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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 24th June 2026

(The House met at 2.30 p.m.)

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Serjeant-at-Arms, ring the Quorum Bell for 10 minutes.

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

Order, Hon. Members. I am informed we have the requisite quorum to transact business. Proceed.

*(Several Members consulted while
standing along the gangways)*

Let those who are upstanding take the nearest seats. I have a Communication to make.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

DELEGATION FROM THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, I wish to introduce to you a delegation of Members of the Ethics Committee of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique, who are seated in the Speaker's Row. They are:

1. Hon. Aliba Aba Linha – Chairperson/Leader of the delegation.
2. Hon. Juscelino Rubao Bahule.
3. Hon. Tendai Lazaro Sianifala.
4. Hon. Nunes Age Antage.
5. Hon. Aleixo Evaristo Siedade.
6. Hon. Cristina Chelene Sevene.

The delegation, accompanied by two staff members, is on a visit to engage with the National Assembly's Committee on Powers and Privileges to share experiences regarding management of conflicts of interest, parliamentary ethics and decorum, among others.

Hon. Members, on my own behalf and that of the National Assembly, I welcome them to Parliament and wish them fruitful engagements during their stay in the country. I thank you.
Next Order.

PAPERS

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Let us have the Leader of the Majority Party.

Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, thank you very much. I join you to welcome the distinguished guests from Mozambique. They come from a very lovely and beautiful country. I have been to Maputo and I loved the country. You are most welcome to the Parliament of Kenya.

I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table:

1. Reports of the Auditor-General and Financial Statements for the years ended 30th June 2021, 30th June 2022, 30th June 2023, 30th June 2024 and 30th June 2025 and the certificates therein in respect of the following schools—
 - (a) Daniel Adventist Kaptubei High School – Elgeyo Marakwet County.
 - (b) Don Bosco Ituru High School – Kiambu County.
 - (c) Katooni Secondary School – Kitui County.
 - (d) Migwani Boys’ Secondary School – Kitui County.
 - (e) Mohamed Ali Girls’ Secondary School – Mombasa County.
 - (f) Moi Kadzonzo Girls Secondary School – Kilifi County.
 - (g) Mukaa Girls’ Secondary School – Makueni County.
 - (h) Our Lady of Glory Kaptagat Girls High School – Elgeyo Marakwet County.
 - (i) Rev. Canon Kuri Memorial Secondary School – Kilifi County.
 - (j) Sosiani Secondary School – Uasin Gishu County.
 - (k) Tembelio R.C.E.A Secondary School – Uasin Gishu County.
2. Reports of the Auditor-General and Financial Statements for the years ended 30th June 2023, 30th June 2024 and 30th June 2025 and the certificates therein in respect of the following schools—
 - (a) Moi Girls Secondary School Kamangu – Kiambu County.
 - (b) Port Reitz Integrated Secondary School – Mombasa County.
 - (c) Rev. Musa Gitau Girls Secondary School – Kiambu County.
 - (d) Seko Girls High School – Uasin Gishu County.
3. Reports of the Auditor-General and Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June, 2025 and the certificates therein in respect of the following schools—
 - (a) A.I.C Chebisas Boys High School – Uasin Gishu County.
 - (b) Kiambu High School – Kiambu County.
 - (c) Mama Ngina Girls Secondary School – Mombasa County.
 - (d) Mang’u High School – Kiambu County.
 - (e) Njonjo Girls High School – Laikipia County.
 - (f) Senior Chief Koinange Girls High School – Kiambu County.
 - (g) St. Joseph’s Girls High School Chepterit – Nandi County.
 - (h) St. Joseph High School Githunguri – Kiambu County.
 - (i) Thika High School – Kiambu County.
 - (j) Uthiru Girls High School – Kiambu County.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Thank you. Do we have the Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning?

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

We can skip it; it can be laid later on. Next Order.

NOTICE OF MOTION

STREAMLINING ADMISSION, CAPITATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN SENIOR SCHOOLS

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Clive Gisairo.

Hon. Clive Gisairo (Kitutu Masaba, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Order, Hon. Members. The consultations are too loud.

Hon. Clive Gisairo (Kitutu Masaba, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

THAT, aware that Kenya's education sector has faced escalating infrastructure pressures culminating in overstretched facilities, particularly in boarding schools; concerned that despite the introduction of an online learner placement portal in December 2025 by the Ministry of Education to widen access and expedite transfers among schools, there continues to be inequitable outcomes, disproportionately disadvantaging rural learners who suffer digital exclusion; acknowledging that parental preference for Category 1 (C-1) and Category 2 (C-2) schools owing to their improved infrastructure, including boarding amenities, causes over-enrolment in C-1 and C-2 schools; recalling that during the inaugural admission of Grade 10 learners into senior schools in January 2026 under the Competency Based Curriculum, some C-1 and C-2 schools invariably admitted learners at double or more of their approved capacity; noting that this tendency leaves most Category 3 (C-3) and Category 4 (C-4) schools severely under-enrolled, some below their viable enrolment capacity; concerned that the current capitation model based on the number of learners per school is not only misaligned with actual school facilities, but also encourages over-enrolment by some schools in pursuit of higher capitation funding; observing that the resultant overcrowding in C-1 and C-2 schools has eroded the recommended teacher-to-student ratio of 1:40, fuelled teacher burnout; diminished instructional quality; affected individual learner attention; overstretched facilities; and compromised learner-safety in emergency cases; now, therefore, this House resolves that the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with other relevant Government agencies and stakeholders—

1. Recalibrate the education capitation formula to reflect actual infrastructural capacity and ensure that schools receive proportional and equitable capitation to incentivise enrolment diversification and achieve equitable distribution of learners across the school categories.
2. Develop and enforces guidelines for capping the number of streams per category of schools at a maximum of 10 for C-1 schools, eight for C-2, five for C-3, and three for C-4 schools, with each stream not exceeding 40 students.
3. Implement a targeted and accelerated infrastructure upgrade programme in C-3 and C-4 schools, including classrooms, laboratories, ICT hubs, boarding sanitation and amenities to

achieve infrastructure standardisation across all categories of schools, safeguard the quality of education and systematically eliminate overcrowding in C-1 and C-2 schools.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

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

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

REQUESTS FOR STATEMENTS

Let us have Hon. James K'Oyoo.

ATTACK ON CHEMELIL SUGAR ACADEMY

Hon. James K'Oyoo (Muhoroni, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security regarding the circumstances surrounding the attack on Chemelil Sugar Academy on 18th June 2026.

On 18th June 2026, at approximately 11.00 a.m., a group of about 20 individuals armed with machetes, clubs and other crude weapons forcefully entered Chemelil Sugar Academy in an assault. The assailants intimidated and assaulted security personnel, teachers, support staff, parents, learners and other stakeholders, leaving several people with serious injuries. They were reportedly carrying petrol in plastic containers, suggesting their intent to set the school ablaze. This violent incident disrupted learning, endangered the lives and safety of learners, staff, parents and members of the surrounding community, and has raised serious concerns regarding the adequacy of security measures at the school and other educational institutions within Muhoroni Constituency.

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

1. Circumstances surrounding the attack on Chemelil Sugar Academy, including the factors that led to the incident, the identity of those responsible, and the status of investigations undertaken by the relevant security agencies.
2. An indication as to whether the attack is linked to the operational transition of the school following the leasing of Chemelil Sugar Academy to Kibos Sugar Academy in 2025 and if so, steps taken to secure stability and sustainability of the premier educational institution.
3. Immediate security measures instituted by the National Police Service (NPS) to safeguard the school, protect learners, staff, parents and the surrounding community and prevent recurrence of similar incidents.
4. Measures being taken by the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, to ensure the expeditious conclusion of investigations, the apprehension and prosecution of all persons responsible and the restoration of a safe and secure learning environment at Chemelil Sugar Academy.

I demand that immediate arrests and investigations be done without fear or favour. However connected whoever was involved is, they must be brought to book. Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Let us have Hon. Justice Kemei.

Hon. Justice Kemei (Sigowet/Soin, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to comment on the Request for Statement by my good neighbour from Muhoroni Constituency. Chemelil Sugar Academy is a premier institution, not just in Muhoroni, but in Nyanza as well as the Rift Valley. It draws students from all over the country. We are concerned that the change of ownership following the lease of the company to the private sector has resulted in claims that the school is now sponsored by those leasing the company. That has created insecurity in the region and spells danger for the students and members of the public who operate between Kisumu, Nandi and Kericho. That serious situation must be immediately addressed, so that students in that institution remain secure. Parents are worried about the developments in that premier institution. Action needs to be taken.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Members can contribute when the response is brought to the House. Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security, when will you bring the response?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Considering that this is a sensitive and urgent matter, and that we may soon be proceeding for recess, I will bring a preliminary response on Thursday, 2nd July as we wait for a comprehensive report, which I will table in the House on the first Thursday after recess.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): It is so ordered. Hon. K'Oyoo, the preliminary response will be issued on Thursday due to the sensitivity of the matter. The substantive report will come later on.

Proceed, Hon. Ruth Odinga.

SECURITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC
CRISIS WITHIN KISUMU SUGAR BELT

Hon. Ruth Odinga (Kisumu County, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock regarding the escalating security and socio-economic crisis within the Kisumu Sugar Belt.

On 18th June 2026, Chemelil Sugar Academy in Muhoroni Sub-County was attacked by an armed gang of about 20 individuals, leaving several members of staff injured and learners in distress. This attack was not just an isolated incident, but a reflection of broader systemic issues affecting communities within the Kisumu Sugar Belt, particularly around Muhoroni, Chemelil and Miwani sugar companies.

Concerns have been raised regarding the management and operations of the sugar companies, including alleged violation of the Sugar Industry Transition Committee's guidelines by enforcing massive lay-offs and prolonged delays in payment of terminal dues to former employees. For instance, workforce retention at Muhoroni Sugar Company is estimated to be 30-40 per cent, which is below the 80 per cent threshold. Outstanding terminal benefits across the mills have accumulated to approximately Ksh8 billion. Further, trade unions are denied formal recognition and salaries have been cut up to 60 per cent for the remaining workforce. Additionally, allegations have been made regarding encroachment onto community land resulting in land disputes, including the Koguta land dispute in Muhoroni and the Nucleus Estate land conflict in Miwani. Collectively, these challenges have contributed to heightened tensions, economic hardship and insecurity within these communities.

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

1. Measures being taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, to guarantee security within the Kisumu Sugar Belt and

provide psychological support to the staff and learners affected by the attack at Chemelil Sugar Academy.

2. Measures taken to ensure Muhoroni, Chemelil, and Miwani sugar companies adhere to the 80 per cent workforce retention framework and formally recognise trade union representation.
3. Plans by the Government to settle the outstanding Ksh8 billion in terminal dues owed to former employees, including specific timelines.
4. A report on the investigations into allegations of corporate encroachment, specifically the Koguta land dispute in Muhoroni and the Nucleus Estate conflict in Miwani.

As mentioned by the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security, this is a big crisis, which should be sorted as soon as possible.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Let us have the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. John Mutunga.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, we can bring the response in two weeks.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): I did not get you.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): We will bring the response in two weeks' time.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Three weeks?

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Two.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): In two weeks.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): In two weeks' time.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Ruth Odinga, you will get the response to your Request for Statement in two weeks' time.

Hon. Ruth Odinga (Kisumu County, ODM): We will be on recess in two weeks.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): I have just consulted. The Chairperson has said he will bring the response within two weeks.

Hon. Ruth Odinga (Kisumu County, ODM): We will be on recess in two weeks.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): He has not said after two weeks. He has said within two weeks. So, the report may be even ready on Tuesday.

Hon. Ruth Odinga (Kisumu County, ODM): On Tuesday before the recess?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): It could be on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday before recess.

Hon. Ruth Odinga (Kisumu County, ODM): I would appreciate it, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Two weeks it is, Hon. John Mutunga. Proceed, Hon. Joseph Oyula.

STATE OF EMERGENCY AND TRAUMA CARE SERVICES IN BUSIA COUNTY

Hon. Maero Oyula (Butula, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health regarding the state of emergency and trauma care services in Butula Constituency, Busia County.

Three women, namely, Ms Margaret Akuku Ojwang', Ms Caroline Awino Wewa, and Ms Lillian Nasubo Adiedo, together with a minor, were involved in a fatal road accident and rushed to Busia County Referral Hospital about 30 kilometres away. Regrettably, it is reported that they waited for medical attention for about three hours despite some being unconscious.

Subsequently, they were referred to Bungoma County Referral Hospital that is approximately 60 kilometres away. Sadly, the victims succumbed while awaiting treatment.

This is not an isolated case of failure by counties to offer emergency care. It reflects a wider national weakness in the framework and capacity for emergency and trauma care. It includes inadequate staffing, insufficient equipment, long referral distances, and slow response systems that place the lives of Kenyans at risk of avoidable incidents and grief.

I, therefore, request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health on the following:

The policy measures the Ministry of Health is undertaking, in collaboration with county governments, to strengthen emergency response, reduce referral delays, enhance staffing, and improve health infrastructure nationally to enhance the provision of emergency and trauma care services.

I thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health.

Hon. (Dr) James Nyikal (Seme, ODM): Thank you. We will bring a report within the first week after recess.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Oyula, the first week after recess sounds reasonable.

Hon. Maero Oyula (Butula, ODM): That is okay.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Chairperson, the report should be ready and delivered by then.

ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONALISATION OF MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRY

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Daniel Karitho.

Hon. Daniel Karitho (Igembe Central, JP): Thank you. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health regarding the establishment of public mental health facilities across the country.

Mental health has become one of the most pressing public health concerns in Kenya, with an increasing number of Kenyans, particularly young people, battling depression, anxiety, substance use disorders, and other mental health conditions. Despite the growing demand for mental healthcare services, access to affordable and quality treatment remains a significant challenge. Additionally, most specialised mental health facilities are privately owned, making mental health care unaffordable for many Kenyans due to the high cost of consultation, admission, medication, and rehabilitation services. Consequently, many persons living with mental illness either delay seeking treatment or go without care altogether, exposing them to worsening health conditions, stigma, loss of livelihoods, and in some cases, preventable deaths.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, Section 73 of the Health Act Cap.241 requires the establishment and management of mental hospitals with sufficient capacity to serve all parts of the country at both the national and county levels. Additionally, the Mental Health Act Cap.248, expressly provides for the establishment of mental health units operated and managed by both the national and county governments. It also requires designated Level 3, 4, 5 and 6 public health facilities with mental health units to provide both inpatient and outpatient mental health services. Despite this clear legal framework, public mental health facilities remain inadequate, poorly equipped, and unevenly distributed across the country, forcing patients and their families to seek care in costly private facilities or travel long distances to access specialised treatment.

It is against this background that I request the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Health to provide a Statement on the following:

1. Current status of the establishment and operationalisation of public mental health facilities and mental health units at the national referral hospitals, including the plans to establish additional facilities across the country to match the rising cases of mental health.
2. Policy framework for collaboration between the national Government and the county governments to strengthen capacity for provision of mental healthcare services, including infrastructure, personnel, financing and awareness.

I thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Chairperson, Departmental Committee on Health

Hon. (Dr) James Nyikal (Seme, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Relatively extensive work will be involved in this. However, we can give a report within two weeks after the recess.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Daniel Karitho, it is directed that the response from the Committee will come within two weeks after recess.

Hon. Daniel Karitho (Igembe Central, JP): Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): There are responses to previous requests for Statements. First is to the request of Statement by Hon. Mumina Bonaya. Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security.

