Victory Farms or Rio Fish, then that is problematic. These are major cornerstone enterprises, just as one would think of Equity Bank or KCB Bank in the financial sector.

That said, I am not saying this to compete over who is right or wrong. I was citing these players in the fish market because of the substance of this Bill. It is through interaction with such enterprises that one can identify the challenges and opportunities that this Bill seeks to address.

The Bill proposes the establishment of new agencies. These agencies are at the cornerstone of some of the challenges that these farms face. In fact, the Bill seeks to rethink the sector because we already have the Kenya Fisheries Service. However, the Bill proposes repurposing it, so that it can help cultivate an environment that attracts venture investment. This is one of the biggest problems facing fish farmers in this country. Like any other business, fish farming requires a venture culture and a platform through which those engaged in fish farming, whether inland farmers or those involved in fish cage farming, can access investment opportunities.

Fish cage farming is currently widespread in Lake Victoria and some of our other lakes. What unlocks the potential of these fisheries practices is the ability to cultivate a

venture culture. This requires an institution capable of developing rules and regulations, establishing standards, defining contractual obligations and ensuring that contracts between farmers and the potential venture capitalist in these markets are honoured.

We cannot depend solely on the Government for financing, assistance and inputs to develop farms. Therefore, the Bill is right in proposing a strengthened Kenya Fisheries Service that can enhance investor confidence. The Bill also talks about monitoring, control and surveillance in these planting units. If you have ever visited some of these farms, one of their greatest challenges is ensuring proper surveillance in the lake where the farms are. People steal fish in areas where major investments have been made.

Victory Farms, for example, directly employs about 1,000 people and supports about 700 others through fish distribution depots across the country. Today, its presence can be seen in Nairobi, across Western Kenya and in many other regions. Without proper monitoring, control and surveillance, such farms cannot perform effectively. This is exactly what the Bill seeks to address.

Mr Speaker, Sir, although I have stated that Homa Bay is the largest producer of fish, the success of inland fish farming is dependent on the availability of quality fish feed. On this point, I wish to credit Kakamega County because it has some of the best fish feed plants in the country. These are major contributors to the fisheries sector. Many of the companies producing feed for fish farmers across the country are based in Kakamega. Even so, they continue to face challenges arising from lack of standards and surveillance. So, this is one thing that is essential in this Bill. We must support it because it will help build the supply and demand of fish.

Lastly, because of time, I want to stress that in as much as I support this Bill, if you look at all these agencies that have been created, my only worry, and I will submit some amendments to it, is that they are heavily focused on the national infrastructure. If you look at the way the board of the Kenya Fisheries Service (KFS) is structured, it is heavily put on the national Government--

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): I will give you an extra minute to conclude your thoughts.

Sen. Oketch-Gicheru: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on these agencies that have been proposed in this Bill, can we try and make sure that we do not lose the texture of devolution? This is because if we have all these bodies, like what we did in the Kenya Sugar Act, where the major agencies are just national heavy, it defeats the purpose of devolution. Agriculture is devolved. It is therefore important to review all these agencies. This will make sure that devolved units and beach management units (BMUs) are empowered through representation and the structure. This will ensure that our counties take control of the fishing industry. Other than that, I support and look forward to moving my amendments in the subsequent reading.

Sen. Kathuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity to make a few remarks on this Bill. I want to support it as was moved by the Senate Majority Leader. While we are discussing these issues on fisheries management, I also agree with my colleagues that I wish that the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs was around. This way, we could engage on issues of Kilifi, Mombasa, Kwale and Lamu and give them something positive. So, I wish we could have

synchronised what is being done in the United States of America (USA) and what we are doing here.

We have discussed these fishing matters in the coast region from yesterday afternoon. Today, I still see that Senators are interested in discussing them. I remember during the former President Kibaki's regime, there were economic stimulus projects. Some of them involved fishing factories in the constituencies at that time, because counties were not in peace.

Where I represented as a Member of Parliament (MP), we have a fish factory which was constructed during that time. However, to date, no fish has ever been processed. So, as we engage this Bill, noting that it has come from the National Assembly, it is also important for the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to check the counties that the National Assembly visited to get views from the stakeholders.

I perused a bit while seated here. For sure, the Committee only visited the coastal counties and the others with lakes like Turkana and Baringo, but they did not visit rural countries like Kakamega, which is leading in inland fish farming. Counties like Meru and Nyeri also have a lot of good rivers which produce very specific type of fish.

Sen. Kinyua talked about the exploitation of savannas. So, I wish that the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries will check what was done by the Committee of the National Assembly and do more value addition to us and to the farmers who are interested in fish farming.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the concerns that have been raised include the license framework. That is what farmers and stakeholders in the fishing industry are asking for. That is whether this multiple licensing can be harmonised, so that it can be a bit flexible and cheap. This is because currently, it is not possible to know exactly where to go for these licences.

They are also arguing about revenue sharing. This Bill is trying to manage how our fisheries will be done. I want to thank His Excellency the President for coming up with a State Department of Blue Economy and Fisheries. This is because in Kenya, we are far from exploiting what we have in our rivers, lakes and oceans. Those in charge, the Cabinet Secretary (CS) and Principal Secretary (PS), who is a good and working lady, should make sure that we have stock of fish in all the rivers that we have.

Since the Senate is in charge of devolution, I wish the Committee would be interested to meet with the Council of Governors (CoG), so that they can also give their input on this Bill. Agriculture is devolved. Therefore, there is nothing much that can be done in the management and farming of fish without the involvement of the county governments. So, there is a lot that the Committee, led by the able Chairperson and active Members can do. I wish they will be able to get to the bottom of this matter. Devolution can only be supported and encouraged by the Senate. There is nobody else who can know whether the governors exist, except the Senate. We have had fights with the National Assembly in sharing of revenue because they do not want more money to go to the counties. So, there is no way they will be advocates.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Kathuri, would you wish to be informed by the hon. Senator for Tana River?

Sen. Kathuri: Senator for Tana River is a very renowned farmer who has a lot of knowledge on matters fishing. I asked yesterday whether crocodile farming is included in this Bill, because *yeye ni mla mamba*.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Mungatana, you may proceed to give the information.

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Thank you. The honourable Senator from Meru is a good man that we respect. The point of information I want to give is on the issue of licensing that he mentioned. Lake Tanganyika fish farmers are able to export about 2,000 tonnes through the airport of Kenya on a monthly basis because of a very nice regime of licensing. However, the Kenyan fish farmers and the BMUs in Unguja Bay, Lunga and on this side, are unable to take *omena*, put it on DHL or FedEx, yet the demand is very high. There is no licensing in Kenya. It is forbidden to take fish out but Tanzanians in Lake Tanganyika bring their fish and it is taken out through the airport at Nairobi, yet our own farmers cannot do that.

I want to inform the Senator for Meru that the issue of rigidity of licensing in Kenya is bordering on foolishness to the disadvantage of our fish farmers. It makes no sense at all for you to take your fish to Tanzania and bring it to Nairobi than to take it directly from Nairobi because they will not give you a licence here.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Kathuri, you may proceed and conclude your thoughts, please.

Sen. Kathuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, but I think I had a good opportunity yesterday to hammer this point. Thank you, Sen. Mungatana, for actually giving more information to my contribution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know where the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is. I can look at those issues. The Vice-Chairperson is here, so they can get the right information. I do not want to cast aspersions, but when matters like these are being discussed, in my experience, the Members in the 'Lower House' call the chairpersons of those committees and they are always available to take notes and to listen to Members. However, we speak here for three hours and the Chairpersons and the Vice-chairpersons are not available. It is not good practice.

As the Chairperson of the Senate Liaison Committee, let me encourage chairpersons to be available to listen to the thoughts and minds of Members when we are discussing these views. That is why I am talking as a leader. I am asking them to be available, as much as is practically possible, so that they can listen to the views of Sen. Wambua. You had very good thoughts yesterday and so do the other Senators who are contributing to this Bill.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much.

(Interruption of debate on the Bill)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Thank you. Before we proceed, allow me to make this Communication.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**VISITING DELEGATION OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FROM
SIR ALI BIN SALIM COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IN KILIFI COUNTY**

Hon. Senators, I would like to acknowledge the presence of a visiting delegation of five teachers and 51 students from Sir Ali Bin Salim Comprehensive School in Kilifi County, who are seated in the public gallery. That school actually shares a fence with this County Assembly. 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 OF STUDENTS FROM ACK BISHOP
KALU SECONDARY SCHOOL IN KILIFI COUNTY**

I would also like to acknowledge the presence of a visiting delegation of one teacher and 11 students from ACK Bishop Kalu Secondary School in Kilifi County, who are also 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 request the Senator for Kilifi County, in under one minute, to extend a warm welcome to both delegations.

The Senate Minority Leader (Sen. Madzayo): Asante, Mstahiki Spika. Kwanza, ninajiunga nawe kuwakaribisha wale walimu watano ambao wamekuja katika Seneti kujionea utaratibu wa kazi. Vile vile, ninasema karibuni kwa wale wanafunzi waliokuja kutembea pamoja na mwalimu wao kutoka shule ya ACK Bishop Kalu.

Tuliweza kusaidia shule hii ya ACK Bishop Kalu Secondary wakati ilikuwa inaanazishwa na Bishop Kalu. Kwa hivyo, ninajivunia shule hii. Kwa walimu pamoja na wanafunzi katika delegations hizi mbili, ninawambia kuwa hawa ndio Maseneta wa Kenya na mmejionea wenyewe kazi inavyoendelea. Kazi yetu hapa ni kujadiliana na kutetea hali za kaunti zetu kokote kule ambako Maseneta hawa walikochaguliwa.

Asante sana, Bw. Spika.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Thank you, Sen. Madzayo.

Now, hon. Senators, the Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports is present. Therefore, we will pause the debate on Order No.8 and go back to Order No.7. Once we are done with the Cabinet Secretary, we will revert to Order No.8 and proceed with the contributions of the hon. Senators on the Bill that was moved by the Senate Majority Leader.

(Resumption of Questions)

Now, we have three Questions and I want to believe that the hon. Senator from Nyandarua is present; I can see him. Sen. Hamida Kibwana; I can see her and the Senator for Kilifi County.

[The Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Salim Mvurya) was ushered into the Chamber]

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, welcome back to the Senate. Of course, we expected you early in the morning, but you had called yesterday that you would be slightly late. You are before the Senate Plenary for purposes of responding to three questions, one by the Senator for Nyandarua, another one by Sen. Hamida Kibwana and the third by the host, Sen. Madzayo.

We will start with Question No.053 by the Senator for Nyandarua County, Sen. John Methu.

Hon. Senator, you may now proceed to pose your Question.

Sen. Methu: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. First of all, I am very grateful to be back in Kilifi, where I was sharpened for four years. I attended my higher education at Pwani University, and I am happy to see also my schoolmate, Mr. Jacob Fikirini. He is my younger brother, because he came to school after I left, only that he is a bit older than me.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

QUESTIONS

Question No.053

COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

Sen. Methu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, the Creative Economy and Sports the following Question.

(a) Could the Cabinet Secretary outline the policy and institutional framework guiding the coordination of youth empowerment interventions and indicate the mechanisms in place to ensure that eligible youth are adequately informed of these opportunities?

(b) Could the Cabinet Secretary explain the measures in place to avoid duplication and ensure coherence among youth empowerment funds, credit schemes, enterprise programmes and employment initiatives implemented by the national Government, State agencies and county governments and provide the number of beneficiaries reached under each programme in Nyandarua County and across the other counties?

(c) Could the Cabinet Secretary provide a breakdown of the annual budgetary allocation for each of the programmes and initiatives since 2022, along with the amounts disbursed and report on the benefits of the programmes and initiatives in each county where they have been implemented?

(d) What policy measures has the Ministry put in place to ensure equitable access to these programmes by youth in rural, marginalised and underserved areas, as well as by young women, youth with disabilities and other vulnerable categories?

(e) What measures has the Ministry put in place to ensure effective monitoring, evaluation, accountability and long-term sustainability of youth empowerment funds and programmes and what measurable outcomes have been recorded since their implementation?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Salim Mvurya): Thank you very much, Rt. Hon. Speaker and Members of the Senate for inviting us here in Kilifi. It is very refreshing and it also suggests good progress.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, and Members of the Senate, I rise to respond and read the following statement. It is my great pleasure to respond to the Question raised by Sen. Methu.

The response for part (a) of the Question is as follows: The policies guiding the coordination of youth empowerment interventions across the institutions under the State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy are the following -

- (i) the Constitution of Kenya;
- (ii) the Kenya National Youth Development Policy 2019;
- (iii) the Vision 2030 Blueprint, and the Fourth Medium-Term Plan;
- (iv) the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda,
- (v) the Youth Enterprise Development Fund Legal Order No.63 of 2007,
- (vi) the Refugees Act 2021 for Refugee and Host Community Programming and NYOTA,
- (vii) the National Youth Council, Cap. 132, the East Africa Youth Policy,
- (viii) the African Youth Charter, the World Programme of Action for Youth,
- (ix) the Technical, Vocational Education and Training Act of 2013.

The State Department has undertaken certain mechanisms to ensure eligible youth are adequately informed of these opportunities which include-

(1) Deploying youth development officers to all 47 counties, media engagement through talk shows, media briefs, among others;

(2) nationwide sensitisation, awareness validation and rollout campaigns conducted across counties for our programmes;

(3) engagement of youth through programmes such as the NYOTA and also Vijana Vuka na Afya (VIVA);

- (4) engagement of youth during the National Youth Week and International Youth Day between the 6th and 12th August every year;
- (5) dissemination of information through various social media platforms;
- (6) distribution of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials and translating IEC materials into Braille;
- (7) official Government platforms; and,
- (8) collaboration with universities, film schools and also industry events and stakeholder engagement.

The measures in place to avoid duplication, ensure coherence with other youth empowerment funds, credit schemes, enterprise programmes and employment initiatives implemented by the national Government, state agencies and governments include-

(1) multi and interagency coordination and joint programmes for direct oversight and stronger coordination to prevent overlapping mandates, such as NYOTA, Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) are all anchored under the Ministry to prevent overlapping of mandates;

(2) identification of beneficiary systems in programmes like NYOTA, which use the ID as a unique identifier;

(3) strategic partnerships and Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with county governments, ministries and agencies to ensure alignment of both local and national efforts;

(4) synergy among institutions within the Ministry and across projects. For example, the NYOTA and YEDF serving as a scaling partner for other Government projects. For instance, International Youth Opportunities Tour as an advancement project and the YEDF will provide expansion loans specifically for youth who have already received initial start-up grants from the project; and,

(5) institutional alignment with national policy to ensure consistency and reduce fragmentation. For example, the Youth Enterprise Development Fund strategic plan is anchored in the National Youth Development Policy 2019 and Vision 2030. This ensures that the mandate of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund complements rather than competes with other state interventions such as the Uwezo Fund and the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF).

The number of beneficiaries reached under the on-the-job experience component of the National Youth Opportunities Tour as advancement in Nyandarua County and across the other 26 counties are as follows-

Lot one cluster has seven counties of Nakuru, Narok, Bomet, Kericho, Nyamira, Homa Bay and Kisii with 14,848 youths. Lot two cluster has seven other counties of Kisumu, Migori, Kakamega, Bungoma Vihiga, Busia and Siaya with 16,549 youths. Lot three counties are Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Taita Taveta and Kwale with 8,443 youth. Lot four counties are Kirinyaga, Embu, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Nyandarua, and Murang'a with 11,764 youths.

This brings the total number of beneficiaries in session to 51,604 out of the targeted 90,000 across the 47 counties. All the 14,848 beneficiaries in Lot one are currently awaiting placement into apprenticeship programmes scheduled to commence. In

fact, it already commenced in April following the successful onboarding of host organisations.

Preparations for the rollout of the remaining lots have been finalized, including the execution of contracts with service providers. The remaining rollout is, in fact, already taking place. The remaining lots that have also made good progress are Lot five, Lot six, Lot seven and Lot eight, bringing together counties of Isiolo, Samburu, Marsabit, Turkana, Laikipia, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Baringo, West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans Nzoia, Mombasa, Kilifi, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, Tana River, Lamu, Nairobi, Kajiado and Kiambu.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, basically, we have now made a tabulation of all counties and the numbers that accrue to each of the counties for the on-the-job experience. Nyandarua County has 1,750 youths in this programme.

This list is very long; I beg that we make reference to it. Part two of that list is the business startup capital disbursement by county where we have given the number of beneficiaries the startup capital and the savings. Further, you will also find that Nyandarua County has 1,607 beneficiaries who have been given Kshs35 million for startup with Kshs4.8 million as savings. This list runs through all the 47 counties. For the benefit of all Senators, it is a list that can be referenced, so that we can see where we are in that programme.

Under part (c) of the Question, we have also been asked to provide a breakdown of the programmes and their budgets and we have done a tabulation. We have provided the programme on NYOTA, where we did not have a budget in the Financial Year 2022/2023 and also Financial Year 2023/2024. However, we had a budget in the Financial Year 2024/2025, and Financial Year 2025/2026 which we have provided.

We have also provided the Vijana Vuka na Afya (VIVA) budgetary allocation and the amount that has been disbursed. Programme number three is for highlighting youth talent, which did not happen for three consecutive financial years but it had a small budget in Financial Year 2025/2026.

We have the youth empowerment centres, with itemised budgetary allocation and what has been disbursed so far. Then, we have the President's Award Kenya, which also has a budget and an indication of what has been disbursed.

Going to the other issues of marginalisation and the vulnerable categories, these are what we have put in place to ensure equity-

(1) Decentralised services operating through youth development offices to reach youth in rural and remote areas, thus reducing the need for expensive travel to seek services in Nairobi.

(2) Targeted products like the Youth Enterprise Development Fund offering specialised products like the VUKA, Talanta loans and group-based lending that are youth-targeted and NYOTA reaching out to youth with education levels below Form Four. The disbursement of NYOTA is through the phone and, therefore, it provides a good platform for equity.

(3) Reservation targets of 50 per cent for women and five per cent for youth with disabilities in the Project Appraisal Document, with the age extended to 35 years for persons with disabilities.

(4) Childcare support facilities for lactating mothers, flexible schedules and transport proximity support, where feasible, being implemented during the socio-economic skills development training component of NYOTA; transparent eligibility and selection criteria for a programme that is online; use of mobile digital submissions to reach remote areas; collaboration with county governments, universities and training institutions across the country; gender-specific modules, thus making our programmes gender-responsive; flexible collateral requirements for our loan products, utilising soft collateral such as group guarantees, household business assets and flexible repayment terms; conventional securities like land title deeds; dedicated inclusion of refugees and host community youth in Garissa and Turkana for the NYOTA Project; regional quotas or representation targets to ensure realisation of non-discrimination and protection of the marginalised and partnerships with local organisations to identify vulnerable youth to benefit from the youth programmes.

Part (e) of the Question is asking us to provide measures for effective monitoring. The measures in place to ensure effective monitoring, evaluation, accountability and long-term sustainability of youth empowerment programmes are as follows-

(1) Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system linked to its Strategic Plan with clearly defined indicators, targets and reporting protocols to track performance and outcomes;

(2) development of long-term plans with clear implementation matrices;

(3) implementation progress is tracked through quarterly and annual reporting cycles supported by performance contracts and annual work plans, thereby strengthening institutional accountability and transparency;

(4) loan monitoring and credit risk management. A structured loan monitoring, supervision and recovery framework is in place, including beneficiary follow-ups to ensure proper utilisation of funds and compliance with repayment obligations. Struggling youth-owned or youth-run enterprises are supported with capacity building and financial restructuring by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund to enhance sustainability;

(5) capacity building for enterprise sustainability. Mandatory pre-financing training and continuous entrepreneurship development programmes equip beneficiaries with essential business management skills, improving enterprise viability and resilience;

(6) sustainability through partnerships, sponsorship packages and linkages; and,

(7) proposed establishment of a National Youth Talent Award Scheme, as indicated in our draft Youth Bill, 2025.

Measurable outcomes have been recorded since their implementation. Here we have a schedule where we have outlined each programme and the measurable outcomes-

(1) NYOTA implementation outputs so far include nationwide business support investment of US\$2.5 billion to 101,721 youth in the first tranche; nationwide Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) awareness and screening across all 47 counties; towards certification of 20,000 youth; and successful completion of the 20-day induction training across 14 counties, with training ongoing in 13 more.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will note that this statement was sent earlier, so these numbers are now revised because we have moved forward with this programme. The latest World Bank review dated 4th August rated progress towards achieving the Project

Development Objective (PDO) as satisfactory and the overall implementation progress as moderately satisfactory, while several long-term outcome indicators are still maturing because full intervention cycles are not yet complete.

(2) On the programme of Vijana Vuka na Afya (VIVA), over 201 health professionals from public health facilities were trained on youth-friendly services. The measurable result is improved youth engagement in health outcomes, equity and inclusiveness. The project also builds capacity among youth by training 183 peer educators and 330 community advocates, equipping them with leadership and communication skills.

(3) The project onboarded 40 public health facilities to enhance access to sexual and reproductive health services and over time, these interventions contribute to reduced rates of preventable diseases, improved health-seeking behaviour and increased awareness of personal and public health issues. Economically, healthier youth are more productive and better positioned to pursue education and employment opportunities, thereby contributing to community development.

(4) Currently, there is ongoing training for 4,500 youth in ICT, Ajira and digital literacy in the VIVA implementation counties. It is envisaged that this will provide youth with digital income opportunities in the long run. The Who's Next Talent Search Programme benefits 1,000 youth in the pilot counties.

On the Youth Enterprise Development Fund-

(1) Enterprise creation and expansion: Over 1.3 million youth have accessed financial support to start and expand businesses, contributing to increased entrepreneurial activity nationwide.

(2) Employment generation: The Fund's interventions have facilitated the creation of over 2.1 million jobs, both through self-employment and additional employment opportunities within supported enterprises.

(3) Enhanced access to finance: The Fund has disbursed approximately Kshs15.27 billion in loans, significantly improving access to affordable credit for youth who were previously excluded from the formal financial system.

(4) Skills development and capacity building: More than 2.5 million youth have been trained in entrepreneurship, financial literacy and business management, strengthening their ability to establish and sustain viable enterprises.

(5) Improved livelihoods and economic empowerment: Beneficiaries have reported increased incomes and improved living standards as a result of access to finance and business support services.

(6) Strengthened youth groups and social capital: The Fund has supported the formation and growth of youth groups engaged in collective economic activities.

(7) The Kenya Film School trained and graduated 266 students.

Directorate of Film Services: Increased youth participation in film production projects, training and mentorship of young creatives, production and dissemination of documentaries supporting Government programmes. This Strengthen national audio-visual documentation and preservation,

The National Youth Council-

(i) Over 10,000 youth leaders are trained on leadership and governance, civic responsibility and national values.

(ii) Five thousand youth engaged in promoting patriotism, peace building and community service.

(iii) Over 20,000 youth engaged in leadership dialogue forum.

(iv) Over 5,000 youth engaged in environmental conservation initiatives.

(v) Ten thousand youth mobilised to commemorate the International Youth Day.

(8) The Youth Empowerment Centers: A total of 7.5 million youths have access to youth-friendly services such as access to ICT, guidance and counselling on drugs and substance abuse, harnessing talents of youths and innovations and HIV prevention, among others, through the Youth Empowerment Centers since the Financial Year 2009/2010.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with that statement, I so submit to the Senate. Thank you very much.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Senator for Nyandarua County, do you have any supplementary questions?