STATEMENTS

INSECURITY, FEMICIDE AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES IN ISIOLO COUNTY

Hon. Ali Raso (Saku, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. The Woman Representative for Isiolo County, Hon. Mumina Bonaya, requested to be apprised of the rising cases of insecurity and the reported incidences of femicide and other violent crimes in Isiolo County. The Member particularly sought to be informed:

1. On the status of investigation into the murder of Ms Linda Nancy Achieng, Ms Wendy Kendi, Ms Hawo Kabiro Omar and Zulfa Gola Gimbe.
2. On the immediate measures being undertaken to enhance security in Isiolo County.
3. On the long-term measures being put in place, including community-based interventions.

On the investigation into the murder of Ms Linda Nancy Achieng, Ms Wendy Kendi, Ms Hawo Kabiro Omar, and Zulfa Gola, there were measures taken to apprehend the perpetrators. On the murder of Ms Linda Nancy Achieng on 27th November 2025, she was found murdered outside the GK prison farm in Isiolo County. The incident was reported at Isiolo Police Station, vide OB No.23/27/11/2025. Preliminary investigations established that the deceased had visible strangulation marks. Her husband, Mr Peter Orwa Obagi, and Mr Festo Omollo Opiyo, both of whom were the last persons seen with the deceased, were arrested.

A search conducted at the residence of Peter led to the recovery of the deceased's identity card and mobile phone SIM card. On 28th November 2026, the two suspects were presented before the Isiolo Law Courts where custodial orders were obtained to facilitate completion of investigation. A post-mortem examination conducted on 29th November 2025 established the cause of death as asphyxiation that is secondary to manual strangulation.

Upon completion of the investigation, Mr Peter Orwa Obagi was charged with the offence of murder contrary to Section 203 as read together with Section 204 of the Penal Code. Mr Festo Omollo Opiyo was recommended as a State witness. The matter is pending before the court.

On the murder of Ms Wendy Kendi, on 28th February 2026, Ms Wendy Kendi was found fatally injured at Soko Mjinga, Kulamawe, in Isiolo Town. The incident was reported vide OB No.08/28/02/2026. Police officers found the victim bleeding profusely from injuries allegedly inflicted by her partner, Mr Ezra Kithinji. The victim was rushed to Isiolo Level 4 Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival. The suspect was immediately arrested and placed in police custody. A post-mortem examination established the cause of death as haemorrhagic shock resulting from multiple stab and slash wounds. Mr Ezra Kithinji was charged with the offence of murder contrary to Section 203 as read together with Section 204 of the Penal Code. The case is pending before the court.

On the murder of Ms Hawo Kabiro Omar, on 3rd April 2026, Ms Hawo Kabiro Omar, aged 75, was found murdered near the GK Prison farm in Isiolo Town. The matter was reported to Isiolo Police Station. Investigation established that the deceased had been grazing goats when she was attacked by two individuals who subsequently stole her livestock. The deceased sustained severe head injuries and fractures.

While police officers were processing the scene, members of the public tracked the suspects and subjected them to mob justice. The stolen goats were recovered and returned to the deceased's family. The deceased's post-mortem examination established that death resulted from injuries inflicted by a blunt object. The two suspected assailants were later identified as Mr Absalom Onyango and Mr Dennis Mwenda. Post-mortem examination conducted on the suspects established that they died from injuries sustained during the mob attack. Investigations into the circumstances surrounding the murder of the deceased and the subsequent deaths of the suspect remains ongoing under DCI Isiolo under inquiry.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, on the murder of minor Zulfa Gola Gimbe, on 7th April 2026, the body of six-year-old Zulfa Gola Gimbe, who had been reported missing on 5th April 2026, was discovered in Rapsu, Isiolo County. Police investigations established that the child had left home for Madrassa classes, but failed to return. Following an extensive search, her body was discovered in a decomposing state on a farm within the Rapsu Irrigation Scheme. Post-mortem examination established the cause of death as asphyxia, secondary to manual strangulation. The sub-county criminal investigations office in Garbatula commenced investigation and has recorded statements from several persons of interest. However, investigations have yet to yield sufficient evidence.

On the immediate measures being undertaken to enhance security in Isiolo County, the following measures are being undertaken by the department in Isiolo: Intensifying both mobile and food patrols in identified hotspots; fast-tracking investigations through timely collection and analysis of evidence; conducting intelligence-led operations; and increasing public awareness and utilisation of the toll-free *Fichua Kwa DCI* Hotline 0800 722 203.

The long-term measures being put in place include community-based intervention. The following measures are being undertaken:

1. Ongoing multi-agency intelligence-driven operation for dismantling criminal networks.
2. Continued voluntary and enforcement-based disarmament exercises.
3. Expansion and modernisation of forensic laboratory capabilities at the DCI.
4. Strengthening community policing committees to promote collaboration.
5. Regular county security and intelligence committee meetings.

The Ministry remains deeply concerned by the loss of lives resulting from these heinous crimes and extends its condolences to the affected families. This response was signed by Hon.

Kipchumba Murkomen EGH, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration. I beg to submit.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Thank you. Let me intervene in the proceedings to welcome the following schools and students in the Public Gallery to the House. In the Public Gallery, we have Bicham School from Kajiado East Constituency, Kajiado County; Ndimu School from Bahati Constituency, Nakuru County; Still 1 Rise from Ruaraka Constituency, Nairobi County; Shalom Academy from Bomet Central Constituency, Bomet County; and university students from Uriri Constituency, Migori County. They are all welcome to the National Assembly to observe the proceedings.

Hon. Mumina Bonaya.

Hon. Mumina Bonaya (Isiolo County, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity. I wish to thank the Vice-Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security for the response. However, I want to be specific regarding the cases that I presented in terms of the satisfactory answers I have received. For the cases of Ms Linda Nancy Achieng', Ms Wendy Kendi, and Ms Hawo Kabiro Omar, the responses have been satisfactory. However, concerning the case of the six-year-old girl, Zulfa Gola Gimbe, I am disappointed with the response because there are things that we know, and there are things that communities know, that have not really helped in terms of arresting the suspect.

For example, the suspect in this case—the man who raped the six-year-old girl and killed her—escaped using the vehicle of the Officer Commanding Station (OCS), who came to investigate the matter. In the response we received, we are being told that they have not made any progress, yet the suspect disappeared using a Government vehicle. The OCS aided his escape, pretending not to know who the suspect was. These are gaps in the investigation. You cannot just show up in a place where an innocent girl, who was attending Madrassa classes, was raped by someone, and the only effort that the OCS and his team made was to arrive and rescue the suspects, due to a looming mob justice from the community. Who will defend this young girl? I feel that this investigation needs to happen again. I am unhappy with how they have handled the evidence; they did not collect or analyse it properly. The only thing they did when they showed up was help the suspect escape. On this matter, I still request a satisfactory answer.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Dido Raso.

Hon. Ali Raso (Saku, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I think what Hon. Mumina is saying is a very serious allegation. If the Officer Commanding Station (OCS) himself is part of this crime, yet he is supposed to be the person arresting criminals, then that is, indeed, very serious.

Hon. Mumina and I come from the same community, and we take issues concerning minors very seriously. It is the responsibility of society and the community to protect people who do not have the strength to defend themselves. I believe she may have evidence. She should share with us so that we can share with the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) for the individuals to be brought to justice.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): When do you want the Member to come before the Committee for further interrogation of the matter?

Hon. Ali Raso (Saku, UDA): Next Tuesday, the Cabinet Secretary will appear before the Committee, and Hon. Mumina is accordingly invited to make the same allegation she is making because that is very serious as far as we are concerned.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Mumina, due to the seriousness of the matter you have raised, I will not have this one concluded before the House. I am sending the matter to the Committee for further investigations. You will be notified by the Committee as and when they can sit over it.

Hon. Mumina Bonaya (Isiolo County, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Just to add to what I shared earlier, on this case, the only people who have been interrogated so far are the family members of the young girl; nobody else. That alone tells us that there is no seriousness in handling this case as required.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): You know the limitations of these responses have been the presidential system. It is for that reason that I am using my discretion to remit the matter to the Committee for in-depth interrogation. Please, attend and provide the information you have so that we can do justice to those Kenyans affected by the subject matter.

Hon. Irene Mayaka, next is the response from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock.

INVASIVE DODDER WEED IN KENYA

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Pursuant to Standing Order 44(2)(c), Hon. Irene Mayaka requested for a Statement regarding the invasive dodder weeds in Kenya. I stand to respond to the Request for a Statement by the Member, as far as the response I have got from the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. The Member specifically wanted to know the immediate intervention that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has put in place to contain the spread of the dodder weed, including the availability and approval of effective means of control methods for affected farmers in Kenya.

Secondly, she also sought to know the measures undertaken to sensitise farmers and the general public on the identification, prevention, and management of dodder weed infestation, particularly in hotspot areas.

Finally, she sought to know the budgetary allocation that the Ministry has made to the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), and other relevant institutions for nationwide mapping of dodder weed infestation, identification of hotspot areas, research on sustainable control measures, and implementation of urgent interventions. The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development responded as follows to the issues raised in the Statement:

The spread of invasive weeds has intensified due to climate change, rising global temperatures, and increased global movement. This has negatively affected food security and the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers. Dodder weed is a group of invasive parasitic weeds found in many regions across the world. These weeds attack a wide variety of plants and can lead to significant economic losses.

In Kenya, the weed is spreading rapidly and has already been reported in about 12 counties, mainly in eastern and western Kenya, and the Rift Valley region. It now poses a serious threat not only to trees, but also to crop production, thereby endangering biodiversity and food security. The weed causes significant damage to crops such as tea, avocado, maize, sugarcane, and bananas. The weed has been observed in Murang'a, Nyamira, Bomet, Bungoma, Busia, Embu, Kakamega, Kajiado, Kiambu, Kirinyaga, Nakuru, Nandi, and Nyeri counties.

Dodder weed also infests ornamental plants, native vegetation, and trees, reducing the aesthetic appeal of the landscape. As the dodder weed grows, it repeatedly attaches itself to the host plant, forming a dense network of intertwined stems that can completely cover a tree or shrub with thick yellow,

golden-orange, or green vines, eventually killing the host. Dodder weeds are highly prolific seed producers, with each plant capable of generating several thousand seeds in a single season.

While only about 5 per cent of these seeds germinate the following year, the rest can remain dormant in the soil and stay viable for more than 20 years. Dodder seeds are mainly spread from one host plant to another by vectors such as birds, animals, and humans during pruning, composting of infected material, improper disposal of infested plant material, and movement of infected soil and equipment. Dodder seeds germinate on or close to the soil surface, typically without influence from the host plant. The emerging seedling produces a slender, twining stem that wraps itself around any nearby plant.

Now, I move to the specific concerns raised by the Member. Firstly, she wanted to know the immediate interventions the Agriculture and Livestock Development has put in place to contain the spread of the dodder weed, including the availability and approval of effective control methods for affected farmers in Kenya. The Ministry has put in place the following interventions to contain the spread of dodder weeds:

Firstly, a multidisciplinary technical committee has been established to address issues relating to invasive pests and weeds. The committee developed the Migratory and Invasive Pest and Weed Management Strategy 2022/2027. The strategy is domiciled in the Plant Protection and Food Safety Directorate within the State Department for Agriculture and Research. The strategy's mission is to establish a system that supports the effective and efficient management of migratory and invasive pests and weeds for enhanced food and nutrition security in Kenya.

The multidisciplinary technical committee involved in the development of the strategy comprised KALRO; the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE); the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT); regulatory agencies such as the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB); universities, including the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University; private sector organisations such as the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM); the State Department for Agriculture through the Plant Protection Unit; county governments; and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) such as the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), among others.

KALRO, in collaboration with the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP), have developed an integrated management of the universal species of dodder weeds (*Cuscuta*) on avocado. The KEFRI has developed guidelines for dodder weed management in Kenya. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide information and build capacity to farmers, landowners, tree growers, foresters and other stakeholders on available strategies for management of dodder weeds in order to control the spread of the weed.

The second issue that the Member sought to know is the measures undertaken to sensitise farmers and the general public on identification, prevention and management of dodder infestation, particularly in hotspot areas. The Ministry's response is as follows:

The Government, through NAVCDP, supports awareness creation and trains farmers involved in the avocado value chain across the major avocado-producing counties in Kenya. The project counties for the avocado are: Bomet, Bungoma, Embu, Kakamega, Kiambu, Kericho, Kirinyaga, Kisii, Machakos, Meru, Murang'a, Nandi, Narok, Nyamira, Nyeri, Uasin Gishu and Vihiga. You will also realise that the six counties also map very closely to the target and strategic control counties.

In the integrated management of invasive species, guidelines on dodder weed in avocado has been distributed to small-scale farmers in the avocado value chain to serve as a technical guideline for managing the invasive weed. Dodder can only be effectively controlled using an integrated management approach as no single method has been proven to adequately manage the weed on its own. The integrated approach combines preventive, cultural, mechanical and chemical methods that farmers and the general public use to manage dodder weeds. Biological control has to do with research which is underway in Kenya for dodder control using natural enemies or biocontrol engines.

The third issue that the Member sought to know is the budgetary allocation that the Ministry has made to KEFRI, KALRO and other relevant institutions for national-wide mapping of dodder investigation, identification of hotspot areas, research on sustainable control measures and implementation of urgent interventions. The Ministry's response is as follows:

The Ministry has not allocated any budget to KEFRI, KALRO and other institutions for management of invasive weeds activities such as mapping dodder investigation, identification of the hotspot areas and research.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I beg to submit.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Yes, Hon. Irene.

Hon. Irene Mayaka (Nominated, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I go on record that I reject that response in totality because it is extremely underwhelming. As we have heard, this dodder weed has affected up to 17 counties in this country. If you drive along Kisumu, Sondu, all the way to Kisii and Nyamira roads, you will see what the dodder weed has done. It has even affected the fences that people have put around their houses, as well as tea plants and fruits, especially avocados. In this response, the Ministry says that they have put in place extensive research personnel to undertake and find out what exactly is wrong with this weed. But when it comes to budgetary allocation, they tell us that there is no budgetary allocation for research.

Where I come from, in Nyamira and Kisii counties, the avocado fruit and tea are two extremely important cash crops. The same with the counties that have been mentioned. I just want to mention the counties once again so that Members can hear how extraneous this particular weed is. It has affected the following counties: Bomet, Bungoma, Embu, Kakamega, Kiambu, Kericho, Kirinyaga, Kisii, Machakos, Meru, Murang'a, Nandi, Narok, Nyamira, Nyeri, Uasin Gishu and Vihiga—17 counties. Some of these counties are the food basket of this country. How can the Ministry say that they have not allocated any budget towards control and prevention of this particular weed?

Hon. Temporary Speaker, this response is unacceptable and the Ministry needs to get back to us and give us a better response than this.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Dorice Donya.

Hon. Dorice Donya (Kisii County, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I remember some time back, I asked a Question on the Floor of this House about the tea farmers in Kisii, Nyamira and some parts of the Rift Valley on why they were receiving low tea bonuses. Part of it is because of this weed. The Ministry said that parts of Nyanza and Rift Valley have low quality tea. We have found part of the answer to that. Then the Ministry goes ahead to say that they have not allocated any budget towards control of this weed.

When I read through the response from the Chair, the Ministry says that they always conduct some research. Which research will they continue doing when they have not allocated any money for this purpose? I find the answers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development fake. They take farmers for granted. I get astounded every day I get an answer from the Chair of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock. I am waiting for this year's tea bonuses and see whether the Ministry will say that they will conduct another research in places where farmers will receive low bonuses yet they do not consider key issues affecting the farmers in their budgetary allocations. Remember tea helps in food security. Tea has employed many people in this country. At the same time, we depend on it for everything. For once, can we ask the Chair to be serious? We do not stand to ask questions for the sake of it. We ask because we want to help our people. He has raised up his hand. I want to hear what he is saying.

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

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I would like the Chair to clarify whether dodder, also known as *cuscuta* – which is a parasitic weed – has any beneficial results. I was just googling because I wanted to find out about dodder. I have also seen it on the fence in my farm. Google says that it has key traditional and potential health benefits. Among its benefits is reproductive and sexual health, where it improves impotence and other things. I just wanted to seek advice from the Chair on the weed. He talked about research on this weed. Can he tell us whether the weed is beneficial? Is there a way this can be harnessed for other benefits? The weed is being used in other countries like Iran.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Fatuma will have the last opportunity to joyride on this response. We have a very long Order Paper, Hon. Members.

Hon. Fatuma Mohammed (Migori County, Independent): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I also want to add my voice to this response. I come from Migori County, where there are areas that border Kisii County that grow tea. The Chairman has just said that they do not have an allocation in the budget to deal with this problem. But in his response, he has mentioned that they have a committee that is supposed to deal with this situation, and they sit every day. I do not know what they are doing, but they have a budget for tea, *mandazi*, Keringet mineral water, and to sit on nice red seats. They are paid to sit. They have a budget for that, but they do not have a budget to do what is necessary on the ground. Why do they not disband this organisation that they call a committee?

Hon. Temporary Speaker, if I may read for you, it is a very large committee. It comprises the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), and many other international organisations—sitting to drink tea and do nothing.

I beg your pardon, but I am sorry to say this despite your smile. You should be ashamed of this response. In your area, they grow tea, coffee and even avocados. How do you bring such a Statement to this House and convince us that there is no money in the budget? Where were you when the budget was being prepared because in your village this problem exists? Where

were you, as a Member of Parliament, when the budget was being made? In your Committee of 15 Members, I am sure that wherever they come from in this country, they grow tea, avocados and everything else affected here. Where were they? Sorry to say, but shame on them.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Fatuma, you cannot speak in that manner against Members when you do not have a substantive Motion. Withdraw the words “shame on them” especially as a Chairperson of a committee yourself.

Hon. Fatuma Mohammed (Migori County, Independent): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I withdraw, but you will find that the “*wamunyoros*” who were opposed to the budget decided not to attend when this issue was being discussed. Once again, not shame on you, but I am sorry for your ignorance.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is that parliamentary?

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

Your regret for the ignorance of any Member is acceptable. Do not withdraw. I am told that it is parliamentary. Hon. John Mutunga, the response coming from the Ministry is not sufficient.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, first of all, I would like to address my colleagues on the content of this response. It is extremely wrong for Hon. Mayaka to rise and pick the list that is targeted at control as though it were the list of affected areas, yet the report is before her. I refer to point number two, the first paragraph. She has read the counties targeted by the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP). Those are the counties targeted for this particular project for control and not the affected ones. That is a wrong premise.

On the other hand, I would like to respond to Hon. Donya. Hon. Donya likes speaking to the gallery. This House made a determination that any Member interested in joining the Committee in the inquiry on the determination of tea bonus payment can join that Committee. We formed an expanded Committee and divided the Members into two, and agreed that those who would come...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. John Mutunga, are you still on the dodder weed matter?

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Yes, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Hon. Donya has raised another issue that I need to respond to because she is extremely ignorant.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Do not go into issues which are not related to the subject matter.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, a Member stands here and brands another Member as ignorant before they even know the content yet they have been involved in a process and on the first day of the outing, they were already convinced that everything being done was wrong. So, who is ignorant here? It is the Member who, by the second day of the outing, was already convinced and she left the team. Let me return to this report and respond to this lady.

*(Hon. Dorice Donya and
Hon. Fatuma Mohammed consulted loudly)*

Let me respond to...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Order, Hon. John Mutunga. I cautioned you against going away from the subject matter.

*(Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia
stood up in his place)*

Take your seat, Hon. John Mutunga. Hon. Dorice Donya, what is out of order?

Hon. Dorice Donya (Kisii County, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, the Chairperson has mentioned Donya four times instead of using that time to allocate the budget. I am not the one who came up with the Statement that there is no budget which has been allocated or the one who took the dodder weed to Kisii. Those are facts that you do not have the budget. Why is Donya coming in?

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

Hon. Fatuma Mohammed (Migori County, Independent): Hon. Temporary Speaker, may I kindly introduce myself to the honourable Member because he referred to me as “may I respond to this...”. I am not a “this”. My name is Miss Fatuma Zainab Mohammed, CBS, Chairperson of the Special Funds Accounts Committee. I am a first-term Member with a CBS, a woman and I represent eight sub-counties. My dear brother, please, look at me with some respect.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Order! I think that introduction is enough. Hon. John Mutunga, please, keep to the sufficiency of your response and what you can do to seal any gaps.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I did not write this report. I am reading it. That is very important.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Yes, but what do you propose to do to address the additional issues?

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): The contextual matters contained in the report cannot be misquoted in this House before us. We have to...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. John Mutunga...

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, let me finish by saying this...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. John Mutunga, Members are saying that the response you have read on behalf of the Ministry has gaps. How do you intend to address them? That is why I have given you the microphone.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I am coming to that. The Ministry, on one hand, has stated it has a multi-agency technical control committee addressing the matter. On the other hand, it says there is no budget.

Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South, UDA): On point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

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

Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. The issue being addressed is a national issue and a catastrophe for agriculture. Understanding that, it would be more in order and in line with our parliamentary procedures that this goes back to the Ministry so that this burden is not occasioned upon the honourable Chairperson, who is just relaying a message to the House. I know you can direct it appropriately to where it belongs. Thank you for this opportunity.

Hon. (Dr) Otiende Amollo (Rarieda, ODM): On point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. (Dr) Otiende Amollo, Senior Counsel, what is out of order?

Hon. (Dr) Otiende Amollo (Rarieda, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. May I advise my colleague, Hon. John Mutunga, that although this is a national issue, it appears

to be one of particular concern to our lady colleagues. As you seek a response, please, advise the Ministry that you do not want to suffer the wrath of women Members of Parliament.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Yes. Hon. Mutunga, did you note the concerns by Hon. Pukose, which you have also not addressed?

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I am addressing Hon. Pukose's concerns. I had not finished.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Address the House in terms of how the responses not contained in the report will come to the House or what you want to do to secure that the response is satisfactory.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I note that the report is insufficient, especially in indicating that there is no budget when there is already a committee formed that is doing some work and several research institutions—the national research institution and the other international centres supporting Kenya. Therefore, I think that is a contradiction. On the issue that Hon. Pukose...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Are you saying that is a contradiction or you are going to seek clarification from the Ministry?

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, we will seek clarification.

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

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, on the issue raised by Hon. Pukose, dodder weed is also known as *Cuscuta*. *Cuscuta* is important because it is used in the production of highly valued medicinal products like antioxidants and anti-inflammatory with hepatoprotective properties. It is useful and that is why connoting research is done. Research is not just about finding out whether they are weeds or not. It is also about finding out whether such weeds are useful and whether they can be commercialised. As we look at that, we are also looking at the preventive measures in those farms that are likely to be infested by these weeds. There is a lot of work that needs to be done. We cannot conclude this matter.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): How long do you need to bring a substantive response to those gaps you have mentioned?

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): I propose that I bring the response on the second week after the recess?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, in the second week after recess, there will be a more substantive response to the additional issues you have raised.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, there is an issue I would like to address. A Member in this House indicated that we do not know how to allocate budget. I would like to address that as the Chairman of the Committee.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. John Mutunga, I took note of that. It is a non-issue. Let us go to the next response, which will be given by the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations, to the request for Statement by Hon. Caroline Ng'elechei. Before he does that, I want to allow Hon. Mark Ogolla Nyamita to welcome the University students from Uriri, Migori County, together with all students visiting the House to observe proceedings

Hon. Mark Nyamita (Uriri, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Allow me to break procedure a bit on that issue even as Hon. Mutunga goes to seek further engagement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. Hon. (Dr) Pukose is just not a Member of this House; he is a medical doctor. I understand the concerns of the ladies, especially when Hon. Pukose mentioned that the weed can cause impotence in men. We have

noted how our women colleagues are very much concerned about this. I want to urge that Hon. Pukose be given time.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Mark Nyamita, the weed does not cause impotence.

Hon. Mark Nyamita (Uriri, ODM): That is what the Chairman...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The weed, according to Hon. (Dr) Pukose, treats impotence. The excitement of the lady Members could be more on the positive than on the negative side.

(Laughter)

Hon. Mark Nyamita (Uriri, ODM): In that case then, they need to give feedback very quickly so that we can allay the fears of our female colleagues.

I take this opportunity to welcome a group of university students. Some of them are graduates in agriculture, and they might help in that research. I am honoured that they are here.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, as you might be aware, in the coming elections next year, I will not be seeking votes to come back here. I will go for a higher seat. I invited the young men, some of them who have graduated and some who are still in school, to come and see where I sit because, maybe, one of them might be here the next time. The visit is also meant to give them a chance to witness that Members of Parliament do a great job. I take this opportunity to welcome all the student, those who are in school and those who are not.

Karibuni sana to the 13th Parliament. Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The students are welcome to the House to observe proceedings.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The Vice-Chairman, Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee, is there a way you can go straight to the specific responses?

DEMISE OF MS SHEILA CHEPKORIR

Hon. Major (Rtd) Abdullahi Sheikh (Mandera North, UDM): Noted, Hon. Temporary Speaker. This is a response to a Request for a Statement by Hon. Caroline Ng'elechei regarding circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs Sheila Chepkorir Tanui in Australia.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 44(2), Hon. Ng'elechei requested for a Statement from the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs regarding the circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs Sheila Chepkorir Tanui in Australia. The Committee specifically sought clarification on the following:

1. A report on the investigations being conducted by the Australian law enforcement and forensic authorities into the death of Ms Sheila Chepkorir Tanui, including the steps taken to secure all available CCTV footage, witness statements and forensic evidence to establish the actual cause of her death.
2. The measures being taken by the Government of Kenya to engage Australian authorities to ensure a thorough and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs Sheila Chepkorir Tanui and to guarantee the family's access to all relevant findings and evidence.
3. The support and consular assistance being extended to the family by the Kenyan High Commission in Australia, including measures to facilitate the dignified repatriation of Ms Tanui's remains and the provision of appropriate support to the family.

On the investigations being conducted by the Australian law enforcement and forensic authorities into the death of Mrs Sheila Chepkorir, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs states that the Government of Kenya, through the Kenyan High Commission in Australia, has maintained close contact with the relevant Australian authorities since being notified of the incident. The Ministry further states that the matter was reported to the Day Street Police Station in Sydney, New South Wales, immediately following the incident. Investigations commenced thereafter under the competent Australian law enforcement authorities, led by the Australian police officers, who visited the scene and initiated investigation.

The Ministry has been informed by the Kenyan High Commission in Australia that investigations remain ongoing and that the Coroner's Office is yet to finalise and release its official report. The Australian authorities have assured the Kenyan High Commission that all relevant investigation procedures have been undertaken in accordance with Australian law, including collection and examination of relevant forensic evidence, retrieval and examination of available CCTV footage, recording and assessment of witness statements and analysis of all relevant information necessary to establish the circumstance and cause of death.

On measures being undertaken by the Government of Kenya to engage Australian authorities and ensure a thorough and transparent investigation, the Ministry states that the Kenyan High Commission in Canberra has maintained continuous engagement with the New South Wales Police Force and other relevant Australian authorities regarding the progress of the investigation. The Ministry further states that the Ministry, through the State Department for Diaspora Affairs and the Kenyan High Commission, continues to monitor the developments and follow up the relevant authorities to ensure that the family receives timely updates regarding the progress of the investigation.

On support and consular assistance being extended to the family, the Ministry states that the Government of Kenya remains committed to supporting the family during this difficult time. Key interventions undertaken include maintaining regular communication with the family and keeping them informed of verified developments concerning the case and issuing a support letter to facilitate visa processing for the deceased's brother, to travel to Australia and assist the family during this difficult period and providing counselling and psychological support services to the family members through the State Department of Diaspora Affairs.

I submit and thank you Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Caroline Ng'elechei.

Hon. Caroline Ng'elechei (Marakwet County, Independent): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. First, I want to appreciate the Member for the response, albeit very late. They have taken more than three weeks to respond to this Request for a Statement. Nonetheless, there is no committal from the Government. The Statement neither commits nor gives any substantial information about anything. It just states that they will continue to engage. Until when are they going to continue engaging?

Secondly, for your information, the Ministry has been relying on family members to give them information. The family members through their own effort sent one of them to Australia to do a follow-up with the authorities of the Australian Government. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs has been, shamelessly, reaching out to the family members to update them on how far they have gone.

I was expecting a response to the Request for Statement. I was hoping there would be a follow-up. I expected the Government to say that it has given the family legal assistance, taken statements from the hotel or such like things. The Statement simply says that the Government is engaging. How is it engaging? Is it by phone? Has the High Commissioner even reached out to family members? It is a very ambiguous Statement which does not commit to do something. If you ask me to rate the response from the Ministry out of 10, I will give them 0.5 to the effort of taking three weeks to write such a flimsy Statement.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, Kenyans in the diaspora suffer. As I said last week, they contribute much to the economy of this country and whenever they face challenges outside, the Government should give them special attention. They should know that these are people who are far away. I have been told the lady died in a five-star hotel where she had worked for two weeks. The post-mortem report indicates that there was blunt force trauma at the back of her head, and then she fell. Initial report said that she fell from the nineteenth floor to fourth floor. They have reduced the number of floors right now. They have said that she fell from the fourteenth floor to fourth floor. Maybe by next week, they will say she fell from second floor to first floor. People's issues should be taken seriously by the State Department for Diaspora Affairs.

Secondly, because of the number of deaths that have happened outside the country, especially these young students in the university, I expected the Ministry to come up with a welfare or an insurance policy. This girl had stayed in Australia for six weeks. She worked for two weeks. The parents had contributed a lot of money for her to go to university because she was pursuing a Master's Degree. They conducted three or four fundraisers to repatriate her body back to the country after suffering the loss of paying the school fees and an air ticket.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I know the Prime Cabinet Secretary has been away with the President. Maybe this report was written because of pressure from this House. I need another report, when we come back from recess. I need a comprehensive one that indicates how far the investigations are, what the Kenyan mission in Australia is doing, and a report from the authorities and investigators in Australia.

I thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Vice-Chairperson.

Hon. Major (Rtd) Abdullahi Sheikh (Mandera North, UDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I have noted the concern of Hon. Ng'elechei. I am sure issues of special support to Kenyans are very key. As a Committee and Parliament, it is our duty to allocate resources to the State Department for Diaspora Affairs. We have the Diaspora Fund which has not been implemented and funded yet. Once it is operationalised, support to Kenyans in distress outside the country will be addressed.

On the matter of the Statement not being very conclusive, I agree with her because these are progressive reports. We will ask the Ministry to ensure that they give us a progress report on what is happening. Remember, this is murder. It requires a bit of time for them to bring all the reports, considering that it is another country and another law enforcement agency is dealing with it. Nevertheless, we will still ask them to collaborate and engage with the Australian law enforcement unit to ensure the report is available.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Vice-Chairperson, when will you bring the progress report on the state of the investigation?

Hon. Major (Rtd) Abdullahi Sheikh (Mandera North, UDM): Because we are going for recess, once we come back, probably all these ongoing investigations will have captured much of the information. After the first week of recess, we will have a complete and comprehensive report.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Ng'elechei, that sounds reasonable. Because the investigations are continuing, the Vice-Chairperson has undertaken that there will be a progress report before the House which will be debated as we go along on this sensitive matter. You will get a response the first week after recess.