Sen. Methu: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I, indeed, have one supplementary question. However, allow me to, first, say that the response that the Cabinet Secretary has given before us this morning, in my opinion, is very satisfactory. He put some effort in trying to answer the questions that I raised. This has been well answered unlike all the other times that we keep complaining that the questions have not been well answered.

From the submission that has been made by the Cabinet Secretary, you will note that the disbursement that has been made by the Government is running into billions of shillings. A case in point is the programme that was brought out the other day which has disbursed about Kshs2.55 billion to the young people who are about 101,000.

The other money for start-up and saving is also running into billions. The Youth Enterprise Fund (YEF) is running into billions. My question is part of what I had asked. I think it escaped the response from the Cabinet Secretary. How are they integrating and working with all the other elements of Government, so that this money ends up in the intended purpose?

For the NYOTA Fund, the money that was going to an individual was about Kshs22,000. If they do not work with the other Government agencies like our devolved units, they will end up using more than half of this money in the process of starting a business and not the business itself. In some of our county governments, a license goes for up to Kshs10,000 yet someone has been given Kshs22,000 to start up a business. More than half of that money will end up being used to register the business. What is the Ministry doing to harmonise and work with the devolved units to help people who are benefiting from these start-up capital start up these businesses?

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, just note down that question, so that you take a couple of questions before responding.

Sen. Oketch Gicheru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Thank you, Cabinet Secretary for a comprehensive feedback through what you have read and the documents that you have shared which have more depth.

My question is closely related to what Sen. Methu has asked. When I read the document, I felt that there is intention by the Ministry to develop a number of follow-up mechanisms by employing youth development officers in the counties. Their work is to note and follow up the successes of these businesses. However, the fact is that it is not there. My question is, in the absence of this and in the current implementation metrics, what mechanism is the Ministry using to ensure the success rate of these businesses?

Could the Cabinet Secretary give us an eye-view position in terms of the success rate so far in terms of establishing these businesses? Where none exists, what is the intention in the near future? I ask this because some of these businesses should be established in the soonest way possible. They are actually micro-businesses and small and medium businesses. Therefore, starting them should not take too long. What is his projection so far in terms of the success rate that we are going to have with these businesses?

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Hon. Senators, be direct, ask the question and keep it short.

Sen. Joe Nyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity. You have directed that we go directly to the question but sometimes, it is important to build the base of a question, with your permission.

The major problem we have with the youth in this country is that they are not fully informed of the opportunities that exist for them in terms of training and funds. While addressing that, the Cabinet Secretary has said that they do media talk shows and media briefs. Could the Cabinet Secretary name a few talk shows that sensitise the youth about availability of these funds and even training opportunities?

There are times when you will find some youths next to a technical training institute but they do not actually have information on the opportunities that exist. Could the Cabinet Secretary name a few examples of known media talk shows and media briefs that have been given to sensitize our youth?

Sen. Miraj: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Ninampongeza Waziri kwa kutupa ufasaha katika majibu yake. Ningependa kumjulisha ya kwamba ukumbi wa *the Little Theatre Club*, Mombasa, ni mkongwe na ni wa kipekee katika mkanda wa pwani. Huo ukumbi umeshughulikia wasanii katika ukanda huu.

Je, Waziri anaweza kutueleza wizara yake inafanya nini au imefanya nini kuweka tathmini ya kina kuhusu pendekezo la kubadilisha ukumbi huo kutumika kama kituo cha mafunzo tukizingatia ya kwamba miongoni ya ilani ya Serikali ya bottom-up ni sekta ya ubunifu, sanaa na utamaduni wetu.

Ahsante Bw. Spika.

Sen. Wambua: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. The response from the Cabinet Secretary is dated 10th June. Page five of that document talks about things that are supposed to be happening in April, 2026.

I believe this document, good and well-presented as it is, is a bit out-dated. So, I want to find out from the Cabinet Secretary if there are plans from his office to update this statement for all of us, so that the young people can take full advantage of the opportunities available for them.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Sen. (Dr.) Khalwale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Young Kenyans hearing the answer from the Cabinet Secretary this morning will be forgiven for thinking that this is addressing the problem of the youth. The NYOTA programme is limited to children with education up to Form Four and below. What is the Cabinet Secretary doing about the 1.6 million Kenyan youth aged between 20 and 29 years, with the university education and are jobless?

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

Sen. Ogola: I thank the Cabinet Secretary for the broad presentation that he has given us this morning. However, does he have particular measures and activities that he is putting in place to engage the emerging goonism amongst the youth that we are picking in the country? I have said this publicly, that the goons are a creation of politicians who want to cover their ineptness. However, later that must be thrown back to you.

As a Ministry, are you crafting particular activities that speak to this culture, especially because we are also facing elections and need to have activities that engage them? Do you even have an inventory of the goon-prone areas to help you design activities that speak to them?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Senator for Tana River County, the Hon. Mungatana, please proceed.

Sen. (Dr.) Mungatana, MGH: Asante, Bw. Spika. Ningependa kumshukuru Waziri kwa very comprehensive answer ambayo ametupatia. Swali langu ni kwamba, sisi ambao ni jirani, tuna kijana anaitwa Salim Mbarak, ambaye jina lake la usanii ni Sirslee. Sirslee ndio mwanamziki au msanii anayetoa nyimbo za utamaduni Tana River nzima. Hata, hakuna mtu anayefika kiwango chake.

Nilitembelea studio yake wiki mbili au tatu zilizopita. Huwezi kuamini mazingira anayofanyia kazi. Salim Mbarak ndiye aliyetoa wimbo ambao ulishika kasi wakati wa kampeni za Rais wetu wa sasa, Mhe. Ruto. Je, Waziri, ukisema hizi senti zinasaidia wasanii na watu wa talanta zinatembea Kenya, ni watu gani hawa?

Kama Tana River, haimsaidii Sirslee production, kwa upande wa wanamziki na wanatalanta, ni nani zinamsaidia? Hizi pesa zinaenda wapi? Tunataka kujua. Wala si Tana River peke yake. Hata hapa Kilifi County, kuna wasanii, mabloggers na watu ambao wana talanta na tunawajua na kuwaona katika mitandao. Ukisema hizi pesa unazotoa zinatembea, zinaenda wapi hapa Kilifi? Tueleze. Je, kwa nini mnafanya hicho kitu Nairobi? Kwa nini msikuje hapa, muonge na magavana na viongozi, na muweke katika kila Kaunti Shilingi milioni 50, kwa ajili ya kukuza talanta? Kwa nini mnafanyia Nairobi tu? Mtawajuaje hawa watu? Mnawajua watu wa Kilifi kushinda Gavana Mung'aro? Mnawajua watu wa Tana River kuliko sisi ambao tuko pale? Mnawajua watu wa Kaunti ya Mombasa kuliko--- Jamani, kwa nini mnafanya mambo hivyo? Tuelezeni, ni nani ambaye anafaidika Tana River County ikiwa Sirslee hayuko?

Asante, Bw. Spika.

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

Sen. Faki: Asante, Bw. Spika. Ningependa pia kujiunga na mwenzangu, Sen. Mungatana, kutoa malalamishi kwamba, hapa Kilifi ni kaunti ambayo imeboresha beach

football, au mchezo wa kandanda wa beach. Jambo la kusikitisha ni kwamba, mwaka jana, kuna team ambayo ilikuwa iende ikawakilishe nchi katika mashindano ya beach football.

Hawakuweza kwenda huko kwa sababu ya upungufu wa fedha. Mwaka huu, mwezi huu wa tisa, kulikuwa na timu ambayo ilitakikana kuenda Libya kwa michezo hiyo ya beach football, lakini hawakuweza kuenda kwa sababu ya ukosefu wa fedha. Sasa, Sports Fund ambayo ilianzishwa inafanya kazi gani na inasaidia michezo gani? Tumeona kwamba mambo ya beach football mara nyingi yanafanyika katika ufuo wa Bahari wa Kenya. Kisumu pia wanazo fuo za kucheza beach football.

Beach football imeboba zaidi hapa katika eneo la Pwani. Je, Waziri, unafanya nini kuhusu kujenga viwanja vya beach football? Pili, kwa nini hizi timu mbili hazikuweza kusafiri kuenda kuonyesha mchezo wao wa beach football katika hayo maeneo manne niliyoyataja?

Asante, Bw. Spika.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Senator for Trans Nzoia County, the Hon. Allan Chesang, please proceed.

Sen. Chesang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to also ask one question, and thank Sen. Mungatana for asking a question that I intended to ask.

Secondly, for the responses that the Cabinet Secretary has presented to us, I feel like he has not responded on Question No.053(d), on the policies and measures the Ministry has put in place to ensure equitable access to these programmes. Apart from the NYOTA Programme, which is a World Bank programme in partnership with the Government, there are other projects that pass under procurement. For example, the stadia programmes and other Government programmes and initiatives.

I want to understand the equitable measures that the Ministry has, to make sure that it covers all the counties because apart from these other programmes, I have not seen Trans Nzoia County in any of the other programmes that the other counties benefit from. So, what programmes does the Ministry have in those other initiatives?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Abass, the Senator for Wajir County, please proceed.

Sen. Abass: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I thank the Cabinet Secretary for the elaborate information. This county is known for its sports and talents. The schools here go for sports and are dedicated. So, how many students have access to scholarships from talents that they have for sports? What is the number of academies that exist in this country? Since the sports function is devolved, how many of these academies are in the counties?

Thank you.

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

Sen. Murgor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to ask a question. Thank you, Cabinet Secretary, for the elaborate answers you have given.

I would like to particularly know the measures that the Ministry is taking to coordinate the national activities with the county governments. For example, my county, West Pokot, is so quiet that we do not see any activity going on and even the stadium that

has been built for four years is not near completion. It will go on into probably the next Government or governor. What measures are you taking, as a Ministry, to coordinate the activities on the ground?

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Sigei, the Senator for Bomet County, the floor is yours.

Sen. Wakili Sigei: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I would like to appreciate the Hon. Cabinet Secretary for the elaborate responses he has given to the Question by the Senator for Nyandarua County. However, I would like to get clarification from the Cabinet Secretary.

From your response, Cabinet Secretary, at page four, you have made reference to the first lot of beneficiaries and this is 14,848, which you have said that they are awaiting placement to their apprenticeship. I happen to have interacted with quite a number of the beneficiaries of this programme in Bomet County when we launched this particular programme, but this was in April. The latest, I do recall is that a number of them are still waiting for that placement which, I note from your response, was supposed to happen on 20th April, 2026. You have engaged host organisations and service providers. However, it is still pending. What exactly is the status? What happened that they were left out or are they still in the lot that is going to be taken up?

Sen. Mumma: Thank you, honourable Speaker, for the opportunity. Thank you, Cabinet Secretary, for the answer. However, I feel that the answer does not comprehensively cover issues of youth, noting that 75 per cent of the population of Kenya is youth and that 67 per cent of them are unemployed.

I wanted to know whether we have a government system that traces and places young people in all sectors. I did not hear you speak about the County Aggregation Industrial Parks (CAIPs) which we were discussing yesterday. How many industrial parks have settled young people?

I did not hear you speak about the cooperative movement. I have not even heard-- - I think in every project that is being inspected, we have cash handouts happening. I do not know whether you have a system to trace the value for money for what you are doing, and how we will reduce the 67 per cent unemployment of youth in this country.

Sen. Wakwabubi Consolata: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity. I would like to laud the Cabinet Secretary for a comprehensive presentation by outlining strategic reforms that align with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation (BETA) agenda. However, my focus is on affirmative action and opportunities. I have not heard you mention it and yet it is key in empowering vulnerable groups; the youth, women and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Kindly, try to inject in Youth Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (YACGPO), Disability Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (DACGO) and Women Access to Procurement Opportunities (WACPO).

Mr. Speaker, Sir allow me a second also to join the rest of the honourable Senators in thanking the people of Kilifi for the hospitality they have shown us, and most sincerely thank you being a leader in this county, among other leaders. I enjoyed the delicacies and even the dance.

Sen. Sifuna: Mheshimiwa Waziri, swali hili nilikuwa nimempangia rafiki yangu ambaye ndiye Waziri wa mambo ya Uchumi. Lakini kwa sababu hayupo hapa na ninakuona hapa, na Wizara yako inasimamia masuala yote ya vijana, nitakuuliza wewe.

Tulipozuru mradi wa samaki pale Kilifi Central, kuna vijana ambao tulipomaliza mkutano wetu walikuja wakaniuliza niulize swali hili kwa Serikali. Tunajua kwamba kutakuwepo na msimu wa *El Nino* ambapo si salama kwa vijana hao kuingia baharini kuvua. Ni mpango gani ambao Serikali imetenga kuwakidhi wakati huo?

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Fourth Schedule of our Constitution is not one of the best drafted and it is responsible for some of the confusion that we see in the implementation of policy. However, that is not to make an excuse for the Cabinet Secretary.

Sports is one of the departments that you would say has shared responsibility. You find it mentioned in part A of the Schedule under the national Government, as well as part B of the Schedule under the county government.

In responding to question (e), I want to know, as a lead implementer of policy on sports, where is the nexus between all the policy interventions that the Cabinet Secretary has listed and the involvement of county governments; especially, noting that this Cabinet Secretary is a two-term governor and should appreciate the importance of county governments in rolling out national policy?

Lastly, I did not want to do this but because my colleagues, and I agree with them, as a Cabinet Secretary, you should want to be well-versed with all matters in a Ministry, including all matters in Government policy. As much as colleagues have asked about anything, including *El Nino*, allow me to ask this: Is the Cabinet Secretary aware that Kenya is the only country in the world today where our national premier league is yet to commence? I know that it is not through his making but through court action. However, there is more that he needs to do. I want to see the Cabinet Secretary walk to the office of the Chief Justice and ask her what she is doing about these judges that are ruling and issuing orders.

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

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Sen. Sifuna, what is your point of order?

Sen. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir the Majority Leader was, indeed, doing very well. If you noticed, I was applauding until he got to a point where he was inviting a member of the Executive to essentially violate the Constitution by walking over to the Chief Justice to discuss matters that are actively in court. I think on that one, Majority Leader, as a believer in the rule of law, it is out of order.

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): I think Sen. Sifuna, as a stakeholder, you can always inquire about the status of a particular case and not to influence its outcome.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): I thought as a presidential candidate, my good friend, Sen. Sifuna, would have appreciated. I did not ask the Cabinet Secretary to walk to the specific judge. I was very specific, the Chief Justice, because she holds the title of the head of the Judiciary, to establish Madam Speaker, oh, sorry, Mr. Speaker, Sir my apologies.

I got confused because Sen. Mumma was saying something and she was distracting my thought. I wanted to remind her that it is you not her on the Chair.

It will be important as a stakeholder to seek direction. When you have a court issuing this order today, another one in another place saying a different thing, of course, you will seek direction and we have done that before.

I will remind members that the 17 Senators representing Sugarcane growing areas wrote to the Chief Justice because of various injunctions that were coming in the implementation of the Sugar Act and she acted on our letter. The cases were consolidated and there is now progress. That is not undue influence.

(Interruption of debate on Questions)

The Speaker (Hon. Kingi): Now, before I allow the Cabinet Secretary to respond, allow me to make this Communication.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FROM KILIFI COUNTY

Honourable Senators, I would like to acknowledge the presence, in the Speaker's gallery this morning, of a visiting delegation of County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) from Kilifi County.

I request each member of the delegation to stand when called out, so that you may be acknowledged in the Senate tradition-

(1) Hon. Raymond Ngala - CECM, Trade, Tourism, Promotion, Culture, and Heritage, and Cooperative Development.

(2) Ms. Lynn Farah - CECM, Trade and Investments.

(3) Ms. Selina Martha - Advisor, Trade Department.

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

I will call upon the Senator for Kilifi County, in under one minute, to extend a warm welcome.

Kiongozi wa Walio Wachache (Sen. Madzayo): Bw. Spika, ninajiunga na wewe kuwakaribisha hawa Kilifi County Executive Members katika kikao hiki cha Bunge la Seneti. Ninajua wanaelewa na wanajua sababu ambayo tuko hapa na yote tunayofanya wanayaona. Hii ndio kazi ya Seneti, kutetea na kuangalia maslahi ya watu katika kaunti waliochaguliwa. Kwa hivyo, ninawakaribisha, wajionee na wajue vile tunatenda kazi zetu na wapate experience.

(Resumption of Questions)

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

The Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Salim Mvurya): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are many questions but we will respectively address the issues that have been raised.

Question one was asked by Sen. Methu on how we are working with other agencies of the Government on the NYOTA programme where Kshs2.5 billion has already been disbursed.

In phase one, we also bring in other agencies. For example, we work with the Micro and Small Enterprises Department and many others as it relates to the specific technical area. We, therefore, have a multi-agency approach and it is not just the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports that handles this matter.

If you listen to the multi-agency approach, Sen. Eddy, we also have a mentorship programme. Once we disburse funds or even before disbursing, we take them through a mentorship programme which is handled by professionals. That is why for the business support, we did phase one and then phase two. The success rate is around 90 per cent of the businesses because we have a comprehensive monitoring and evaluating programme where we go to the ground and monitor the projects.

On the other question by Sen. Nyutu is about sensitisation where he had talked about talk shows. When we are approaching matters of youth, we use different forums to sensitise young people. Talk shows are part of that but we also have other programmes like the Kikao where we do dialogue conferences with the youth to sensitise on some of these matters.

We also use our grassroots networks through the youth affairs. A demonstration of knowledge is where in business support we only require 124,000 youths. The applicants were over two million meaning that many youths had the knowledge about the programme but the opportunities were only for 124,000. We are currently using a databank to place the youth in other programmes. For example, the OJE - Only Job Experience has benefited from this offshoot.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other issue is by Sen. Miraj on the Little Theatre Club. I am aware that in Mombasa, we have that club which gives opportunities to the youth. However, the club sits on Government land owned by the Kenya Railways and, therefore, we have no direct ownership. We have, however, engaged the Kenya Railways, our Principal Secretary and the one for State Department for ICT and Digital Economy, who have also visited in order to see how we can collaborate and make it useful for youth participation.

There is the other observation by Sen. Wambua where you will find in that statement, most of the information is about April. This question was forwarded in March, 2026 and we were to appear earlier. However, the session was cancelled. That is why there is April in that report. However, we have more information to update and which reflects the current situation.

There was the other issue raised by Sen. Khalwale. The NYOTA programme is looking at Form IV and below but we also have other programmes beyond NYOTA which provide opportunities for the youth. There is the Kazi Majuu programme which provides opportunities for those who have graduated or those with specific skills. We also have the Public Service Internship Programme (PSIP) which gives the youth

opportunities to be interns in different Government ministries. Already, His Excellency the President has directed that the Public Service Commission (PSC) should consider interns even after their successful internship programmes.

We also have private sector internships where we are working to place youths in that sector. There are other opportunities in the Affordable Housing Programme for the skilled and the non-skilled youth. Therefore, we have a plethora of programmes that work around many other Government agencies which provide opportunities to the youth. Matters of the youth are not domiciled in this Ministry but we find opportunities across the board. There are many agencies that also place the youth in different programmes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other issue is a collective responsibility on our case because matters of goonism are beyond our Ministry. They are general and they transcend the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports. However, as it can be seen from the statement, there are many programmes we are doing to engage the youth. These include, talent development in sports and many others. However, this matter is our collective responsibility and as a Ministry, we would be happy to work with leaders across the board and ministries, to ensure that we arrest this vice in our society.

Kuna swali lililoulizwa na Seneta Mungatana na amekuwa na umaalumu kwa sababu amezungumzia kijana maalum anayeitwa Salim Mbarak. Sijui pengine aliona ni namesake lakini ni sawa.

(Laughter)

Kuna tofauti kidogo na mambo ya sanaa yaliyo chini ya wizara nyingine.

Mambo ya arts yako katika State Department for Culture.

As a Ministry, we also have a responsibility to provide opportunities to benefit our artists. First, we have reviewed the licensing for matters of copyright and we have developed draft tariffs that ensure that artists do not become poor. When they compose songs, they benefit from them. These draft guidelines have been shared with a committee of Parliament. However, we have not concluded with them. From our observation, we will streamline this area.

Msanii akiimba wimbo mzuri na kusifika, kama vile Salim Mbarak, anaweza kupata hela ambayo zinamtosha. Kwa hivyo, tumejaribu kutengeneza sera au kanuni zinazoweza kuwasaidia vijana. Hizo ziko mbele ya kamati ya Bunge na zitawasaidia vijana wengi ambao ni watunzi wa nyimbo. Kuna vijana wengi wamekuwa na umaarufu sana, wametunga nyimbo, zimesifika lakini hawajapata uwezo wa kifedha. Hilo ndilo suala ambalo limetufikisha mahali tukaona kwamba tutengeneze kanuni ambazo zitapeana mwelekeo.

Ukiimba wimbo na mtu autake, lazima alipe kima fulani. Tuko katika majadiliano na kamati husika ili kuhakikisha kwamba tunapeana faida kwa wasanii. Masuala ya usanii yako chini ya wizara nyingine lakini tunashirikiana ili kuboresha utendakazi. Vilevile tuta-link the licensing process also with e-Citizen, so that they can benefit. In fact, benefits should go directly through e-Citizen. Those are the processes we are trying to streamline.

Kuna swali ambalo liliulizwa na Seneta Faki. Japo halikuwa katika taarifa ya leo, ningependa kujulisha Bunge hili kwamba ni kweli we should promote beach football. I am aware that Kilifi is the leading county on matters beach football. I have engaged players and leaders of beach football. I want to give general guidelines that even though we have the Sports Fund, it is not a Fund that you can come today and get money because we do not have money to give.

We encourage federations to provide a programme and a plan, so that we know in advance the requirements and set a budget to support them. If somebody walks in three days to an international event, they are not likely to succeed. We have advised all federations in the country to make sure that they develop a plan of their tournaments and events, so that we also manage funds in a prudent manner and not on a Walk-In Walk-Out (WIWO) basis.

Another issue was about equitable access and there was a mention of stadia. That was asked by the Senator for Trans Nzoia. This is the first time we are doing sports facilities across the country. Trans Nzoia is in the list because right now, we are doing 33 and we should be through by February next year. Trans Nzoia is in the list of our implementation programme but we had a bit of a challenge with issues of land. It is a matter that we are still engaging the county government, so that we get clearance and see how to work together.

For the sake of this question, I want to assure all Kenyans that we are focusing on enhancing and inspiring talents across the country. That is why His Excellency the President, for the first time, has directed that we do 33 stadia across the country. Therefore, we have stadia outside Nairobi. All this effort is to make sure that we provide opportunities for equitable access and spaces for youth engagement across Kenya.

Sen. Abass asked a question about the academies. Sports infrastructure is spread across the country. There are academies which we are setting up together with the Kenya Academy of Sports (KAS). Our wish was to do academies in all the constituencies across the country. However, you are aware that we cannot achieve all these without adequate resources. The aim is to cover the entire country. As we appropriate resources, we will continue to admit every part because the policy is to make sure that we cover the entire country.

The Senator for West Pokot also asked a question. In fact, West Pokot is in our list of stadia. If there is something that has stalled, we will resolve it. My Principal Secretary has been to West Pokot many times even during the Karamoja Youth Programme in Kapenguria because we also want to bring on board all the youth of our country. We will strengthen our engagement with the local leadership, so that we move in the same direction.