Hon. Caroline Ng'elechei (Elgeyo Marakwet County, Independent): That is okay, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The response by the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works to the Statement request by Hon. Onesmus Ngogoyo.

Hon. Joseph Tonui (Kuresoi South, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona (Suba North, ODM): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

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

Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona (Suba North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I would like to comment on the demise of the lady in Australia. It was raised with us when we were in Australia last month. They said she had committed suicide, but evidence pointed to a possibility of murder. I am a Member of the Committee, and I have raised the issue there. The other issue that was raised by the Kenyans residing in Australia was the high number of Kenyans who are dying there. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee has left. Because I am a Member of the Committee, I will bring it up when we discuss it. We need to look at it globally. Many young Kenyans are dying. We need to look at the causes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Thank you, Hon. Millie. Hon. Members, luckily, the two issues will be brought to the House after recess. I hope we will engage in greater detail then.

Yes, Hon. Chairperson.

COLLAPSE OF A STOREY BUILDING IN KAJIADO COUNTY

Hon. Joseph Tonui (Kuresoi South, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. On 8th June 2026, the Member for Kajiado, Hon. Onesmus Ngogoyo...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is Hon. Onesmus Ngogoyo in the House?

Hon. Members: Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Okay. Can you go to the specific responses, so that we save time?

Hon. Joseph Tonui (Kuresoi South, UDA): The Member of Parliament requested for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works regarding the collapse of a building under construction at Ole Nairi area, Kajiado North Constituency. In the Statement, the Member sought to establish, among other things:

1. A report on the circumstances that led to the collapse of the eight-storey building at Ole Nairi area on 8th May 2026, including copies of approvals granted for the project, whether MS Coast Link Building Works Limited was registered at the time of the collapse of the building, and whether the construction complied with the approvals and the National Construction Authority (NCA) standards.
2. An explanation on how the collapsed building had risen as high as eight storeys at the time of collapse, yet the area is within a flight path zone restricted to four storeys, and actions taken for violation.
3. The steps taken to resettle tenants and homeowners who moved as a result of the collapse, and support being extended to the families of the deceased workers.
4. The measures being taken to restore the access roads in Ole Nairi destroyed during the clearance of rubble from the site of the collapsed building.

5. The measures in place to ensure that construction workers across Kenya are governed by adequate occupational safety, health protections and compensation frameworks.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the Committee received a response from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, through the Clerk of the National Assembly, which I now wish to convey.

The State Department informed the Committee that it received reports of the collapse of a residential building under construction located in Oloolua area on the outskirts of Ngong on the morning of 9th May 2026. They further informed the Committee that the developer had submitted an application to the County Government of Kajiado on 20th February 2025. Approval was subsequently granted via vide FORM PLUPA/DC/8 under Registered Application No. PKN/044/2025 on 26th February 2025. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), vide Licence No. NEMA/EIA/PSL/39046 dated 10th April 2025, approved the construction of an eight-storey building comprising a basement and ground floor parking area, with the first to eighth floors each containing five three-bedroom units and associated amenities on Plot LR No. Ngong/Ngong/107078, Ngong Municipality. The project was also registered by the National Construction Authority (NCA) under Project Registration No.46618315711767, valid from 25th April 2025 to 25th April 2027.

The State Department established that the parties involved in the project were Mr Mathew Kipkoech Keter as the developer/client and FOS Designs and Building Solutions Limited as the contractor and not Cost-Link Building Works Limited as indicated in the Request for the Statement. The contractor was registered with NCA under Registration No.83085/B/0324, Category Building Works NCA 3, with a valid licence.

The State Department further informed the Committee that the developer had engaged Eng. Ngugi Jacob Kibe (Registration No. A4926) as the project engineer and Architect Maimba Kahara (Registration No. A2107) as the project architect. However, the engineer subsequently withdrew his indemnity on the project vide letter Ref.JK02/250606 dated 6th June 2025, while the architect formally withdrew from the project vide letter Ref.MK.2.4.25 dated 30th January 2026. The State Department also informed the Committee that an inspection conducted on 30th January 2026 established that the project was proceeding without the supervision of the project consultants. Consequently, NCA issued Suspension of Works Order No. 197588.

In regards to the cause of the collapse, the State Department indicated that investigations undertaken since 8th May 2026 revealed that the collapse resulted from structural deficiencies, poor workmanship and non-compliance with approved designs. Although the project had obtained development approval from the county government, a NEMA licence and NCA registration, inspections revealed contradictions between the approved plans and the actual construction, which had exceeded the approved height. While approval had been granted for eight floors, the building had reached nine floors at the time of collapse. The State Department concluded that the collapse stemmed from a combination of exceeding the approved height, disregarding regulatory orders and structural weaknesses, thereby underscoring enforcement gaps and violations of NCA standards.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, in regards to the explanation on how the collapsed building had risen as high as eight storeys at the time of collapse yet the area is within a flight path zone restricted to four storeys and the actions taken for the violation, the State Department informed the Committee that whereas the Statement raised the issue that the Ole Nairi site lies within a flight path zone restricted to four storeys, a review of statutory approvals and regulatory records showed no evidence that Ngong/Oloolua is formally designated as a flight path zone. The State Department further indicated that it had sought clarification from the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) on the matter.

Regarding the steps taken to resettle tenants and homeowners who moved as a result of the collapse and the support being extended to families of the deceased workers, the State Department informed the Committee that the resettlement of victims of disasters such as building collapses is a shared responsibility across several institutions. County governments, through their County Disaster Risk Management committees, coordinate local disaster response, including shelter and relocation. At the national level, the National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) oversees evacuations, provision of safe refuge and delivery of essential supplies, while the National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU) under the Ministry of Interior and National Administration provides command and coordination during emergencies through the National Emergency/Disaster Plan.

The State Department further informed the Committee that the National Disaster Risk Management Authority (NDRMA), established under the 2026 Act, provides a legal framework for disaster risk management by coordinating national and county efforts, managing the Disaster Risk Management Fund and ensuring that victims receive resettlement support. It indicated that its mandate remains focused on technical inspection, regulatory compliance and advisory services within the construction sector. In recognition of the need for coordinated action, it has established a Multi-Sectoral Agency Consultative Committee (MSACC) to bring together key players in the construction sector and relevant disaster-response agencies. The committee is intended to foster collaboration and synergy aimed at enhancing safety and orderliness in the built environment.

The State Department further informed the Committee that it is in the process of gazetting the committee to provide it with statutory authority and enable it to address cross-cutting issues such as resettlement in a structured and legally backed manner. It also informed the Committee that it continues to experience significant financial constraints in executing its coordination mandate, particularly in responding to building collapses and undertaking continuous inspections aimed at identifying and addressing structural deficiencies before collapses occur. These challenges are further compounded by the absence of a legal mandate for the Multi-Sectoral Agency Consultative Committee, which limits its effectiveness in coordinating enforcement and preventive interventions.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, regarding the measures being taken to restore the access roads in Ole Nairi destroyed during the clearance of rubble from the site of the collapsed building, the State Department informed the Committee that while road restoration is outside its direct mandate, it is proactively strengthening multi-agency coordination through the Multi-Sectoral Agency Consultative Committee. The State Department stated that this framework will ensure that future responses to disasters, whether involving access roads, structural safety or resettlements, are handled collaboratively with clear accountability and enhanced efficiency.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, regarding the measures in place to ensure that construction workers across Kenya are covered by adequate occupational safety and health protection and compensation frameworks, the State Department informed the Committee that the Occupational Safety and Health Act, CAP 236A, provides the legal foundation for workers' protection in Kenya and is enforced by the Directorate of Occupational Safety and Health Services under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. Employers are legally required to register workplaces, implement safety measures and provide compensation for injuries sustained at work. The Work Injury Benefits Act complements...

(Hon. Owen Baya spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Order, Hon. Chairman. What is out of order, Hon. Owen?

Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, there seems to be general consensus on the response because Hon. Ngogoyo is here and he is probably the only one interested in that matter. I can see everybody else is on his phone and doing other things. The response is lengthy and, of course, detailed and we thank whoever prepared it. You could give it to Hon. Ngogoyo to read and if he has issues, he can raise with him and then we move on. We seem to be stuck.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Chairman, how long do you have to go?

Hon. Joseph Tonui (Kuresoi South, UDA): I am almost done and all these are very critical points, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

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

Hon. Joseph Tonui (Kuresoi South, UDA): Thank you. The Work Injury Benefits Act together with this framework, established the statutory obligations for workers' safety and compensation. The State Department further informed the Committee that the NCA plays a complementary role by accrediting and certifying skilled construction workers and its supervisors, thereby ensuring that only qualified personnel are engaged in the project. The accreditation reduces risk and enhances safety standards on construction sites. The State Department indicated that responsibility for worker safety is shared with employers and contractors are required to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act provisions by providing protection equipment and maintaining safety working conditions while the Director of Occupational Safety and Health Services enforces compliance and NCA strengthens safety through accreditation.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, in conclusion, the State Department informed the Committee that it remains committed to strengthening regulatory oversight, enhancing coordination among relevant agencies and promoting safety within the built environment. The State Department indicated that it has requested additional budgetary allocation through its submission to the National Assembly to support timely emergency response, routine inspections and improve inter-agency coordination, thereby enabling more effective prevention of building collapses and other construction-related disasters. It further stated that it remains committed to implementing the recommendations arising from its investigation and taking all necessary measures to safeguard lives and property.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I submit. Tied to what I have just read is submission from the State Department for Public Works. A copy of the same was made available to Hon. Ngogoyo in advance.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Onesmus Ngogoyo.

Hon. Onesmus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I also thank the Chairman. As I appreciate the good and detailed response, thank you for intervening so that the public, even those in Nairobi and other counties, can know from the State Department a number of things that have come out very clearly on the construction of this particular building.

With your indulgence, I want to ask the Chairman of the Committee a question. They have detected three abnormalities that were present in that building. Number one, it did not have an architect because he had withdrawn last year in June and so the construction was ongoing without an architect. The Resident Engineer, Ngugi, resigned this year in January, but the construction of the building was ongoing. Now that there is either an omission or a commission and an error has happened, what is the State Department doing to prosecute whoever was going on with the construction without an engineer and an architect as required by law? What is the State Department doing because the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) says it is waiting for a report from Public Works? Have you forwarded the same to DCI so that they can go on with this?

I also want to register my appreciation that even on a number of issues that were not in the State Department for Public Works, like disaster management, you have said that in the shared responsibilities, you have deficiencies in mitigating some of the problems that are there. I have noted that very well. In this case, because the response is detailed, I just want to know from you if you have forwarded the same information to DCI. To anybody who doubts that Statements provide answers in this Parliament or in the public, this Statement is an example of what a good working Committee can do and I want to thank the new Chairman for bringing this good response on time.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, on that one answer, I request you allow him to respond to me.

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

Hon. Joseph Tonui (Kuresoi South, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I want to say that I have noted the concerns of Hon. Ngogoyo, which are very genuine. I thank him because he is very concerned about his constituents. I want to be on record that I will bring more clarification concerning that in the first week after recess. I will get in touch with the Ministry.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): I think we will leave it at that, but also to alert Members that the proceedings of the House are public and the DCI, in terms of their investigations, should be observing the proceedings and know what to do in terms of the investigations or further investigations they want to take.

(Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose spoke off the record)

What is out of order, Hon. Pukose?

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, Hon. Ngogoyo thanked the Committee. This report has come from the Ministry and he should also thank the Ministry and by extension, the Government that it is doing a good work.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): That one goes under what Hon. Otiende Amollo calls judicial notice, as the report has come from a Government Ministry. Let us go to the next response. Yes, Hon. Ngogoyo?

Hon. Onesmus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, the reason you see me insisting on this response is that four lives were lost. They were not of residents of Kajiado North since one came from Bomet and another from Navakholo. They were just simple painters painting a house and it crashed on them. Those four lives must be accounted for by this National Assembly. We must be accountable and that is why I am insisting it should be on public record that the Ministry did its work, but it is the contractor who ended the lives of the four individuals.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): It is already on record and the Chairman also informed that you already have a copy of the report. There are some things you can do to help with the investigations without being publicly on record.

REHABILITATION OF MIGORI RIVER BRIDGE

Let us have the response by the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure to the Request for Statement by Hon. Peter Masara.

Hon. Kibet Komingoi (Bureti, UDA): Thank you Hon. Temporary Speaker. I am wondering whether Hon. Masara is in the House.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is Hon. Peter Masara in the House? If he is not in the House, as per tradition, please, table the response.

Hon. Kibet Komingoi (Bureti, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, for the record of Parliament and this House, we had shared the response with Hon. Masara. It is about the Migori Bridge and I think it will be in order as I table this response, I let them know that the works have been contracted and the contractor will be on site as soon as possible. I now table the report.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): I want, for once, to review the direction I have given on that. Is that the one concerning the main bridge in the middle of Migori?

Hon. Kibet Komingoi (Bureti, UDA): Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The response will be treated as the property of the House even if the Member is absent. I want you to read the specific recommendations you are making. The bridge runs through a transnational highway. That is the only way that goes to Tanzania through the Sirare Border.

Hon. Kibet Komingoi (Bureti, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, in summary, the bridge was undermined by much rain. The bridge substructure was undermined, but the bridge itself remains intact. The Ministry has done the following regarding the work Hon. Masara has requested.

The work delayed because the water level stayed high for long and the Ministry needed to design and validate the kind of work that needed to be done to provide a solution for the bridge. Further, the Ministry submits that the permanent solution includes installation of additional hydraulic capacity, a box culvert in addition to reinstating the washed-out section. The Ministry indicates that the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) has secured the necessary funding, which was provided for in the Supplementary Budget. As a result, the works have been advertised. We have given Hon. Masara the advertisement published in the newspapers, which was done on 23rd of June.

Regarding the timelines, the work will commence as soon as the procurement process is complete. The Ministry further submits that the duration of construction will be six months, with a defect liability period of 12 months.

Regarding measures put in place to ensure that the safety of motorists, pedestrians and other road users, pending completion of the rehabilitation works, the Ministry admits that KeNHA will install warning signs, barricades and traffic management measures on the affected bridge. The Ministry further submits that road users will be directed and guided to designated alternative routes, where applicable, while regular monitoring and maintenance of the safety installations will be done on site. The Ministry submits that the contractor will ensure the safety of the public is maintained throughout the construction period until the bridge is reopened.

In summary, funds have been secured and the procurement process has begun. As soon as it is complete, these works will be done. The contract period will be six months after the works finally commence.

I would like to notify the House that Hon. Masara is back. Thank you, Hon. Temporary speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Francis Peter Masara, what do you have to say to the response from the Ministry?

Hon. Peter Masara (Suna West, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. First, I appreciate the response as per the Chairman. But I am not satisfied with the Chairman's response. The Migori Bridge is the gateway to Tanzania. It connects Suna West and Suna East, the CBD of Migori County, the headquarter of South Nyanza. For the last six months, there is no business that has been going on within the town.

I am sure the people of Migori have listened to the response. Two months plus six months is eight months. That will be one and a half year the town is closed. This is not fair to

the people, more so, in terms of security. The bridge is closed using murram. A person who wants to cross to the other side travels an extra almost 13 kilometres. The Committee was in Migori the other day and they experienced the problem. Therefore, I request the Ministry or the Government, if possible, to deploy the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) to repair the bridge so that the people of Migori and traders can go on with their activities. We cannot wait for two months for procurement to be done. If a contractor is not found, we will wait for another two months. Were a contractor to be on the ground, mobilisation would take place. I do not want to be told that we will suffer until next year during election because we do not have a bridge. If it is possible, let this be treated as an emergency by letting the KDF repair the bridge before the next rains.