There was also a question about whether the challenges of placement have been resolved. I want to assure the Senator who inquired about Lot 14 that those challenges have now been resolved and placement is going on. In fact, this week we had quite a number of youth who have been placed in the different programmes.

Sen. Catherine Mumma, it is correct that 75 per cent of our population are youth. Currently, youth programmes are spread in many agencies and Ministries. You will find them in agriculture, agribusiness and other programmes. We have just concluded a youth

mainstreaming policy which will give us an opportunity to consolidate the numbers and know what is happening where and the kind of support required. That is part of what we will do to streamline that.

Hon. Consolata, we have a comprehensive programme on Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO). We are now targeting 600,000 youth in our country who will access training and financing to enable them access Government tenders.

Mheshimiwa Edwin Sifuna aliuliza swali japo alikubali kwamba halihusu Wizara hii moja kwa moja. Hata hivyo, kuna mpango wa kuhakikisha jinsi Serikali itasaidia jamii pamoja na mashirika kuhusu mambo ya elimu. We have a comprehensive programme and a comprehensive multi-agency team, including development partners that is looking at the matter of *El Niño*.

Since matters of blue economy and fisheries are so specific, we will provide necessary input because we are aware that when there is *El Niño*, we are likely to see rising sea levels and a lot of waves along the ocean. Part of the advisory around that time is to minimise fishing activities. That will definitely have an implication on livelihoods. Therefore, as part of multi-agency and Government support, we will incorporate this in the contingency plan for *El Niño*.

The Senate Majority Leader wanted to know about the thin line between the Fourth Schedule and what the national Government is doing. The nexus here is that we have an intergovernmental arrangement where we have sectors that also involve the Council of Governors (CoG). That is how we work with the counties. Therefore, if an issue requires consultation between the two levels of government, the Government has now concluded a framework for consultation between sectors in the national Government and county governments, guided by the existing intergovernmental arrangements.

This is how we are able to resolve these issues. That is why you will find governors and their respective ministries signing partnership agreements in many programmes. For example, in the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) programme, the management of stadiums and many others, we sign agreements because we know that we have a responsibility in managing them together.

Finally, there is the issue of the Premier League. The honourable Member made the correct observation that, at the moment, the Premier League has been delayed. It was supposed to start on Saturday, but a court order was issued on Friday evening and it has now been stopped. In fact, one of the reasons we had agreed that it should start last Saturday is because I had a meeting with all the clubs and the FKF. Subsequently, an agreement was reached to commence the league on 19th September, 2026. However, our country has a good democratic space. Someone went to court and obtained orders to stop the league on Friday evening.

As we think about other processes of engaging the Judiciary, let me state here in the Senate that I will be engaging the key stakeholders to ensure that we arrive at an amicable solution to this matter. I believe that was the final question on that statement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir and Hon. Members, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation.

(Applause)

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

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

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Very well. The questions are many as you have put it.

Hon. Senators, regarding time management, there are four Senators with supplementary questions. However, I request that we move to the next Question because of time. We have now spent one hour and 20 minutes on this first Question. Therefore, we shall proceed to the next Question. I ask Sen. Hamida to allow the Senate Minority Leader, since he is in Kilifi, to ask his Question first. Thereafter, we shall conclude with your Question before 1.00 p.m.

Yes, Senate Majority Leader.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seek your indulgence to guide the House further. I see the direction you want the House to take, which is to give priority to our colleagues who drafted the Questions that invited the Cabinet Secretary to appear before the House. Given how Question No.053 has progressed and the supplementary questions that Members have raised, would it be in order for us to allow our colleagues, both of them since from the Order Paper there are two more colleagues with Questions, to ask their Questions and receive the responses first? Thereafter, we can take all the supplementary questions together. I believe that would be a neater approach.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): That is okay. I agree with you. Sen. Madzayo, proceed to ask Question No.078. Thereafter, we will proceed to Sen. Hamida Kibwana.

The Senate Minority Leader (Sen. Madzayo): Asante Mstahiki Naibu Spika. Kwa sababu Waziri ana taaluma ya kutafsiri kwa Kiswahili ile ripoti yake ya kujibu Swali hili, ingekuwa vyema iwapo atafanya hivyo. Hii ni kwa sababu tuko katika eneo ambalo watu wengi wangependa kuelewa maswali yanayoulizwa kwa lugha ya kimombo. Ningeomba niulize swali langu kwa lugha ya Kiswahili ili watu wapate ufahamu zaidi.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Naelewa maombi yako. Nitamwomba Waziri, kwa sababu pia yeye ni Mswahili kamili. Natumai hatakuwa na changamoto yoyote kutafsiri swali lako kwa Kiswahili. Waziri, utaweza kutafsiri uwezavyo kwa Kiswahili maanake Sen. Madzayo anaomba watu wote wa Kilifi wamusikilize na wale waliopo katika Seneti katika Kaunti ya Kilifi. Waziri akikubali tutaendelea.

The Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Salim Mvurya): Bw. Naibu Spika, ni sawa. Tutatafsiri mahali tutaweza ijapo kuna masuala mengine---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Wewe unaruhusa ya kuchanganya lugha lakini sisi hatuwezi.

The Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Salim Mvurya): Bw. Naibu Spika. Mimi niko sawa.

The Senate Minority Leader (Sen. Madzayo): Asante Mstahiki Spika kwa uamuzi huo.

Waziri wa mambo ya Vijana na Mchezo, tunajua ya kwamba kuna watu ambao wanatalanta mbalimbali, kama vile kuimba na mbio. Kwa mfano, nchi yetu inajulikana sana kwa mbio. Lakini, walio na talanta kama hizi wanajitoa uhai---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Ninakuomba uulize swali No.078. Nitakupea nafasi ya hilo swali lingine baadaye kabla Waziri aondoke.

Question No. 078

DATABASE ON SUICIDE CASES AND MENTAL
HEALTH SUPPORT FOR CREATIVES

The Senate Minority Leader (Sen. Madzayo): Asante, Bw. Naibu Spika. Katika hali yangu ya kutafakari na kuweka interpretation ningefauli kwa sababu ninaleta mambo ya creatives ambao wanapatikana wamejiua kwa sababu zisizojulikana. Wengine ni kwa sababu wanakunywa zile vitu.

(a) Ni hatua gani mmeweka kuhakikisha kuna database au ratiba katika sehemu zote za Kenya ya kufuatilia wenye talanta kama hizo ili wasiwe na akili punguani? Ni hatua gani umechukua kama Waziri kuona kwamba vijana wetu hawaingii kwa mitego ya kutumia madawa ya kulevya ama kutenda vitendo ambavyo haviwezi kuwaendeleza kimaisha na kuangusha talanta zao?

(b) Wizara imechukua hatua gani kusaidia wanaoathirika kwa kutumia madawa ya kulevya? Kwa mfano, wakimbiaji wetu hukimbia katika nchi mbalimbali na kulipwa Ksh40 million per race. Lakini, baada ya muda, wanakuwa maskini kwa sababu ya kutumia pesa kwa njia isiyo ya kisawasawa. Umechukua hatua gani kuwaeleza vizuri na kuwapa advice ili wajikinge na mambo kama hayo?

(c) La mwisho, nataka kujua tu kuna hii stadium ya Kilifi ambayo Mheshimiwa Rais mwenyewe alikuja akaweka jiwe kuianzisha. Kufikia hivi sasa, hiyo stadium imefika wapi? Unaweza kutueleza na kulingana na pale ilipofika, ni lini unafikiria hiyo stadium ambayo Rais amekuwa akifuatilia itaisha?

(d) Kuna zile sports academy, zile ambazo watoto wetu wanajifundisha mambo ya sports. Kilifi County haina hata sports academy moja. Ni lini unafikiria utaweza kuifanya maana yake talanta za sports ziko pia hapa? Talanta za mpira ama vitu vingine vyovyote ambavyo viko na vinahusiana na talanta. Ni lini utanza kujenga sports academy kwa vijana wetu ndani ya Kilifi kuona kwamba, hawa watu ambao wana talanta wamepata hiyo nafasi ya kuenda katika hiyo academy?

Asante, Bw. Spika wa Muda.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Haya, Waziri tupatie jibu.

The Cabinet Secretary, Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Salim Mvuria): Asante, Bw. Naibu Spika na Waheshimiwa Maseneta. Kwanza wakati nikijibu kwa taarifa---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Samahani, Waziri, kidogo hivi. Tulikuwa tupate maswali yote mawili mara moja ndio sasa ujibu yote Pamoja ndipo muda ukituchenga tuwe tumemaliza zote.

Sen. Hamida Kibwana, please, ask Question No.069.

Sen. Kibwana: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Bw. Waziri, good morning na karibu sana--- Sorry, I am not supposed to mix. Let me speak in English. Unajua nimekuwa hapa nikajikuta Kiswahili pia kinaingiana na Kiingereza.

Question No.069

DATABASE AND WELFARE OF KENYAN
SPORTS HEROES AND HEROINES

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to ask Question No.069 to the Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports-

(a) Does the Government maintain a database of Kenyan sportsmen and women who win medals in regional, continental and international competitions and, if so, could the Cabinet Secretary provide the current list?

(b) What is the Government doing to respond to the plight of retired sports heroes and heroines who, despite their contribution to the nation, are living in poverty and suffering poor health?

(c) Could the Government consider rolling out a welfare programme to provide financial, medical, housing and other social protection benefits to retired sports heroes and heroines, including coaches and other sports officials who have served the nation with distinction?

(d) What measures are in place to also ensure that the legacy of Kenyan sports heroes and heroines is preserved and documented as part of the nation's heritage?

I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kathuri): Okay.

So, Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you can start with the question by the Senate Minority Leader.

The Cabinet Secretary, Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Salim Mvurya): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, and Members of the Senate.

In response to Question No.078, the mental health and overall well-being of our citizens, particularly our young creatives and workforce in general, remain a top strategic priority for the Government of Kenya. The Ministry agrees and adopts the World Health Organisation (WHO) mental health Definition, which observes that mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual realises their potential, copes with the normal stress of life, works productively and contributes meaningfully to their community.

We recognise that the creative economy relies heavily on personal expression, emotional output and public visibility. The Ministry views targeted socio-

economic and socio-social support as essential infrastructure for this sector and its sustainability.

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

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

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, at present, the national Government does not maintain a disaggregated data registry tracking annual suicide rates, attempted suicide or specific mental health diagnosis exclusively by profession or by sector. There is no data available on occupational categorisation with sector-specific tracking. However, national baseline and general national health Indicators record approximately 400 to 500 reported suicide deaths annually across the total population. Standard mortality reporting frameworks utilised by law enforcement and public healthcare facilities do not record occupational background as a mandatory variable.

Consequently, sector-isolated figures for artists and content creators do not exist currently in our public national database. I wish to state that the legal, ethical and institutional data constitutes under data protection and confidentiality provided by the Data Protection Act, 2019 and Health Sector Ethics; a citizen's mental health assessment, psychiatric diagnosis, substance use treatment or suicidal behaviour constitute highly protected personal data. Such records cannot be collected, synchronised or disclosed without explicit lawful consent or standard statutory exemption.

Further historically, suicide and self-harm have been underreported due to deep-seated socio-cultural stigma while the High Court in January, 2025 declared Section 226 of the Penal Code and Constitution a significant step toward treating self-harm as a health crisis rather than a crime framework for reporting self-harm without fear of social rippling and remain a challenge across local communities. The Government is currently working toward a unified national suicide registry under the Ministry of Health until fully operationalised.

Existing figures rely on fragmented reporting across police records, civil registration and healthcare facilities. While formal disaggregated data remains absent, the Ministry acknowledges the troubling trend of public mental health crisis and premature deaths among artists, musicians and digital creators reported in news media and community circles since 2023.

The Ministry therefore recognises that the creative operates in a unique high-stress environment characterised by financial vulnerability and irregular income streams, intense social media scrutiny, cyber bullying and loss of privacy and high rejection rates, and public pressure to sustain relevance. These occupational stresses frequently create an interconnected risk pathway. Chronic stress leads to depression or anxiety, which can spur problematic substance use as a coping mechanism, ultimately heightening vulnerability during emotional stress.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa hili swali la kwanza la waheshimiwa ni kwamba, kwa hivi sasa, hakuna takwimu rasmi za wasanii ambao wamejitia kitanzi zinazowekwa na serikali. Ingawaje Serikali ina nia ya kuangalia vile tunaweza kuwa na umaalum wa

habari kama hizi ambazo pia ni muhimu. Tuseme kwamba ni ya kibinafsi. Kwa hivyo, ni lazima tujue kwamba wakati tunafanya hivyo, tuzingatie sheria ambayo pia inalinda maslahi ya watu binafsi.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, and hon. Senators, on the second question, the Ministry addresses creative sector mental health through a two-pronged strategy; economic risk mitigation, where we are tracking financial stressors or root causes and direct psychosocial intervention, ensuring that youth have access to confidential care. We have interventions around economic safety nets and root cause interventions. Financial instability remains the primary systemic trigger for mental distress among artists.

The Ministry has instituted the following structural mechanisms:

(1) The Talanta Hela Initiative where we monetise creative talents by streamlining royalty collections, enforcing copyright protection and securing commercial opportunities to guarantee predictable earnings for young artists. This is where I was talking about draft regulations to ensure that we monetise artistic talents.

(2) The Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). We have a tailored financial product offering affordable credit to young creatives to fund projects, start businesses and escape debt-driven emotional trauma.

(3) The programme on Vijana Vuka na Afya (VIVA), implemented by the State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy. This initiative merges health, education, digital literacy and entrepreneurship training to diversify revenue streams for vulnerable young creatives.

(4) Institutional alignment, strengthening governance across statutory bodies, including the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB), Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO) and industry associations like the Kenya Association of Music Producers, to protect creators' rights and commercial earnings.

(5) Specialised youth and creative mental health programmes. To lower the barrier to seeking help, the Ministry leverages many youth-friendly confidential platforms, including the following-

(i) Digital and tele-counselling innovations: Partnering with youth innovators to roll out mobile-based tele-counselling applications, for example, platforms led by youth innovators, providing confidential, low-cost, on-demand psychological support directly to smartphones.

(ii) Kikao Medical Mental Health Clinic: Conducting grassroots community outreach where mobile health teams provide mental health screening, counselling and referral alongside creative activities.

(iii) Mindset and Wellness Academies: Partnering with the International Youth Fellowship. Through this programme, we have free weekend academies, which happen at Kasarani and also at the regional level, where we integrate psychological first aid and mindset transformation into youth programmes. This programme is away from Nairobi. It has also been held in Kilifi, Mombasa and many other parts of our country.

(iv) Institutional referral networks: Establishing structured referral pathways, linking collegiate and freelance creators with specialised institutions, such as Mathari National Teaching and Referral Hospital (MNTRH), for clinical treatment.

(v) Internal employee and sector wellness: Deploying Ministry wellness officers to provide immediate psychological guidance and referral pathways for young artists visiting Ministry offices, alongside organising webinars on youth mental health. The running today between 7.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. is on the topic, Effects of Drugs and Substance Use on Youth Mental Wellness. This programme is running on a number of days, so it is part of the programme to sensitise.

(vi) Multi-agency and cross-sectoral frameworks: The Ministry actively connects creatives to broader national health support structures, including one, wellness and crisis response, basically linking more youth to a free helpline number, which is 1192.

It is a free helpline for people who would wish to access support through the National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA). We also have number 1190 which is a helpline for immediate health support.

Primary care, decentralisation, utilising Level 3 and Level 4 public health hospitals, networks across counties to provide integrated outpatient mental health counselling. Finally, we have civil society partnership where we collaborate with organisations like Mental 360 and many others who champion peer mental health issues and work with the Art Therapy Initiative like Afrikala to create safe spaces for processing and managing trauma.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir and Members of the Senate, moving forward, the Ministry commits to the following action points to strengthen mental health protection for our creative sector-

(1) Interagency data framework: Collaborating with the Ministry of Health and the National Registration Bureau (NRB) to explore safe and anonymised mechanisms for capturing occupational data in national health statistics strictly in compliance with the Data Protection Act, 2019.

(2) Creative sector wellness policy: Formulating workplace health and safety guidelines tailored for entertainment companies, production houses and talent agencies. This will include mandatory psychological first aid, clear harassment reporting mechanisms and employer-supported counselling.

(3) Expansion of helplines and peer support: Scaling up funding for dedicated creative industry, mental health peer support networks to ensure early detection and intervention before distress becomes fatal.

Kwa ufupi, tunajua ya kwamba kuna mambo mengi ambayo yanaathiri vijana haswa wale ambao ni wasanii. Nilivyosema awali, hatukuwa na mfumo mzuri wa kuwa na takwimu lakini sasa tuko na mipango. Tunafanya kazi na mashirika ambayo yana ujuzi wa kufundisha na kuzungumza na vijana kuhusu mambo ya saikolojia. Tuko pia na mbinu nyingi ambazo tunatumia kuhakikisha ya kwamba tunasaidia vijana wetu kiuchumi ikiwemo hii mradi ambayo inalenga vijana.

Tunapoenda mbele, tutakuwa na mpango maalum ambao utapatia vijana nafasi ya kuwa na mfumo wa kuheshimika kisheria na pia itawasaidia katika mambo ya kisaikolojia na kumudu changamoto za kimaisha.

Swali la mwisho ambalo nilikuwa nimeulizwa katika muktadha huu ni kuhusu mambo ya stadium ya Kilifi.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. Cabinet Secretary, before you proceed to wrap us through your response on the last question, you are aware that the Hon. Members will have quite a number of supplementary questions. I guide that you give us a summarised version rather than going through the whole of your statement, in order for us to give Members an opportunity to ask supplementary questions which you will respond to. That will help us to manage time.

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Mvurya): Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika wa Muda. Nimetii lakini pia nilikuwa ninatii sheria ya Bunge ambayo inasema ya kwamba ukiwa na taarifa, lazima uisome kikamilifu ili iweze kueleweka. Lakini ninapoenda mbele, nitapeana mukhtasari.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Remember, you have been given that guidance by the Chair, so you are protected either way.

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Mvurya): Nimekubali. Kipengee cha mwisho cha swali la Mheshimiwa Sen. Madzayo kilikuwa kuhusu stadium ya Kilifi. Kwanza, ningependa kusema kwamba, katika Wizara, tumeamua tuwe na mfumo mpya wa kuhakikisha kwamba tunapatia vijana nafasi katika sehemu zote za Kenya, ili wapate mahali ambapo wanaweza kukuza talanta zao.

Kwa mara ya kwanza, kwa maaagizo ya Rais Dkt. William Samoei Ruto, tunajenga stadia 33 katika Jamuhuri yetu. Hii ya Kilifi ni mojawapo ya hizo. Najua ya kwamba, ilikuwa imejengwa pale Tezo, lakini tulipoangalia hiyo sehemu, tukaihamisha na sasa iajengwa pale Kilifi Town, katika uwanja wa prison. Hivi sasa, tumepata mwanakandarasi wa hiyo stadium, na hivi karibuni, tutaongeza kasi kwa sababu tungependa ikamilike mwezi wa Februari, 2027. Kwa hivyo, ningependa kuwahakikishia, kupitia kwako Mhe. Spika wa Muda na Maseneta kwamba stadium ya Kilifi itakamilishwa.

Swala linalofungamana na hilo linahusu academies. Kama nilivyosema awali, mipango yetu ni kujenga academies katika kila eneo Bunge la Taifa la Kenya. Walakini kwa sababu ya maswala ya raslimali, tunaenda pole pole. Tukienda mbele tutafanya kazi na Bunge ili tuweze kupata raslimali za kutosha. Hata hivyo, katika Kaunti ya Kilifi, kuna mpango wa kujenga academy katika Rabai Constituency, na hiyo iko katika mipango yetu ambayo tunaendelea kuikamilisha.

Mhe. Spika wa Muda, ukinikubalia, nitakuwa nimekamilisha hilo swali la Mhe. Madzayo, ili niingie kwa swali la Mhe. Hamida. Vile ulivyo shauri ni kwamba, tuwe wafupi; kuwa taarifa hii iwe fupi. Kwa hivyo, nitajaribu kufupisha kwa kuangalia maswala kadhaa ambayo ninaweza kuyazungumzia kwa kifupi.

Question No.069

DATABASE AND WELFARE OF KENYAN SPORTS HEROES AND HEROINES

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the nominated Senator for also raising this important concern because matters of our sports men and women are also matters of legacy.

So, the Ministry, in collaboration with the National Sports Federation (NSF) and other stakeholders, is currently developing a comprehensive and centralised database of Kenyan athletes who have won medals at regional, continental and international competitions. This initiative is aimed at properly documenting the achievements of our sportsmen and women, facilitating better talent tracking, policy planning and recognition of excellence.

Significant progress has been made in conceptualising the structure of the database, including data collection protocols, verification mechanisms, and digital infrastructure requirements. Therefore, currently, we are working with federations like Athletics Kenya (AK) and other agencies to strengthen this record.

Secondly, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports fully recognises and deeply appreciates the immense contributions of Kenya's retired sports heroes and heroines who have elevated the nation's profile globally and inspired generations. The Government has undertaken various interventions through stakeholder collaboration with sports federations and county governments, the Retired Athletes Welfare Association, and many others, to bring forward the following measures-

(i) Employment and career transition opportunities, that is retired athletes are prioritised for roles in sports officiating, coaching, administration, and talent management. In that statement, I have an example of those who have benefited from that programme.

(ii) We also appoint them as live champions, goodwill ambassadors and other official appointments. For example, Paul Tergat is a goodwill ambassador for the World Food Programme (WFP), Tecla Lorupe is a UN goodwill ambassador, David Rudisha is a World Athletics ambassador and we have many more in that category.

(iii) Institutional support for exceptional performers often receiving formal placement and careers within the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) and other public institutions. For example, Ms. Catherine Ndereba is now Assistant Commissioner in the Kenya Prisons, and there are many others.

These efforts aim to provide sustainable livelihoods and continued contribution to national development while addressing post-career challenges faced by many retired athletes.

Thirdly, the Ministry has significantly enhanced support for athletes with focus on both active, competitors and longterm welfare. His Excellency President Ruto announced improvements to the reward scheme for medal winners at global competitions. The updated reward structure includes the following-

(i) The athletes at global competitions have their awards raised from Kshs750,000 - for gold medalists - to Kshs3 million; silver medalists from Kshs500,000 to Kshs2 million; and bronze medalists from Kshs350,000 to Kshs1million.

(ii) Commonwealth games gold medal has now moved to Kshs2.5 million, silver to Kshs1.5 million and bronze to Kshs1million.

(iii) If one breaks a record in an international competition, we add Kshs5 million.

(iv) The daily allowances abroad have also been raised from US\$60 to US\$200 per athlete/player and for the officials from US\$80 to US\$300.

(v) Beyond immediate rewards, broader welfare initiatives are being advanced which include: stakeholder consultation towards comprehensive programmes covering financial support, medical care, housing and social protection for retired athletes. Past efforts have featured seed money for endowment and pension initiatives for example, there have been much efforts in that area.

These efforts aim to create structured post career transition pathways, ensuring athletes bringing glory to Kenya, receive sustained dignity and security. The Ministry, therefore, is coming up with a national sports gratuity and athlete financial security framework through collaboration with the Local Authorities Provident Fund (LAPFUND) and many other organisations and betting firms aimed at educating athletes on the importance of long-term investments, savings and welfare management.