In the next two months, we will be having the September rains that will last until November. Next year, we will have other rains. We cannot accurately predict the severity of the rains. The weatherman, this time, predicted that we will have a lot of rain. Now that we have a dry spell, can the bridge be repaired in the next three, four weeks or two months by KDF so that the people of Migori can enjoy the services of that bridge?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. (Dr) Otiende Amollo.

Hon. (Dr) Otiende Amollo (Rarieda, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Let me come to the assistance of my brother Hon. Masara. He says he listened to the response, but he is not satisfied. He was not here when part of the response was read. I confirm that even the part of the response that was read when he was absent was still not satisfactory.

I have used that route in recent times and it is true that it takes one more than an hour to go around that bridge. That is highly inconvenient not just to the people of Migori, but also to this country because it is the gateway of trade with the United Republic of Tanzania.

I heard the Chairman of the Committee say that the bridge has been undermined for long. In further clarification, I would like the Chairman to explain what undermining means. As a veteran protester, and some of us here are veteran protesters, for long the Migori Bridge was our tool of protest. Therefore, let it be reinforced in such a manner that in the unlikely event that in future it has to be used as a tool, it will not be undermined. Let it be a lesson to those planning to protest tomorrow that even as they protest, let them try not interfere with infrastructure.

Lastly, I want to thank the Chairman for that summary.

(Hon. Peter Masara spoke off the record)

Hon. Temporary Speaker, may you inform Hon. Masara that I am on a point of order. He cannot be on a point of order. In the process of managing protests, no one should undermine any infrastructure, whether it is the police, citizens, Government or anyone else. I support the idea of having very quick works on that bridge.

Lastly, Hon. Temporary Speaker, I urge that, as you retire in the Speaker's Panel, you review the time it takes to answer individual Questions. The Chairman has done very well here, but there are chairpersons who take almost an hour reading a response that has been given to a Member. There should be direction that once a Member has been given a response, the chairperson should read a summary and then the Member comments. Otherwise, we take the whole day listening to responses to two or three questions.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Otiende Amollo, the Procedure and House Rules Committee has picked up the point you have raised. It is under consideration in terms of possible amendments to the provisions of the Standing Orders.

Hon. Namuar.

Hon. Joseph Emathe (Turkana Central, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, thank you. I want to thank Hon. Masara for his Request for a Statement and thank the Chairperson for the response. Having worked in Migori for three and a half years, I support that the bridge gets the utmost attention required.

But joyriding on the same, allow me to mention that in Loima, for example, you have to come all the way from Lorugum, the headquarters of Loima Constituency, to Lodwar to get to another part of the constituency. As a result, you spend more than one hour and a half, but if there was to be a crossing, you would spend less than 30 minutes. There is need for an immediate crossing so that the whole constituency and part of the county can be served adequately within the required timeline.

Again, in my constituency, Turkana Central, I am constructing a new road across River Kerio where we have a totally forgotten community in the Loriu Ranges. The Ministry has taken too long to construct the road. The Chairman of the Budget and Appropriations Committee is listening. We have more than 10 polling stations in that part of the world. They only see the Government when they vote because ballot boxes and papers are transported by helicopter. We request that you curtail helicopter use so that we can construct a bridge that adequately serves the 10 polling stations. We will also serve the residents in those places. They do not have schools, dispensaries, or water because we cannot access them adequately. I have raised this issue several times with the Ministry. It is good if it gets the required attention.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, we need to go to other business. Hon. Caroli.

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I also have deep interests in Migori. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute. I am wondering why the broad-based Government brigade is not asking for a bypass for Migori Town. We plan to give them one sometime next year, when Linda Mwananchi takes over.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Caroli, this is the House of representatives, and you speak for the entire nation. It is not for a section of people to ask questions concerning any part of the country. Any Member of Parliament, as Hon. Namuar has done, can raise an issue of concern within any part of the country.

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, with your guidance, may I, on behalf of the broad-based Government brigade who are quiet, ask that the Government immediately take the necessary action to design and implement a bypass road network for Migori Town?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Caroli is undermining Hon. Peter Masara without a substantive Motion because he has made that request.

(Hon. Peter Masara raised his hand)

Hon. Masara, I have not given you a microphone. So that we may go to other business, this is the bridge in the middle of Migori Town, if you do not know it. On the west side of that bridge is Suna West Constituency and the east side of the bridge is Suna East Constituency. Is there a way the procurement process can ensure those works start immediately?

Hon. Kibet Komingoi (Bureti, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, the procurement process has commenced. The only thing that we can do is what is urgent. Secondly, the suggestion by Hon. Masara that this construction be moved from the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure to the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations will subsequently remove this idea from the Departmental Committee on

Transport and Infrastructure. I do not know how we will go forward with it. The Ministry's commitment is that the work has been advertised. As soon as the bids are received, they will be prioritised for evaluation, with work commencing as soon as possible. Funding has been provided.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Peter Masara, the Cabinet Secretary concerned is Mr Davis Chirchir. He is a man of his word, expedition and efficiency. Let us trust the Ministry, under the guidance of the House through the Committee, to prioritise it as a matter of national interest and to expedite it.

Next Order.

MOTION

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BILL

THAT, this House do agree with the Report of the Committee of the whole House on its consideration of the Fisheries Management and Development Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 29 of 2023) up to Clause 39 and seek leave to sit again.

(Moved by Kangogo Bowen on 23.6.2026)

(Resumption of debate interrupted on 23.6.2026)

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members: Put the question.

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

Hon. Members: Yes.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Can Hon. Kimani Kuria or Hon. Kuria Kimani, approach me?

Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, you have to be very careful on how you pronounce our names: Kuria Kimani and Kimani Ichung'wah. When you called Hon. Kimani Kuria, Leader of the Majority Party ran back to the House, wondering which business was next.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): I have noted many lapses on the part of Hon. Kimani Kuria. Let us do a procedural step here. Clerk-at-the-Table, can you go back to Order No. 5?

PAPERS

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Kimani Kuria.

Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table:

Reports of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning on its consideration of the following—

1. The Central Bank of Kenya (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 27 of 2026)

2. The Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 7 of 2026).

I thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Thank you very much.

Next Order.

BILL

Second Reading

THE COUNTY ALLOCATION OF REVENUE BILL (Senate Bill No. 10 of 2026)

The Temporary Chairman (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Hon. Samuel Atandi.

Hon. Samuel Atandi (Alego Usonga, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move that the County Allocation of Revenue Bill (Senate Bill No.10 of 2026) be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, you need to indulge me so that I can speak to my brother Hon. Caroli Omondi, who mentioned that Linda Mwananchi will take over power in the next one or two years. I want to remind him that his presidential candidate was suspended by the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), and he is currently partyless. He has gone back to court to seek justice. I do not know how that outfit plans to take power from us when their candidate has no political party.

(Laughter)

This is a very short Bill. The County Allocation of Revenue Bill is prepared pursuant to Article 218(1) of the Constitution and Section 19(3) of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, which requires Parliament to determine and specify the allocation of nationally raised revenue to county governments. The distribution of revenue among the 47 counties is guided by the Fourth Basis of Revenue Sharing, approved by this Parliament in the last financial year.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, this Bill was published on 30th April 2026 and passed by the Senate with amendments. On Wednesday, 17th June 2026, it was transmitted to this House for concurrence, in accordance with Article 110(4) of the Constitution. We need to pass this Bill promptly. It will enable county governments to access the resources we have already allocated to them under the recently passed Division of Revenue Act.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the Bill, as passed by the Senate, provides for the allocation of Ksh428 billion to county governments as their equitable share of nationally raised revenue for the Financial Year 2026/2027. As I have said, this is the money that was allocated under the Division of Revenue Act, which we just passed. If you remember, in the last financial year, the share of allocations to counties was Ksh415 billion. In this financial year, it has increased by Ksh13 billion to Ksh428 billion.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the sharing of these revenues among counties is guided by the basis for revenue sharing, which comprises three components. The first component is the baseline allocation. The second is the affirmative allocation. The third is the County Allocation Index. The baseline allocation is the amount that was allocated to counties in the Financial Year 2024/2025, which was Ksh387.425 billion. The affirmative allocation is intended to support about 12 disadvantaged counties for three fundamental reasons.

First, they are very small and, therefore, do not benefit significantly from the geographical index factor. Second, their populations are also small, and therefore, they do not

benefit significantly from the population index factor, one of the factors used to share county revenue. Third, under the County Allocation Index I mentioned, they were not sufficiently favoured by the allocation formula. Therefore, the affirmative action allocation under this Bill is Ksh4.46 billion, to be shared among the 12 small counties I have mentioned.

This Bill also guides and provides specific allocations based on the approved revenue-sharing basis. The First Schedule of the Bill sets out the distribution of the equitable share among the 47 counties under the three allocation components I have mentioned. The baseline allocation of Ksh387.425 billion is reflected in Column C of the Schedule. The affirmative allocation is reflected in Column D. The balance of the equitable share above the ring-fenced amount for the two components totals Ksh36.115 billion. This amount is distributed through the County Allocation Index and is reflected in Column F of the Bill.

The total allocation due to each county government, comprising the three components, is presented in Column G of the First Schedule of the Bill. I do not know whether I need to mention what each county will get. However, if you have the Bill, you will see that Baringo County will get a total of Ksh8,476,268,854.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, this Bill provides ceilings for recurrent expenditure for both county governments and county assemblies. In the past, some counties spent more on recurrent expenditure than on development. Therefore, this Bill specifies the amounts that may be spent on recurrent and development expenditure. The focus needs to be more on development. This has also been reflected in the expenditures for county assemblies. In the past, some county governments undermined county assemblies. As part of giving them independence to oversee county governments, this Bill outlines what they may spend on development and recurrent expenditure. As I said, this is a very small Bill and this House must pass it without amendments.

I conclude by stating that the Committee reviewed the Bill and observed that the proposed allocations fully comply with the Constitution, the Public Finance Management Act and the approved Fourth Basis for Revenue Sharing. The Committee concluded that the allocation framework ensures a transparent, equitable and legally compliant distribution of resources among counties. Consequently, the Committee recommends that this House approves the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2026, Senate Bill No.10 of 2026, without amendments.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move and ask the Vice-Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriations Committee to second.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Pukose to second.

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker and Chairperson, for moving this Motion. I rise to second the County Allocation of Revenue Bill. This is a Bill that originated from the Senate, and as the Chairman has put it, the Committee has not proposed any amendments to it.

This Bill distributes funds to all 47 counties in our country. Notably, this Bill also allocates funds to all county assemblies. Therefore, each county assembly will receive its own budget through the County Allocation of Revenue Bill. The Bill also sets ceilings for recurrent expenditure. We, therefore, expect county governments not to divert funds meant for development and to ensure that development funds are utilised for development purposes.

The Bill further sets expenditure ceilings for county executive committees. You will find that some county assemblies have gained while others have lost allocations. Where allocations have been reduced, it is because certain funds allocated in the previous financial year were one-off allocations and have, therefore, been left out in this financial year.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, we have also realised that own-source revenue for many counties has declined compared to what was once called...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Are you talking about the local government?

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): In the past, the local governments were collecting more money than what we are collecting now in the counties. This is a matter of concern because counties should not wait for what is collected from the national Government when they have the capacity to raise their own revenue. When we pass the County Allocation of Revenue Bill and the Division of Revenue Act, any shortfall in national revenue collection means the national Government loses. Whatever we give to counties remains the same. At times, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) may not collect enough revenue, leading to delays in disbursements to counties. However, if counties enhance their own-source revenue collection, it will help ensure that county services run smoothly.

With those few remarks, Hon. Temporary Speaker, I second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): The Leader of the Majority Party takes precedence.

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I rise to support this Motion. I thank the Chairperson and the Budget and Appropriations Committee for considering this Bill from the Senate. This Bill distributes the revenue that was shared between the two levels of government under the Division of Revenue Bill among the 47 counties. If you look at the Schedule of the money we divided between the two levels of government, the Senate has gone further to share revenue in line with the current revenue-sharing formula.

I was looking at some of the counties receiving hefty amounts, such as Nairobi and Kiambu, where I come from. Mombasa County is also not doing too badly. If the County Government of Nairobi is receiving Ksh22 billion in shareable revenue, are Nairobi citizens receiving commensurate services? If Mandera County is getting Ksh12.5 billion or Kakamega County is getting Ksh14 billion, are the citizens getting commensurate services? My county, Kiambu, is getting Ksh13.5 billion. It is one of the counties receiving the highest amounts of shareable revenue. However, we should go to the grassroots level and ask our constituents whether they are receiving services commensurate with the funds governors and county governments receive.

We are headed to an election year. This is the second-last County Allocation of Revenue Bill we are debating. Once it becomes an Act of Parliament, it will be the second last one. I know the Comptroller of Budget and the Auditor-General are also doing their work. Are our governors doing their work with the money allocated to them? I dare say that many of them are a big let-down.

Go to any part of this country, be it Kiambu, Nairobi, Baringo or Mombasa, and ask the people which money between the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) and the county government funds are being felt on the ground. What tangible development can they see on the ground? I have been to some counties where constituents claim that the Woman County Representatives are doing better with the meagre funds they receive from the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF). They are doing more impactful projects than governors who manage billions of shillings. I have travelled across this country and listened to many people.

The opposition is inciting the public that the Social Health Authority (SHA) is not working. Local dispensaries do not have medicine or healthcare workers. I have listened to horror stories from healthcare workers, who are on their third month without pay in some counties. In Kiambu County last year, healthcare workers went on strike for months. The governor felt, heard and saw nothing bad even as children died in hospitals. It took the intervention of the Council of Governors (CoG) for something to be done. I remember sitting with the CoG health committee leadership and the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists

and Dentists Union (KMPDU). It finally prevailed on the CoG to mediate between the KMPDU and the County Government of Kiambu, to at least get health services working in Kiambu County.

Last week, I saw the Member for Thika Town, Hon. Alice Ngang'a, storm into a hospital in Ruiru to rescue close to 20 mothers who were being detained for unpaid bills. Why are mothers being held against their will, exposing their young babies to infections in the hospital? Parents know that it is very easy for children to pick up all manner of infections. Newborns are being detained in the hospital because their mothers have not paid their bills.

I saw the naysayers asking whether SHA is working. I have mentioned this issue because governors have let Kenyans down. Governors have sabotaged SHA. One of the health laws we crafted under SHA was the Facilities Improvement Financing Act. Hospitals collect money through the Facilities Improvement Financing Act, but does it go back to the facilities? Governors collect that money from health facilities and use it to hand out politically expedient giveaways, such as chicks, packets of *unga*, and fertilisers. Some are branding milk packets with their names and photos. Those funds should be used to improve healthcare facilities. That was the law's intent.

We developed the Act to ensure that a dispensary in Ruiru does not have to wait for operating funds from Kiambu County. Mbagathi Hospital does not have to wait for City Hall to send funds. They should collect money locally, so that if they run out of bandages and paracetamol, they can procure them locally. The regulations provide guidelines on the amounts of money that hospitals can procure locally. We ensured that those regulations were operationalised.

We have just allocated Ksh21 billion in this year's Budget to the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) to ensure that county governments and hospitals can procure medicine. Are counties procuring and paying for medical supplies? Talk to KEMSA. They are not. Do they have money? Have they collected money from SHA? Yes, they have. Are they offering healthcare services to Kenyans? They are not.

I wish Hon. (Dr) Nyikal were here, but the Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriations Committee is present. He will tell you that the Primary Healthcare Fund received an allocation of Ksh19.1 billion. Why are we allocating Ksh19.1 billion to primary healthcare facilities? Pursuant to Article 43 of our Constitution, any Kenyan who falls ill in any part of the country can visit a primary healthcare facility, a dispensary, or a Level 1, 2, or 3 facility and receive treatment. As long as the facility is listed under SHA and the patient is also listed and has paid premiums, the patient receives free treatment.

Governors are letting us down. They do not want the public to know that the Government has allocated Ksh19 billion to cater for their healthcare because they want to steal from the same public by charging them twice. That is the most evil thing any human being can do to another. You take your child who has a high fever to your local dispensary, and you are then told to cough up Ksh700 for consultation. Then another Ksh900 for unavailable drugs, which you must buy outside the hospital at a pharmacy owned by a county executive or the chief officer in charge of healthcare. We are treating our people unjustly. We then tell our people that SHA is not working. The SHA is not the problem; your theft and greed, which we cannot satisfy, are.

The Ksh19 billion allocated to the Primary Healthcare Fund should ensure that Kenyans have access to free primary healthcare, not just in public hospitals, but also in SHA-enlisted private hospitals. We must tell the people of Kenya that they should receive care as long as they are enlisted and registered with SHA and the hospitals they visit are SHA-enlisted. First, ensure you are registered with SHA and have paid your premiums. Secondly, ensure that the hospital you visit is SHA-enlisted. You should receive primary healthcare services without any payment if those conditions are met. This is because we have provided for that.

When we did the Primary Health Care Act, you will recall that we said it would be compulsory for us, as a House representing people in our constituencies and counties, to allocate money to the Primary Healthcare Fund. We have done that as Members of the National Assembly. We must now ask our Senators to do their part. It is not enough to simply call governors to the Public Accounts Committee in the Senate and harass them at the gate, chasing them around. I do not know what they do to them, including throwing punches. That is not the work of any Senator. Indeed, it is unbecoming of any Senator to be chasing a governor on the road.

Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South, UDA): A Senator of Nairobi!

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Whether you are a Senator for Nairobi, Homa Bay, Kiambu, or anywhere else, your work is oversight. Your responsibility is to ensure that money allocated to the Primary Healthcare Fund is being utilised to provide free treatment to people in your county.

You must also ensure that the Facilities Improvement Fund is being utilised to improve facilities at the local level. The Facilities Improvement Fund is intended for all county hospitals. We have allocated shareable revenue, which is being distributed. More money is going to healthcare through the Facilities Improvement Fund. More money is going through the Primary Healthcare Fund, together with reimbursements. Therefore, the people of Kenya should not be crying about healthcare.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, if I had my way, even though Senior Counsel Hon. Otiende Amollo and Hon. Caroli Omondi may not agree with me, I know I speak for very many Kenyans.

Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South, UDA): Do away with governors.

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): No. I would not do away with governors. However, I would return the healthcare function to the national Government, at least for Levels 2, 3, and 4 facilities. If only I had my way.

(Loud consultations)

I know many Kenyans share those sentiments. In fact, I am surprised that even my brother, Hon. Caroli Omondi, is saying that he has expressed this view before.

(Laughter)

We all agree.

(Hon. (Dr) Otiende Amollo raised his hand)

I can also see that Hon. Otiende Amollo may be supporting me on that issue. However, whether Hon. Otiende Amollo, Hon. Caroli Omondi or any other Member supports me or not...

Hon. (Dr) Otiende Amollo (Rarieda, ODM): On a point of order.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): What is out of order, Hon. (Dr) Otiende Amollo?

Hon. (Dr) Otiende Amollo (Rarieda, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I have listened, as I usually do, very carefully to the Leader of the Majority Party as he is spewing a lot of wisdom, much of which I agree with. However, there are two points to be made, and I rise under Standing Order 87.

Before I do so, if you allow me, I wish to tell the Leader of the Majority Party that the point he is making is not merely one that would require an amendment to the Constitution. I

am on record as saying that a scrutiny of the Constitution leads to the conclusion that, when the decision was made to devolve healthcare in its generality, it was a mistake.

The Fourth Schedule, in terms of the healthcare facilities assigned to counties, does not provide for healthcare generally. It only covers certain health facilities previously run by the State Department for Local Government, not the entire healthcare function. Therefore, I would actually agree with him that the mistake was made several years ago. If efforts are made to correct it, I would not be the one standing in the way of that correction.

Having said that, I also agree with the Leader of the Majority Party that the NG-CDF and the NGAAF do many visible things, whereas many counties do little that is visible. However, for our own benefit, I wish to invite your attention to Standing Order 87, without necessarily inviting you to rule immediately. We should carefully consider Standing Order 87 regarding the discussion of the conduct of any head of government. The first question is whether a governor is considered the head of government at the county level. If that is the case, then we must refrain from using adverse terminologies against such persons without a substantive Motion. That is my first point.

Secondly, regarding Senators, I have no idea who is chasing whom or for what purpose. There may be people who know that better than I do, as I look at them.

(Laughter)

However, all I want to say is that we should refrain from discussing them in that manner. The Standing Orders provide that any person whose removal is subject to a process in Parliament should not be discussed adversely without a substantive Motion. That applies to governors, whether by virtue of being heads of government or because their impeachment is subject to parliamentary processes. It also applies to Senators.

I make that point so that they do not, in turn, get an opportunity to discuss us as carelessly as sometimes happens during Senate proceedings. I urge that when you retire, you will consider that without interrupting the Leader of the Majority Party.

Thank you.

The Temporary Chairman (Hon. Peter Kaluma): No doubt. Point taken. Leader of the Majority Party, proceed.

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Thank you. First, let me thank Hon. (Dr) Amollo for sharing great wisdom on healthcare functions. I referred to Hon. (Dr) Amollo because I knew he was actively involved in drafting the current Constitution. When you hear a senior counsel informing us that the drafters of the Constitution never intended healthcare to be devolved in the manner in which it currently is, it becomes clear why Kenyans are crying out.

As much as Hon. (Dr) Otiende Amollo says he is not inviting you to make a ruling, he knows he is speaking as a lawyer. He is a senior counsel. He also knows that, while I am not a lawyer, I am not daft either. Therefore, he knows that I am speaking in general terms. I have not spoken about any particular governor, nor have I spoken about any particular senator. Consequently, I cannot be said to be discussing any specific individual.

I am fully aware of the provisions of Standing Order 87, and that is why I carefully chose my words. Even when I referred to senators who are chasing people around, the people of Kenya know who they are. I do not need to mention names. They saw them.

When I speak about governors distributing chicks, packets of unga, or half a kilogramme packet of sugar, Kenyans know who they are. When I speak about governors branding milk, Kenyans know who they are. Therefore, we are not discussing any particular governor. We are discussing the bad conduct of governors and telling them, without apology, that they must be accountable to the people of Kenya. They must be accountable not only for

the shareable revenue distributed through the County Allocation of Revenue Act (CARA), but also for all other money they receive, including additional county allocations we recently approved.

You know we have conditional allocations, such as the Ksh8.6 billion we allocated to make Universal Health Coverage workers permanent and pensionable. We must inform the people of Kenya about this. If we do not, governors will go out there and begin pointing fingers at the national Government and Parliament. Parliament is often vilified because people imagine it has failed to do its work. We must tell the people of Kenya that we have done our part. We have allocated money for Universal Health Coverage workers. Hon. (Dr) Nyikal is here. He knows about the Ksh8.6 billion allocation.

We must also tell Kenyans that an additional Ksh19.1 billion has been allocated to the Primary Healthcare Fund. That way, when a governor seeking cheap political points tells Kenyans that SHA is not working, the public will know the truth. At times, I am informed, some governors even delay the activation of SHA services in their hospitals so that patients cannot make claims. Later, they activate the services and proceed to claim the money themselves, without ever informing the patients. We must call them out.

I can see that my time is nearly exhausted. Let me conclude by saying that I support the County Allocation of Revenue Bill. When it becomes an Act of Parliament, I expect that all governors in Kenya will and must be accountable to the people of Kenya without exception. Not just in relation to this money, but also for the additional county allocations and all other funds allocated to county governments. In my county of Kiambu, people are crying out because they have not seen a single road constructed by the county government in the last three or four years. Why? Because the county government is using money meant for roads to buy chicks, a packet of *unga*, milk and other items.

(Hon. Caroli Omondi spoke off the record)

(Laughter)

You know, Hon. Caroli Omondi...Give me a minute, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Give the Leader of the Majority Party two minutes to conclude.

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, Hon. Caroli Omondi, on a light note, is asking me which chicks I am referring to. I mean chicken, day-old chicks, not the other chicks Hon. Caroli Omondi is imagining. The people of Kiambu are being given day-old or five-day-old chicks. I have nothing against that. However, as they receive those chicks, they must also know that funds are allocated to road rehabilitation and maintenance. Yet that work is not being done. They must know that Ksh19 billion is available under the Primary Health Care Fund. When they walk into Lusigetti Health Centre, which we are upgrading as the national Government to a Level 4 hospital, or when they visit Level 3 facilities at Zambezi, Kinoo or Gikambura health centres, they should have access to free healthcare services so long as they are registered with SHA.

I know this because I ensured all those facilities are listed. People should not be charged, yet they continue to be charged, and the governors are still claiming they are not. This is the money they use to bribe Kenyans for political expediency. I want to tell the people of Kenya that those who seek to bribe you with your own money meant for your drugs and healthcare facilities, when the time comes, deal with them as you ought to deal with them.

Before Hon. Otiende Amollo rose on a point of order, I was saying that the Senate must hold governors to account. That is why the Senate County Public Accounts Committee must

be beyond reproach so that governors can be held accountable for all the money allocated to counties.

With those remarks, thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Gitonga Murugara. Hon. Members, this is a very short Bill. In light of what has been said by the Leader of the Majority Party, let us expedite consideration of the matter so that we can proceed to the Committee stage.

Hon. George Murugara (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Absolutely, I am in total agreement. This is a very short Bill. The Senate has done its work, informing us how the Ksh428 billion allocated to counties will be distributed. The Schedule clearly indicates what each county will receive, including my own county of Tharaka Nithi, which is allocated Ksh5,213,759,236.

I support the Bill, but I emphasise that substantial funds are being allocated to counties. Devolution was one of the best ideas we came up with as Kenyans because it was intended to take development to the rural areas. However, it is often said that what we devolved was corruption. We provided money to characters—I am sorry to use the word—or to officers known as governors, so that they have the purse from which they can draw money for use not for the benefit of Kenyans.

As we move into the next financial year, my county will receive approximately Ksh5.3 billion. An additional amount of more than Ksh1 billion will come through conditional grants and other allocations. In total, the county will receive about Ksh7 billion. The question remains, what has the county government done with these resources? If you compare what the NG-CDF has achieved in the three constituencies with what the county government has delivered, it is embarrassing. They have not done anything. When you ask them, they talk about recurrent expenses that are 60 per cent and development expenditure at 40 per cent. Yet, even that 40 per cent is nowhere near the level of development achieved through the NG-CDF allocations.

Then there is the issue of local revenue collection. As Hon. Pukose mentioned, counties collect cess and revenue from markets. I am informed that some counties operate as many as 50 bank accounts into which these revenues are deposited through dubious ways controlled by governors or their stooges, or whoever they are. I know some of us aspire to go to counties, but the mentality that governors use money meant for citizens however they want is abhorrent. We must speak out against it and condemn it.

As we support this Bill, the Senate must wake up. It must go to the counties and ensure that these funds are properly accounted for and subjected to effective oversight. Rogue governors must be brought to book. I keep reminding the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), an institution that falls under my oversight, that there is a lot of work to be done in the counties. They must not relax. They should bring the governors to book. We want to see many of them brought to the EACC so that they can tell us what happened to our money. We support this Bill, but we demand strict accountability to Kenyans regarding how these large sums of money are spent to benefit Kenyans. Therefore, I support.

Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Yes, Hon. Owen Baya.

Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I appreciate the efforts being made to push this Bill. We all support it. In that regard, I rise under Standing Order 95. The points Members wish to make can be made during consideration of subsequent Bills, including the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill. We are proceeding to the Committee of the whole House shortly, where Members will also have an opportunity to contribute. I, therefore, request that we proceed to address these matters at the Committee stage.

Hon. Mwashako can also make his contribution in the Committee, especially since he is a Member of the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): For the avoidance of doubt, the first matter appearing under Order No. 11 for consideration in the Committee of the whole House is, indeed, the County Allocation of Revenue Bill.

Hon. Members, you know what the Standing Orders mandate. Hon. Owen Baya, standing in his place, has asked that I remit it to the decision of the House that the mover be called upon to reply.

(Question, that the Mover be now called upon to reply, put and agreed to)

Mover.

Hon. Samuel Atandi (Alego Usonga, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I will not say much, particularly after Members have been requested to reserve their contributions for the Committee of the whole House.

Let me thank those Members who have contributed. It is, indeed, very true that Kenyans do not see the value of the resources sent to the counties. That is the reality which all Kenyans must be aware of. I want Kenyans to know that we are sending humongous resources to the counties, which is Ksh428 billion. If there is any county where services are not being rendered, including my own, where nurses are on strike, and doctors are on the streets, I want to inform them that funds have now been sent to their counties and they should therefore, be prepared to demand services from their governors.

With those remarks, I beg to reply.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, I now put the Question for your decision.

(Question put and agreed to)

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

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Thank you. Before the next Order is called, let me give some directions on how we will proceed with the remaining business for the day.

(Hon. Owen Baya consulted loudly)

Order, Hon. Baya! Hon. Members, we will be proceeding to Order No.10. Then, we will skip to the matter appearing under Order No.12. I am reorganising the Order Paper because of the urgency of the matter appearing as Order No.12. Thereafter, we will revert to Order No.11, I am taking into account the urgency of the matter appearing under Order No. 11(i) and the fact that the matter appearing under Order No.12 is partly done with. I am ordering the standing down of the matter appearing under Order No.11(iii) for the future, as and when the House Business Committee will schedule it. With that reorganisation, Clerk-at-the-Table, please, call the next Order.

MOTION

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

APPROVAL OF VARIATION OF
BOUNDARIES OF SPECIFIED FORESTS

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, taking into consideration the findings of the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining in its Report on the Consideration of a Petition by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry relating to variation of boundaries of Turbo Forest (Manzini Area), Mount Elgon Forest (Chepyuk Phases II and III) and Kakamega Forest (Shiru/Shaviringa Settlement Schemes) laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, 24th June 2026, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 34(5) of the Forest Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 385) this House—

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Chairperson, I can see some Members are again asking about the order of business. Hon. Millie Odhiambo and others, for clarity, we are now on Order No.10, which concerns the Petition regarding the variation of boundaries for three specified forests, which is the one being moved now.

After this, we will proceed to Order No. 12, which concerns the consideration of the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 7 of 2026). Then, we will revert to Order No. 11 and start with the Committee of the whole House on the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, which is very brief and has no amendments. We will then go to the Fisheries Management and Development Bill. For the convenience of the House, I have deferred consideration of the Public Participation Bill (National Assembly Bill No.44 of 2025), at the Committee of the whole House, to a later date. So, it is out of today's Order Paper.