Fourth, Kenya has a robust legal and institutional framework for preserving the legacy of its icons. The Kenya and Heroes Act of 2014 is central to these efforts. It establishes the National Heroes Council (NHC), identifies, vets and recommends individuals, including sports personnel for official declaration as national heroes and heroines.

The Council therefore evaluates the criteria and they can award. The measures include documentation in national archives, public honours, integration in curriculum and sports tourism initiatives. The Ministry, the National Heroes Council and Cultural heritage are responsible for making this happen.

The Government remains fully committed to supporting our sportsmen and women throughout their careers and beyond. Through enhanced reward scheme, improved stakeholder coordination, the development of athletes database and structured welfare intervention, we are working to ensure that our athletes receive due recognition.

The Ministry therefore requests Parliament to accelerate and review the passage of the amendments to the Sports Act, 2013 to legally institutionalise a mandatory contributory scheme for all active national athletes and take care of many other welfare issues we have consolidated into this policy.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I have tried to be brief in this question but I will add that, our sportsmen and women have done us proud. Therefore, our Ministry wants to elevate them and that is why, putting it in our policy and legislation is very critical. This is because, it is through the sportsmen and women, our legends, that we are going to host the World Athletics Championships in 2029. This is something that is very unique and historical. We have beaten the odds and this is because of our sportsmen and women who have been shining globally. It is in that regard that we want to elevate them by making sure we have a good policy and legal framework that protects their welfare.

Kenya is progressively becoming a global powerhouse. We are hosting the Africa Cup of Nations in 2027 where we have a legacy, the Raila Odinga International Stadium, which is at 94 percent and we are doing 32 others across Kenya. All this confirms that sports is no longer entertainment. It is a matter of livelihood; it is a unifier and is also an inspiration for our economic ecosystem; tourism, investments and many others.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I submit.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Cabinet Secretary. I will allow Sen. Madzayo to ask a maximum of two supplementary questions relating to the original question. Thereafter, Sen. Hamida, similar treatment and then open up to the rest of the Members.

Sen. Madzayo, try as much as possible to go straight to the supplementary question you are asking.

The Senate Minority Leader (Sen. Madzayo): Asante, Bw. Spika wa Muda. Kuna timu yetu ya Kenya ya beach soccer na inatafikana kufaulu katika African Cup of Nations (AFCON). Lakini kuna taarifa kutoka Confederation of African Football (CAF) inayosema kunayo nafasi kidogo inayoweza kupatikana ikiwa sisi tutachukua hatua ya kuappeal. Kwa sababu timu yetu ya Kenya inayocheza kandanda kwa ufuo wa bahari imetolewa lakini nafasi inaonekana bado iko.

Wewe kama Waziri, ni hatua gani umechukua kuona kwamba hii timu yetu itaenda kule Libya na itapata nafasi ya kushindana na timu zingine za Africa kwenye mchezo wa kandanda unaochezwa katika ufuo wa bahari? Ni jambo muhimu kuona talanta yetu iliyo hapa Pwani kwa sababu hao ni watoto wetu wanaopRACTISE kila siku. Umeandika huko, ukaongea na ukaplead on behalf of Kenya ili hao watoto wapate nafasi ya kwenda kwa hayo mashindano kule Libya?

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

Sen. Kibwana: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I have two questions. Firstly, how many retired athletes and officials have been receiving at least financial, medical and housing assistance in the past three years? Secondly, do you have a database for medal winning athletes and interim records so far, so that at least you know the cadre that you are compensating? Those are retired sportsmen and women who need assistance.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Proceed, Sen. Kisang.

Sen. Kisang: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a supplementary question regarding the third question by Sen. Hamida concerning the welfare of retired sportsmen and women. We thank the President because of enhancement of the stipend from Kshs500,000 to about Kshs3 million.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, most of the responses you have brought here are futuristic. You have not given us a firm answer on retired athletes. That is, how many are benefiting from the Social Health Authority (SHA) and what is the status? Yesterday, we saw in the news an athlete from Nyandarua who is sick. Her name is Beth Murugi. She is being assisted by a well-wisher. The Ministry should have picked it up and assisted that particular athlete.

The second question is about Kamariny Stadium. We were promised that by 3rd October this year, the stadium is going to be ready in preparation for Mashujaa Day. I know it will be co-hosted by three counties where we will also have it at Kipchoge Keino Stadium. Are you going to complete Kamariny Stadium by 3rd October as promised because Elgeyo-Marakwet County is the home of champions?

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Yes, Sen. Mundigi.

Sen. Munyi Mundigi: Bw. Spika wa Muda, swali langu kwa Waziri ni hili. Katika Kaunti ya Embu, tuna maeneo bunge ya Mbeere South, Mbeere North, Manyatta na Runyenjes. Matumizi ya dawa za kulevya kama vile bangi na pombe yameleta shida

katika Kaunti ya Embu. Tunaomba utujengee rehabilitations centres katika maeneo bunge hayo manne. Je, utatusaidia namna gani na mradi huo utaanza na kumalizika lini?

Pili, katika Kaunti ya Embu, tungependa utujengee stadium kubwa ambayo uliahidi. Kila wakati nimekuwa nikiuliza swali hili. Ulijenga stadium ingawa ilikuwa ya kwanza katika mfumo wa uongozi wa Rais William Ruto. Kwa vile ni ndogo, ilisemekana utatujengea stadium kubwa ya Njukiri. Je, utatujengea wakati gani? Ukifanya hivyo, watu wa Kaunti ya Embu watafurahia.

Mwisho, asante kwa kufanya kazi nzuri.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Next is Sen. Nyutu.

Sen. Joe Nyutu: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, my question relates to the stress that is associated with creatives. I am particularly concerned that the Cabinet Secretary has observed well that creatives operate in a unique and high-stress environment.

In Murang'a, we normally say that another income earner that we have after tea and coffee is music. We have many musicians such as the late Kamaru, DK, the late De'Mathew, Kigia, Gacheru, Kamande wa Kioi and many others. In his answer, the Cabinet Secretary told us that in order for creatives to be assured of having some income, because income for them is not consistent, they should merge health education with digital literacy, particularly entrepreneurship training.

Where do you do entrepreneurship training in Murang'a County? I have listed quite a number of creatives within the county that I represent. We should not treat this merely as a formality by stating that such training is being undertaken. I would like to know the specific locations in Murang'a where this entrepreneurial training for creatives is taking place.

I thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Hon. Members, I have directed that you ask one supplementary question. Go straight to the question, so that the Cabinet Secretary is able to respond within the time that is remaining.

Sen. Sifuna, proceed.

Sen. Sifuna: Mheshimiwa Spika wa Muda, tunapokaribia kikomo cha kikao cha Seneti, sijui kwa nini onyo hilo linatolewa wakati mimi ninafuata kwa mstari. Nataka nieleweke vizuri sana kwamba majibu ambayo Waziri ametoa yametua cha tumetamaushwa. Ingekuwa bora kama Waziri angeanza kujibu swali la Mheshimiwa Hamida. Najua ulipewa maelekezo tofauti.

Tunazidi kuambiwa ya kwamba Serikali hii ya Kenya Kwanza haina mfumo wa takwimu ya chochote. Hawajui ni watoto wangapi wanasoma katika shule zetu wala tuna shule ngapi. Hawajui wasanii wetu ni wangapi, ni kina nani ni wagonjwa wala ni kina nani wanahitaji usaidizi. Waziri amekiri mwenyewe kwamba hana habari kama tuna wasanii wangapi. Hayo ndio majibu aliyoyatoa kwa Mheshimiwa Stewart Madzayo. Utakuwaje unaendesha Serikali na hujui watu wako ni wangapi, wako wapi na ni wangapi wanahitaji usaidizi?

Waziri, swali langu ni kwamba mlipoanza muhula wenu wa kwanza mlitambua kwamba kuna kitu kinaitwa, whole of Government approach. Mheshimiwa Madzayo, Sijui nitatafsiri hili vipi. Kwamba ni Serikali moja. Je, wakati ambapo tumesalia wa mwaka mmoja tu hadi tamati ya uongozi wa Kenya kwanza, kuna mpango wowote wa

kuhakikisha Serikali ya Kenya ina takwimu kuhusu wananchi wetu ili tuweze kuwasaidia jinsi ambavyo Mheshimiwa Hamida na Stewart Madzayo walivyotarajia? Kwamba tujue wale ambao wamekumbwa na matatizo na tuweze kutoa usaidizi wa Serikali kwao.

Asante.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Sen. Sifuna. Sen. Mutinda, proceed.

Sen. Tabitha Mutinda: Asante, Bwana Spika wa Muda. Naanza kwa kumshukuru Waziri wetu akiwa na katibu wake, Bwana Fikirini Jacob, kijana wa eneo hili, ambao tunaona wanachapa kazi kwa umoja. Nawasihi waendelea na ishara hiyo njema. Nawashukuru pia kwa Kenya kupewa nafasi ya World Athletic Champion, 2029.

Ningetaka kujua ni mipango gani aliyonayo Waziri kwa wanamziki wa Kenya ambao talanta yao imeboba kwa muda mrefu tangu tulipokuwa wadogo. Kwa mfano, kuna Redsan, Nameless na vijana wengine wanaochipuka. Ni mipango ipi wizara yako inaweka kukuza talanta ya watoto wetu, hasa katika Jimbo la Nairobi ambapo nawakilisha? Je, mumeweka mikakati gani kuhakikisha ndoto za vijana wetu zinazidi kungaa. Isije ikawa mwanamziki bora katika Afrika Mashariki ni Diamond pekee. Wale wanamziki wetu mumewaweka wapi? Shukran.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Sen. (Prof.) Kamar.

Sen. (Prof.) Kamar: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity. I wish to thank the Cabinet Secretary for the responses provided to the Question by Sen. Hamida. I have a follow-up question. First, allow me to congratulate him for fighting hard to secure the hosting rights for the 2029 World Athletics Championships. That is a great achievement for our country and a very refreshing development.

Cabinet Secretary, in your response to Sen. Hamida's Question, you indicated that your Ministry is currently developing a comprehensive national database. This means you do not have a complete database currently. What timelines are you proposing to have this database in place? What kind of timelines can you give us?

Some of us interact with the old champions and we find that they are really in need. In fact, they should be given Social Health Authority (SHA) and remembering them in the housing programme. If you look at them, you can only remember their names for who they were but not who they are currently. What timelines can you give this House to finish this and start implementing? What is stopping us from implementing the issue of housing and SHA as requested in that question? Is it possible to do it instantly?

Sen. M. Kajwang': Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, let me congratulate the senior experts, the Cabinet Secretary and the junior experts, the Principal Secretary. Matters of youth and sports have been placed squarely in the hands of these two leaders from the coast region.

I want to query the matter of policy arising out of Sen. Hamida's question. What is this Government's policy on providing tax reliefs for sportsmen and women who represent this country, fly our flag very high, break world records and then they come back and they get taxed by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)? Then, we come here and start saying they should be given affordable houses or SHA. Why not just sort out this thing at that fiscal level? What is the policy? What is the Ministry that you lead telling the National Treasury and KRA to implement?

Finally, Sen. Hamida is asking about the welfare of our sportsmen and women. What is the policy of your Ministry when it comes to naming of sports facilities? Should sports facilities be named exclusively after statesmen or sportsmen? Of course, Raila Odinga Stadium is named after a statesman who was also a sportsman. He was a senior player in Bunge FC, so that is appropriate. However, the other 37 stadiums, are we going to name them after governors or political figures? What is the policy of your Ministry?

Sen. Okiya Omtatah: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, thank you for the opportunity. I also thank the hon. Cabinet Secretary for the responses.