You may proceed, Hon. Member.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, taking into consideration the findings of the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining in its Report on the Consideration of a Petition by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry relating to variation of boundaries of Turbo Forest (Manzini Area), Mount Elgon Forest (Chepyuk Phases II and III) and Kakamega Forest (Shiru/Shaviringa Settlement Schemes) laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, 24th June 2026, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 34(5) of the Forest Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 385) this House—

1. FINDS THAT, the Petition by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry relating to variation of boundaries of Turbo Forest (Manzini Area), Mount Elgon Forest (Chepyuk Phases II and III), and Kakamega Forest (Shiru/Shaviringa Settlement Schemes) provides sufficient grounds for the variation of the boundaries of the specified public forests.
2. APPROVES—
 - (a) THAT, the boundaries of Turbo Forest be varied by excluding 1,241.50 hectares in the Manzini area from the original boundaries of the forest for the settlement of the landless squatters in the Manzini Forest Block;

- (b) THAT, the boundaries of Mount Elgon Forest be varied by excluding 4,647 hectares in Chepyuk area from the original boundaries of the forest for the settlement of landless squatters in Chepyuk Phase II and Phase III; and,
- (c) (iii) THAT, the boundaries of Kakamega Forest be varied by excluding 94.99 hectares at Shiru and 36 hectares at Shaviringa from the original boundaries of the forest as compensation for beneficiaries who surrendered land to the Government to establish public institutions and Government offices.

This Petition is of great importance because it serves justice to many people who have been waiting to be settled. For your information, some of the people who are supposed to be beneficiaries of this Petition surrendered their private lands to the Government, and 50 years later, they still do not have legal documents showing ownership of the areas where they were settled. This has become very difficult for these people. They cannot transact or get loans. They need land ownership documents.

This Petition was submitted to this House by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, passed under Article 37, 62 and 119 of the Constitution and Section 34 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 385). The Petition relates to three parcels. Initially, it related to four parcels: South Nandi, Chepkumia area, which is about 989 hectares; Turbo Forest Manzini Area, which is 1241.5 hectares; Mount Elgon Forest Chepyuk Phases II and III, which is 4647 hectares; and Kakamega Forest Shiru/Shaviringa Settlement Schemes, measuring 94.99 and 36 hectares respectively.

The matter concerning South Nandi Forest, Chepkumia area, measuring 989.17 hectares, was already under consideration by the Committee on Petitions and was, therefore, not considered by the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining. The Committee considered the Petition within the framework of the Constitution of Kenya and the Forest Conservation Management Act. Article 69 of the Constitution requires the State to protect the environment, maintain a minimum tree cover of, at least, 10 per cent of Kenya's land area, promote public participation and ensure sustainable utilisation of natural resources. Additionally, Section 34 of the Forest Conservation Act provides the procedure for the variation of the boundaries of public forests and the steps that must be undertaken in considering such Petitions.

These are the underlying procedures that the Committee considered: One, the Petition should demonstrate that the variation of boundaries of the public forest does not endanger any threatened or endangered species. I confirm to this honourable House that this particular Petition does not endanger any rare, threatened or endangered species.

Two, the Petition does not adversely affect its value as a water catchment area, prejudice biodiversity conservation, cultural site protection, or the forest, or its use for educational, recreational, health, or research purposes. I also confirm to this House that in our consideration, we found that this particular Petition does not adversely affect its value as a water catchment. The Petition should only be forwarded to the National Assembly upon the recommendation of the Kenya Forest Service (KFS). I want to confirm to this House that we attached to the Report the recommendation of the Kenya Forest Service.

Upon committal of the Petition to the Committee, the Cabinet Secretary responsible for matters relating to forestry is required, within 30 days, to submit a recommendation on whether the petition should be approved, subject to an independent environmental impact assessment and public consultation being undertaken in accordance with the Second Schedule of the Act.

I want to confirm to this House that this was done, and in our Report, we have attached the independent environmental impact assessment and the approval to proceed by the Cabinet Secretary.

Sixth, in considering this Petition, the Committee undertook stakeholder engagements and inspection visits to establish the facts on the ground. The Committee engaged with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, the National Land Commission, and the State Department for Lands and Physical Planning. Further, the Committee undertook inspection visits in Chepyuk Phases II and III of Mount Elgon, the Manzini Block of Turbo Forest, and also the Shiru and Shaviringa areas of Vihiga.

Having considered the Petition and the stakeholders' comments, the Committee made the following observations:

1. Public forests are constitutionally protected, and any variation of boundaries must comply with environmental laws, public participation requirements, and sustainable development principles, while ensuring that the remaining forests are protected.
2. the affected areas arose from government-led settlement initiatives aimed at addressing landless squatters, the settlement of former forest workers, historical land challenges, and related concerns. Although allocations were undertaken through official processes, many beneficiaries remain without formal title documents due to the absence of formal de-gazettement.
3. The affected areas are already largely occupied by the original settlers and their families. Population growth has increased pressure on land, creating challenges relating to tenure security and administration.
4. there is a need for verification and harmonisation of beneficiary records to prevent irregular allocations and future disputes.
5. The Petition complied with the provisions of Section 34 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act, which provides for the procedure to be followed in the variation of boundaries of public forests.

Based on the analysis of the grounds set out in the Petition, the findings from the site visits, the engagements with government agencies and stakeholders, and having reviewed the relevant provisions of the Forest Conservation and Management Act, Cap. 385, the Committee finds that the Petition provides sufficient grounds for the variation of the boundaries of the specified public forests and recommends that the National Assembly approve:

1. That the boundaries of Turbo Forest be varied by excluding 1,241.5 hectares in the Manzini area from the original boundaries of the forest for the settlement of landless squatters in the Manzini Forest Block.
2. That the boundaries of Mount Elgon Forest be varied by excluding 4,667 hectares in the Chepyuk area from the original boundaries of the forest for the settlement of landless squatters in Chepyuk Phases II and III.
3. That the boundaries of Kakamega Forest be varied by excluding 94.99 hectares at Shiru and 36 hectares at Shaviringa from the original boundaries of the forest as compensation for beneficiaries who surrendered land to the government for the establishment of public institutions and government offices.

As I conclude, I must thank this administration. We have had many administrations, but this is the first petition of this kind to come before this Committee. Many administrations have shied away from this emotive matter of settling landless squatters. I want to commend this administration for taking this direction so that these people can finally be settled. I also wish to add that we still have a number of pending similar issues and petitions dating back over

50 years that have not yet been considered. These other petitions should also be considered so that we can adopt a holistic approach to settling all affected persons in the country.

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

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Proceed, Hon. Emathe.

Hon. Joseph Emathe (Turkana Central, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I rise to second this Motion on the consideration of the Petition regarding the variation of boundaries for three specified forests. As I do so, allow me to add my voice to the matter. I thank the Chairperson of the Committee for ensuring that this matter was expedited. This is a matter of restoring dignity to our people. It is a matter of ensuring that we reduce homelessness and the squatter system of settlement in Kenya. We are considering a historic Motion, one that has never been undertaken in this country before. This is the first time such a Motion has come before the House. We want to thank the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) for ensuring that this matter was brought to the attention of our Committee.

This matter dates back to 1939, particularly regarding the resettlement of the Elgonyi Ndorobo community. There was also a matter in the 1960s concerning the resettlement of workers from the East African Tanning and Extract Company and another company, West Kenya. Those workers needed to be resettled in the Turbo or Manzini Forest area. Another matter arose in 1992 involving compensation and the relocation of people from their original homes and neighbourhoods to areas known as Shiru and Shaviringa.

As we discuss these matters, I support the proposal to de-gazette these areas for the following reasons: First, as we observed during our visits, these areas are fully occupied. There are permanent settlements in these areas. Second, there are government projects, schools, water facilities, hospitals, and even administrative offices located there. In addition, there are various government installations within these areas. Considering when this matter began, it would be unfair to continue denying these people title deeds. Third, because they do not have titles, these people have been unable to construct decent housing. They have also been unable to access financial services for all these years. Issuing titles to these people will ignite and accelerate development in these areas and across our country generally, even as we consider moving everyone to Singapore. This move is in tandem with our mantra, as Parliament, of working for the welfare of society and the just governance of the people.

With those remarks, I second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Members, I now give you a chance to make some comments. I will start with Hon. (Dr) Pukose.

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

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

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, under Standing Order 1, we have an obligation to only proceed with matters that are constitutional. I rise under that particular Standing Order to draw the attention of the House to Article 119 of the Constitution of Kenya, which provides that every person has a right to petition Parliament to consider any matter within its authority, including to enact, amend, or repeal any legislation, as read together with Article 260, where the term 'person' is defined to include a company, an association, or other body of persons, whether incorporated or unincorporated. I also bring to the attention of the House Standing Order 219, which clearly states:

For purposes of this Part other than Standing Order 230 (*Petitions for Removal of a member of a Commission or holder of an Independent Office*), a petition means a written prayer to the House under Article 37 or 119 of the Constitution

by a member of the public requesting the House to consider any matter within its authority, as contemplated in Articles 94 and 95 of the Constitution, including enacting, amending or repealing any legislation.

It is the first time that a department of the government is making a Petition to this House, which the Constitution and our Standing Orders do not allow. Therefore, we cannot entertain the Petition. It is unconstitutional and illegal. The first issue we must get around, is whether a government department, under our Standing Orders and the Constitution of Kenya can legitimately present a Petition to this House. My affirmative answer to that question is “No, it is not allowed.” Therefore, we cannot even consider it under our Standing Orders.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I request that a substantive ruling be made on the matter.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Let us hear the Leader of the Majority Party, Hon. Ichung’wah.

Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I was keenly listening to the Member for Suba South to hear what is unconstitutional. There is nothing I heard him say that is unconstitutional. The Petition is properly before the House.

(Hon. Caroli Omondi spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Order, Hon. Caroli. You raised your point of order, and I allowed you to speak. I have the ability to give any other person a chance to air their opinion.

Leader of the Majority Party, you may proceed.

Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I do not know who told the Member for Suba South that he has a monopoly on knowledge and that when he speaks, we should all align and say, “Yes, Sir.” That can only happen in your house, not in this House. This House considers petitions, and this is not the first time we have considered one. This Petition was submitted by members of the public and directed to the relevant Ministry. The Ministry did not have the constitutional authority given to this House to handle the matter. So, the Petition was relayed to the House through the Office of the Speaker, who, if he knew it was unconstitutional, would never have allowed it to be considered by the Committee. Therefore, unless Hon. Caroli Omondi is questioning the decision of the substantive Speaker...

(Hon. Caroli Omondi consulted loudly)

Hon. Temporary Speaker, you need to protect me from the heckling from Hon. Caroli Omondi. I do not know what has happened to him of late. He sits in his place and only heckles. Maybe it has to do with the company he keeps nowadays. As you age, we expect you to do so gracefully, with a bit of wisdom, and allow the young stars to shout. Hon. Caroli is older than I am. He claimed that he owned many things in this town while I was in school. I have since established that some of the claims were not true. I ask him to relax. Stop heckling. You have had your say, and we have heard you. We are now debating and contributing to what you have asked the Speaker to consider. The Speaker cannot just consider what you have said unless you wish to inform the country that you have a monopoly on knowledge and that what you say must be the case.

The people of Suba South should know that even though Hon. Caroli Omondi is a lawyer, he has no monopoly on knowledge. This is a House of debate, and therefore, we must allow debate. We were all quiet, listening to you while you spoke. You must also have the patience to listen to us. The petitioners...

(Hon. David Mwalika spoke off-the-record)

Hon. Temporary Speaker, tell Hon. Mboni not to invite what he is inviting, because he knows the things that I can say.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): I did not hear anything he said. You may proceed.

Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Mboni is a great Member of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning. He is also very disciplined. I like him because he is diligent in his work as a Member of that Committee. Last week, we all saw that he had read and understood the provisions of the Finance Bill, unlike other Members who were just shouting from their seats, opposing some clauses.

As I was saying, this Petition is properly before the House. The substantive Speaker considered it when it was sent to his office. The public are laymen, like many of us. They are not lawyers and may not know that a Ministry does not have the constitutional mandate to consider such a petition. They petition the relevant Ministry, which then considers the issues. If the Ministry cannot resolve it without the input of the National Assembly, the matter is referred to this House. That is how this Petition found itself here. The substantive Speaker considered it, presented it to the House and committed it to the relevant departmental committee chaired by Hon. Kawaya, the Member for Mwala.

When this Petition was presented here, pursuant to Section 44 of the Forest Conservation Management Act, the relevant Departmental Committee considered it and tabled a report. We should now be in Second Reading, debating the substance of this Petition. We should also be asking ourselves whether these people who have suffered many years of injustice warrant to remain landless in this country, which has, for 63 years, claimed to be independent.

Hon. Caroli Omondi, many people went to the forest, let alone the fake Mau Mau fighters you hear inciting everybody to go and burn other people’s properties. They are not the real Mau Mau fighters. The real Mau Mau fighters went to the forest to fight for land, and people lost their lives. Blood was shed. That is why we were taught in primary school about the colours of the National Flag. We were taught that red stands for the blood shed by many Kenyans who sacrificed their lives so that we could get back our land as a primary factor of production.

It would be very unfair for the government not to accommodate the people of Kakamega who gave up their ancestral land for the construction of learning institutions and government offices on the promise that they would be settled elsewhere - Some of whom have since been settled in parts of that forest - and tell them, “You gave your land voluntarily, you can go to hell.” We cannot do that. We must be responsible leaders who consider such petitioners and appreciate that there are Kenyans who deserve to be heard.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I have moved to the debate on this matter because I thought...

(Hon. Caroli Omondi spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Order! Hon. Ichung’wah, take your seat briefly. Hon. Caroli, you cannot be raising points of order on other points of order. I would like to rule that there is nothing unconstitutional about this Petition; the matter was processed by this House in the right way. There is a whole Legal Department within the National Assembly that verifies the legality of any matter or Petition that is brought for

consideration by the House. Therefore, the Petition was properly processed. It was relayed to the relevant departmental committee for consideration. Subsequently, Members of the Committee visited the ground. They must have done public participation by engaging the communities, and now we are here discussing the report. I would like this debate to continue.

Secondly, for your information, I have been the Chair of the Departmental Committee on Lands for five years, and this is not the first time a Petition of this nature has been brought to the House. Previously, this House processed a Petition concerning some land in Kamiti and ruled that the place be de-gazetted and occupied by community members. Based on my experience, I believe you are wrong to say this is the first time a matter like this has been brought to the House. For that reason, I would like people to continue with the debate.

I have given the Floor to Hon. (Dr) Pukose to proceed.

(Hon. Caroli Omondi spoke off the record)

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Hon. Caroli, the presiding Speaker, has ruled on the matter. Please, allow the debate to proceed.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, thank you for that ruling. This Petition was filed by a community, and I happen to come from that part of the country. Chebyuk Phases II and III in Hon. Kapondi's Mt. Elgon Constituency. This matter has been pending for a long time. If you go to Chebyuk, you will find that the area is already occupied. It is not a forest. People have already settled there.

You will recall that this is not the first time this Petition has come to the House. It was brought to the House during the last Parliament. Among the related cases were those concerning the former Sorenson Farm in Makunga, Saboti, Kitalale Phases I, II and III. People in the former Smith Farm and Mochongoi in Baringo brought similar petitions. These are lands that are already occupied. If you look at some of those areas, you will find that people were displaced either because of historical injustices, as a result of the eviction of people who were living in the forests, or the displacement of people during post-election clashes. Many of these people have lived in those areas under constant threat from forest rangers.

As we speak, people living in the former Sorenson Farm have no peace because every year, they face uncertainty, yet that area is not a forest. The land in that area has an Internal Reference Number and a Land Reference Number. It was a white man's land, and the community members came together and purchased it. The Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development entered into a transaction with the community, and the community was allocated that land. Unfortunately, in January 2013, there was a transition in government. The Minister, by then, one Noah Wekesa, illegally gazetted some of those lands to unjustifiably have the communities living there evicted. As a result, the people continued to suffer until this day. Therefore, such a petition did not come out of the blue. It comes from the suffering and frustration those people have undergone. Their houses were destroyed, and some family members ended up being killed.