I have a question that is tied to Busia concerning Victor Wanyama Sports Centre. The prominent footballer was setting up a sports centre in about 20 acres of land in Nambale sub-county but it has stalled. I have been observing it and it looks like it is not moving any further.

Is there a way that the Ministry can partner with Mr. Wanyama? It was a very good and comprehensive centre for incubating athletics and football. It was an individual initiative but can the Ministry reach out to Mr. Victor Wanyama and see if they can collaborate to bring this sports centre into fruition?

Sen. Wakwabubi Consolota: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I have a rider on what the Cabinet Secretary has presented. Are there specialised sports policies with broad national reforms to address high-profile matters of elite female athletes like Agnes Tirop, Rebecca Cheptegei and others?

In line with that I would also like to request that the Cabinet Secretary links up with the relevant Ministry to operationalise the rescue and safe centres that we have in our counties. For instance, in Bungoma County, we have a rescue centre that is serving as an office for a MP instead of serving the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) cases. So, please include SGBV in those mental wellness programmes.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Lastly, the Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Cheruiyot.

The Senate Majority Leader (Sen. Cheruiyot): Asante, Bw. Spika wa Muda. Kwanza, ningependa kumshukuru Waziri Mvurya kwa majibu yake na anavyoonyesha kwamba anaelewa kazi aliyopewa na bidii aliyonayo.

Ningependa nikuulize kuhusu jambo fulani ambalo linahusiana na swali lililoletwa na Mheshimiwa Sen. Hamida Kibwana kuhusu wanariadha wetu. Uaelewa kwamba kuna changamoto ambayo nchi hii imepitia karibu sasa miaka 10 hivi.

Ni jambo ambalo linahusu wanariadha wetu ambao wanatumia madawa yasiyoruhusiwa na kuharibia nchi yetu sifa. Ulipoona juzi juzi wakati Kenya imepewa nafasi ya kuandaa michezo ya 2029, kuna watu walioleta shida sana wakisema mnapeleka michezo katika nchi ambayo imejaa wanariadha ambao wanashiriki maneno ambayo si mazuri.

Bw. Waziri, sheria ambayo inatumika kuangalia maneno hayo ni sheria ambayo tulipitisha hapa Bungeni mwaka wa 2016. Na nikikumbuka vyema wale waliokuwa bungeni wakati huo, walilazimishiwa sheria hiyo na kuambiwa tusiguse hata nukta yoyote. Hiyo ndiyo ilikuwa sheria dunia nzima, kwamba ukitaka nchi yenu iweze kuhusika katika michezo ya Olimpiki ya mwaka 2016, ilikuwa lazima mpitishie sheria

hiyo. Na tulifanya hivyo. Baada ya kupitisha sheria hiyo, kumekuwa na changamoto sana.

Kile kitengo ambacho sheria ile ilituletea kimefanya taifa linaonekane kama halina uwezo wa kudhibiti wakora ambao wanawaandaa wachezaji wetu na kuwaweka katika hali hii ambayo inaharibia taifa letu sifa. Je, kuna chochote ambacho kama Wizara mnaifanya kuhakikisha kwamba masuala hayo yameshughulikiwa?

Na pia wale either mameneja ama ma-coach ambao wanawaonesha wanariadha wetu njia hizi potovu, ni njia ipi ama ni vipi mtaweza kuwakabidhi kuhakikisha kwamba wamezuiliwa kwa sababu wengi wao ni raia wa kigeni hata si Wakenya? Lakini maneno hayo yanapotokea, Kenya ndiyo inaharibiwa sifa. Ningependa kujua kama wizara ni nini mnaifanya kuhusu mambo hayo.

Asante, Bw. Spika wa Muda.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Senate Majority Leader.

Hon. Cabinet Secretary, you may now respond to those supplementary questions and for purposes of time management, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No.34, I will extend the sitting to allow you to respond substantively to those questions. So, work with an additional 15 minutes from one o'clock.

(The sitting was extended by 15 minutes)

The Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Salim Mvurya): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Speaker. So that we keep time, I will be very brief, but also very comprehensive in my responses.

Kwanza kuhusu, beach soccer ya Malindi ambayo inaonekana ni suala nyeti na ni suala la ghafla; ningependa kushauri kwamba hao viongozi wa hiyo beach soccer wanaweza kuwasiliana na sisi kuanzia sasa, kesho na kesho kutwa tujue yale mambo yamekwaza ili tuone kama tunaweza kuyasuluhisha. So, I advise all federations to provide their schedule in time, but because this is an emergency, they can get in contact immediately, and then we see what we can do to reinstate their participation.

Swali la Mheshimiwa Sen, Hamida, nafikiri lilifungamana na the entire question about database. Each federation iko na database yake ya athletes and, therefore, we can easily get that from Athletes Kenya. However, as a ministry, we do not have a consolidated database, but each federation has a database for their retired athletes and also officials. We want to make sure that going forward, we do a welfare programme through the amended legislation, so that we can cover welfare, medical and many others in the law.

Mheshimiwa Seneta kutoka Elgeyo Marakwet ameuliza jambo la Kamariny Stadium. Sasa hivi iko asilimia arobaini na tano. Kulikuwa kidogo na uhaba na contractor akasimama kidogo. Lakini hivi sasa atarudi kuendelea ili akamilishe kazi hiyo.

I do not have the authority to declare benefits to athletes immediately on Social Health Authority (SHA). That is a process which has to be guided by the regulations.

Mheshimiwa Mundigi from Embu ameuliza mambo ya bangi, pombe na madawa za kulevya. Juhudi za kuhakikisha kwamba vijana wananusuriwa kwa uraibu wa aina

yeyote unaoharibu maisha yao sio tu kwa Wizara hii ya Vijana, bali, katika vitengo mbali mbali vya Serikali. Nina hakika kwamba kuna juhudi kubwa kutoka kwa Wizara ya Mambo ya Ndani na Utawala ya Kitaifa pamoja na mashirika mengine kama vile National Authority for Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA) ili tuzuie uraibu unapotokea. Pia, NACADA imetengeneza rehabilitation centres across the country; tutashirikiana nao ili tuangalie mambo hapo Embu Kaunti.

About Njukiri Stadium, we still have a commitment to do it. In fact, we have a design and we will be embarking on procuring the contractor to do this facility.

Mheshimiwa Tabitha Mutinda, thank you very much for the compliments on what we are doing for artists. In fact, we are working with international partners to establish a studio in Nairobi. We are also looking at the royalty collection process, which has now been concluded. Basically, we are monetising the talent here. However, I also acknowledge that creative economy is a new space that has just arrived. As a country, we have many robust policies and legislation on many matters but creative economy has remained unattended.

I know we are throwing out there several sparse interventions but the Creative Economy Bill, which I thank Hon. Eddy Oketch for spearheading, is in its final stages of public participation. It includes many of the issues relating to the creative economy in the country. In fact, just this week, the public participation team is in Kilifi actually doing the same. We should be able to work with Parliament to conclude this Bill.

On the timeline for having a comprehensive database; we are looking at the next six months, so that we come up with a database that is reliable. I have also noted the issues raised by Sen. Moses Kajwang' on matters of tax reliefs and naming of sports facilities. Now, we have named Raila Odinga International Stadium. Maybe next year, we should name another. I have noted this gap and we will address it.

On the question by Mheshimiwa Omtatah on the Victor Wanyama facility in Busia; first of all, I thank Victor. He is among the few legends who are investing back in the country to inspire talents. Since this is a private initiative, we will seek to collaborate with him in a framework of Public-Private Partnership (PPP), so that we can have an institution that can provide an opportunity for the young people of our country.

There is a question on whether we have a policy on addressing mothers in sports. Kama Wizara, tunalindwa na sheria moja inayohusu vifo. Hatuna policy maalum lakini nafikiri iko katika sheria za Kenya za kuhakikisha kwamba maisha ya mwananchi yeyote lazima yalindwe kwa namna yoyote. However, as we develop our database, we will be capturing data on specific issues for sportsmen and women and then we will liaise with the other Government agencies.

There was also an issue by Sen. Sifuna, who was basically addressing information and data not necessarily on sports issues but alikuwa anahotubia na kuangalia masuala kwa jumla. Nitasema tu kwamba ni kweli kwamba kuna sehemu zingine zinazokuwa na mapungufu ya habari na kama nilivyosema, sisi sasa tumeweka mpango; tumeweka sera kuhakikisha kwamba zile habari zinazotuhusu za mambo ya michezo tunahakikisha tutakuwa nazo.

Even other Ministries and agencies of Government have data. You know, we have data in the Ministry of Education relating to educational institutions, students and many

others. However, it may not be the session for me to talk on all ministries. I know that the Government has information and I know the relevant data that allows us to make decisions. Kwa swali hilo nitakomea hapo. Mengine kama nilivyoona, yanaweza kuzungumzwa nje ya Bunge. Mengi yalikuwa yanazungumzia wale ambao hawako ndani ya kikao hiki.

I want to finally respond on the matters of anti-doping. The Government has committed to clean sports and, therefore, we want our men and women, our athletes, to win with integrity and to observe clean sports. It is in that regard that through the Anti-Doping Act of 2016, the Government of Kenya established the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK). This Agency has been very useful in making sure that we collect intelligence, investigate and also enforce in cases of doping.

We are now amending the 2016 Act because the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has reviewed its code and will be rolling out its code in January, 2027. Kenya has already made the amendment to conform with the new Code.

The other areas that are of concern to this House are that in 2024, through an audit done by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), they were able to observe 35 issues that they needed us to address. I confirm to this House that all of them have been addressed. Right now, we are in the process of reforming the ADAK because, if you look at our country, we are a global sports powerhouse. So, we also need an institution that can match the profile of Kenya.

We have just recruited a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). We have a new Board and we have agreed on a new road map that will address all the challenges that have been observed before. We have assured continuous financing, which will ensure that they work with the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) on very special projects that will enhance our intelligence, enforcement and investigation. I want to assure the country that on matters of anti-doping, we are in a good space. We will host the President of the World Anti-Doping Agency from Monday as part of our international network, and as part of the support that we are providing to the anti-doping agents of Kenya.

So, we want to say it is normal to have naysayers like those who are wishing Kenya did not win the bid for 2029. When one loses in any competition, they will always find something to complain, but Kenya is properly positioned. We have proved across the world. Our athletes have broken records and won gold medals globally. This was the time for Kenya to prove that they can win at home.

The 2029 championship that we are hosting in Nairobi, Kenya is well deserved. The matters of doping should not be used at any level to demean the profile of Kenya and the profile of our athletes. We want to assure everybody that we will soon be rolling out the preparations for World Athletics 2029 and we do not have any worries. We are addressing the matters of doping decisively.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir and Hon. Members for providing this opportunity for engagement. I am sure in the future, we will have more engagement on the matters that we have discussed today and other matters that we look for in the future. We have used futuristic approach in this statement because we are all aware, as Kenyans, that matters sports and youth did not receive attention, previously.

Right now, we have a leadership that is very deliberate to ensure that we invest in sports. That is why you find infrastructure across Kenya and you will also get that matters youth are now being profiled. The Senator from Murang'a asked of where we have the specific entrepreneurship training in Murang'a. I want to assure him that we are doing the entrepreneurship programmes across Kenya. It is not a one-off and it is not an event. It is a programme which we have rolled out across the country.

Thank you very much and God bless you.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Wakili Sigei): Thank you, Hon. Cabinet Secretary, for your responses. As the Senate, we appreciate the fact that you took time to join us in the Senate Mashinani, here in Kilifi, all the way from Nairobi. We appreciate the responses and we look forward to engaging your Ministry on matters relevant to this country. Thank you very much. Together with your team, you are now released.

[The Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports (Hon. Salim Mvurya) was ushered out of the Chamber]

ADJOURNMENT

Now, Hon. Senators, you may rise. It is now 1.08 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, 23rd September, 2026, at 2.30 p.m.

The Senate rose at 1.08 p.m.