I thank the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining, led by Hon. (Eng.) Vincent Musyoka AKA Kawayu, for carrying out public participation within those areas. We are aware that this Petition was forwarded by the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary did not sit on that Petition. She handled the Petition diligently and ensured that it reached the Speaker, who presented it to this House. Further, the House processed it properly. Therefore, any attempt to derail it is an attempt...

(Hon. Caroli Omondi consulted loudly)

I think my colleague is in *Linda Mama* or *Linda* whatever. If you are ‘*lindaring*’ mwananchi, the people we are talking about are *wananchi* who are suffering, and they deserve to be *lindwad* like any other *mwananchi*.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Hon. (Dr) Pukose, what is ‘*lindad*’?

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, Hon. Caroli is a member of the ‘*linda mama*’ or ‘*linda something*’ group. He is not listening, but they normally call themselves something like that. It is very unfortunate that you have selective ‘*linda*’.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, *linda* is a Swahili word for protecting. When we say we are protecting the people, we must ensure their rights are not violated but protected. They should have access to land, which is very central to their livelihood. The land issue is very emotive in this country. Land should be protected. I am happy that the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining went to Chebyuk, listened to the people and saw what is happening to their schools, houses and permanent residences. There are government institutions within those areas. This process is intended to regularise their settlement.

With those few remarks, I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Thank you very much. Before we listen to the Leader of the Majority Party, for the benefit of Hon. Caroli Omondi, if he is listening, I have obtained a copy of the Forest Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 385).

(Hon. Caroli Omondi consulted with Hon. Vincent Musau and Hon. Owen Baya)

Hon. Caroli Omondi is not listening, but I will read out the relevant law for the record. Section 34 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act reads as follows:

34. Variation of boundaries or revocation of public forests

(1) Any person may petition the National Assembly for the variation of boundaries of a public forest or the revocation of the registration of a public forest or a portion of a public forest.

(4) The Cabinet Secretary shall, within thirty days of the petition being committed to the relevant Committee, submit a recommendation on whether the petition should be approved subject to—

- (a) the petition being subjected to an independent Environmental Impact Assessment; and
- (b) public consultation being undertaken in accordance with the Second Schedule.

I would like to refer to this specific provision of the law and encourage the House to continue with the debate. Let us proceed, Leader of the Majority Party.

Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, you are very right. I was going through the same Act as you were reading it out. The Forest Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 385), Section 34, is what should guide such a Petition. This Petition came to the House pursuant to the provisions of this Section of the Act. If anything were unconstitutional, then it would be this Statute, which was enacted by Members of this House years ago. As you have rightly said, any person may petition the National Assembly for the variation of boundaries or even the revocation of the registration of a public forest or a portion of a public forest. Therefore, the petitioners were right because any one of them could have done it. They did not need to do it as a group.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, secondly, it is what you have pointed out in the Act. Section 34(2A) of the Forest Conservation and Management Act provides that a petition under subsection (1) shall only be forwarded to the National Assembly on the recommendation of the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), which falls under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Section 34(3) of the Act states that a petition made under subsection (1) shall be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Petitions to Parliament (Procedure) Act and the Standing Orders of the National Assembly. That is what the Committee has done.

Section 34(4) of the Act, which you have alluded to, provides that the Cabinet Secretary shall, within thirty days of the petition being committed to the relevant committee, submit a recommendation on whether the petition should be approved, subject to the petition being subjected to an independent Environmental Impact Assessment, and public consultation being undertaken, in accordance with the Second Schedule.

Did the Cabinet Secretary conform to these provisions? Yes, he did. As the Chairperson has alluded, the Ministry submitted its recommendations in accordance with the provisions of Section 34(4) of the Act. What is made subjective by that subsection (4) is the petition being subjected to an independent Environmental Impact Assessment, which the Committee's report applies to.

The other requirement is to undertake public consultation in accordance with the Second Schedule. This is in line with what we were debating two weeks ago regarding public participation. This is a mandatory constitutional requirement. The Act provides that public consultation must be undertaken in accordance with the Second Schedule, and this was done.

I will go into the substance of what the petitioners said. For those who know Manzini, as Hon. Chairperson had alluded to, it is a town. There is no forest there. It is a town where people have settled. You will recall that during the 11th Parliament, this House considered such a Petition from the people of Kamiti/Anmer. The presiding Speaker was then the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Lands in this House. You submitted a Report to the House, which was adopted.

(Applause)

In fact, we should now ask the Ministry and KFS why they have yet to act on the issue of the Kamiti/Anmer land. This is a place where people have settled. There are public institutions, schools, government offices and administrative offices. People have built their homesteads there, but the land was still classified as part of what was Kamiti Forest, which no longer exists. That is why this Petition speaks to certain rights that Kenyans have - the right to own property. We cannot deny them the right to own property.

Regarding the people in Kakamega, the Member for Navakholo will tell you that many of those people were removed to create room for the establishment of government institutions. Are we now telling them that they cannot be settled elsewhere, where they are currently settled around Shaviringa? Some names from Western Kenya are difficult to pronounce. Therefore, I support this Petition and thank the Committee for being considerate of the rights of Kenyans to own property and have a roof over their heads. The people of Western Kenya must enjoy that right.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Give the Leader of the Majority Party one minute, please.

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I was concluding by saying that the people of Kakamega have the same rights as other Kenyans. We must protect them. The people of Uasin Gishu in Manzini also have the right to own land and to have a roof over their heads. They should live decent livelihoods like Kikuyus and people from Suba South. We must live in a country where we feel each other's pain. When the people of Western Kenya live in pain, I must feel it. Someone from Suba South must feel the pain of

the people of Western Kenya, specifically those in Kakamega, who are living without shelter today. We must also feel the pain of the people of Manzini, who cannot take bank loans today because they do not have titled deeds. I associate myself with the Committee and fully support the Report.

With those remarks, I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Proceed, Hon. Janet Sitienei.

Hon. Janet Sitienei (Turbo, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to add my voice to this debate. I come from Manzini. I thank the Committee for burning the midnight oil and for visiting that area to confirm that the residents there have been living there since the early 1990s. They have been there for over 30 years. I thank the Cabinet Secretary for taking up the matter and forwarding the Petition to this House for approval to regularise the settlements in Manzini, Chebyuk and in other areas.

We also have similar petitions on the regularisation of settlements like Chepkumia, which will come later. I know that there are quite a number of petitions under this issue. Manzini covers an area of 1,241.5 hectares. It was surveyed and designated as LR No. 11945 for settlement planning and regularisation. It was established in the early 1990s to settle squatters and other landless people. As we speak, it holds over 30,000 people, who have been living there for many years. The area hosts over 15 primary and secondary schools. Manzini Settlement also hosts over 30 churches. There is also a sub-county office established in the area. I thank the Committee for burning the midnight oil to ensure that the settlements in that area are regularised.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the people of Manzini have faced socio-economic challenges for over 30 years because of the absence of this regularisation. They had no collateral and therefore could not engage in any socio-economic activity or even develop that area. This will give them an opportunity to settle properly and engage in economic activities by acquiring collateral. These people have suffered for a long time. Thirty years is not a short time for a landless person without collateral to engage in economic activities. Many of them have had families that have grown exponentially for 30 years, while some have even subdivided the land. Some of those who acquired the land in the early 1990s have passed on. Therefore, this Motion has come at the right time to settle those squatters so that they can also live like other Kenyans—engage in economic activities, develop their areas, grow cash crops and earn a reasonable income to grow the economy just like other residents of this country. I support the idea of ensuring that other areas with similar challenges are considered in future so that all landless people can be settled.

I once again thank the Committee for visiting the area to establish that people have informally settled there. Not a single indigenous tree exists there apart from trees planted by the residents of the Manzini area when they settled there. This Petition was here even during the last Parliament. I still remember it was brought to the House, but because the Environmental Impact Assessment License (EIA) had expired, it was stepped down.

With those remarks, I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Let me hear from Hon. Wangwe to represent a voice from Kakamega.

Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe (Navakholo, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I confirm that I come from Kakamega County, Navakholo Sub-County. At the outset, allow me to appreciate Hon. Kawaya, the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee, for this very good Motion he has brought to the House. I support it, but I would like to suggest something. This is a wonderful position with two questions. Are there trees on that land? The answer is no. Is there a settlement on that land? The answer is yes. There are people. Kenyans live there, but without title deeds. They have nothing to present; should you call upon them to say what they own? We have to formalise the ownership. We should give Kenyans title deeds for the

land they own. Most of the land is not owned by individuals. There are institutions like schools, hospitals, churches and administrative units.

I would like to take another direction to address the issue of Turbo. My good neighbour here, Hon. Nabii Nabwera, is a very responsible Member of Parliament. I applaud him for the efforts he has made.

Hon. Beatrice Kemei (Kericho County, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Order, Hon. Hon. Wangwe. I have a point of order from the Member for Kericho, Hon. Kemei. What is out of order?

Hon. Beatrice Kemei (Kericho County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Having listened to the Members, I rise under Standing Order 95 to request that the Mover be called upon to reply. It seems like all Members support the Motion.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): I will put that motion to the test. Let us allow Hon. Wangwe to conclude his contribution.

You have a balance of three minutes, Hon. Wangwe.

Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe (Navakholo, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Without usurping your powers, ending the debate on this Motion without hearing the voice of the representative of the people of Lugari, who is the custodian of our forests, will not be fair to him. The Chairperson of the Committee should take possession of the people of Lugari's request, especially the Mautuma Settlement Scheme, in 1992. The Member for Lugari is here. If you give him a chance, he will say the same. The Mautuma Settlement Scheme was given to the people of Lugari in 1992. That is 34 years ago. Those people live as squatters. We have several schools which the Member can count for us. We have several churches and administrative units. There is no forest in Mautuma today. I implore my colleague Hon. Kawayia that, should our Petition land on his desk, he should bring it to us expeditiously so that we can approve it in a similar way, so that the people of Mautuma can also enjoy the right to land ownership.

Why do I speak about the Mautuma Settlement Scheme? My people from Navakholo and those of Lugari are neighbours. Some have suffered the same fate. When I join my colleague Hon. Nabii, we will push the common interest of our people. I would like to reiterate the earlier debate in which a Member sought to gag the House. Standing Order 95 is obsolete. Nothing stops this House from resolving any issue, even when obstacles say otherwise. We have the right to resolve and discuss issues. Therefore, the Petition is rightfully before us.

With those remarks, I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Thank you, Member for Navakholo. Hon. Members, I will give a chance to Hon. Nabwera Nabii.

Hon. Nabii Nabwera (Lugari, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Turbo Forest is partly in Uasin Gishu and partly in Kakamega. Half of the forest is in my constituency, Lugari. On 7th June 1992, the Head of State then, His Excellency President Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, using the powers given to him by the defunct Constitution, as the trustee of public land in Kenya, gave land to the people of Manzini and Mautuma in Lugari Constituency. For 32 years, the people of Manzini have been living as squatters simply because the authorities have not changed the land's ownership from forest land to people's land so that people could be issued titles. The same fate befell the people of Lugari.

The people of Chebyuk have suffered for many years. The people of Shivinga and Shiru in Kakamega County have suffered the same fate. As we debate this issue and support the Motion, I request the Chair to process the petition of the people of Mautuma Central, which houses seven primary schools, two secondary schools, a mini stadium, a Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC), two market centres, a township and 27 churches.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, one of the issues that the broad-based government promised the people of Kenya was to treat people equitably. On that basis, I support this Petition and request that the Chairman of the Committee review all petitions to ensure that people are treated equally before the next election.

With those remarks, I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Next is Hon. Kapondi.

Hon. Fred Kapondi (Mt. Elgon, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, thank you for giving me an opportunity to add my voice to this debate. This debate would not have been concluded without the voice of Mt. Elgon. This is a historical issue. It is about historical injustices that need to be addressed. To put the matter in historical context, the people who resided in Kitale before the colonialists arrived were displaced in seven different directions. There were those who left for Uganda. Others left for West Pokot, and the rest left for Narok. The Elgoji-Dorobo were displaced to what is currently known as Chepkitale.

The reason this is a historical issue is that since 1971, when this settlement was created, the Government of Kenya has not de-gazetted the land. It was partially done in 1989, which considered only Phase I. Phases II and III have, to date, remained an eyesore. One reason why Mt. Elgon is what it is, in terms of failure to realise the necessary development, is that Chepyuk remains an integral part of Mt. Elgon. It has remained an eyesore. Without resolving the issues of Chepyuk Phases II and III, the entire Mt. Elgon region has faced extended conflicts. I wish my friend Hon. Caroli Omondi were present when the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining went for public participation. There is absolutely no forest in that area. People have settled there, and there is infrastructure. Due to the protracted delays in degazetting that former forest land, people have been living like birds.

After successive governments tried and failed to ensure that people got their rightful share, the current government did so courageously. I want to applaud our President for taking the lead. I want to applaud this Committee. I urge my colleagues to do justice to the people of Chepyuk, Manzini and Shaviringa by giving them title deeds, so that they can also live like other Kenyans. Otherwise, my friend, Hon. Caroli, nobody doubts your intellect as one of the finest lawyers in this country, but also has a heart and goes through the reports. During the debate on the Finance Bill, one of our colleagues talked about a non-existent clause. The report clearly indicates that 100 petitions were forwarded to the House, which the Ministry consolidated. Those petitions form the Motion before the House.

In conclusion, Kenyans in Mautuma, Kaptega and Kiboro are still suffering. They have not received their rights. As the people of Chepyuk, Manzini and Shaviringa get what is rightfully theirs, we should also consider other petitions and deal with them expeditiously.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Thank you. Member for Tharaka, you are the last one to speak on this matter.

Hon. George Murugara (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. First, I support this timely Motion as it is delivering justice to people who have suffered for quite some time. Secondly, I should have a legal discussion with Hon. Caroli Omondi because he challenged the constitutionality of the Motion on the basis of a constitutional provision which deals with constitutional petitions. We are dealing with a petition under the Forest Conservation and Management Act, which is not the only piece of legislation that contains provisions for petitions.

(Applause)

The Environmental Management and Coordination Act contains various provisions for petitions to the High Court, Parliament and Ministries.

Thirdly, the Marriage Act contains provisions for petitions that are entirely different from public petitions under the Constitution. Finally, a Petition brought by a Cabinet Secretary is also a public petition as it is on behalf of the people, just like public funds and public lands.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, your ruling is correct. I will discuss with Hon. Caroli Omondi how constitutional petitions are brought to the House.

I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Members, the Member of Kericho County rose under Standing Order 95, and moved that the Mover be called upon to reply. I would like to put that motion to the test.

(Question, that the mover be called upon to reply, put and agreed to)

Hon. Kawaya Vincent Musyoka, it is time for you to reply to the debate on the Motion.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, allow me to donate one minute to Hon. Kimani Kuria, and then I will reply in one minute.

(Several Members spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): No, you cannot donate part of your time when you are called upon to reply as per Standing Order 95. I know you want to be kind to your colleague, but the Standing Orders do not allow it.

Just go ahead and reply.

Hon. Vincent Musau (Mwala, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I appreciate Members for the support they have given to the Motion. We should never make it a habit to trivialise everything, especially on the basis of small issues for which the law knows no cure. For this particular matter, the most important thing is the content. It is important to note that the people of Shaviringa donated their own land to the government. They have been frustrated for years after donating land they owned. This is not the government donating land to them. They surrendered their own land for the development of public institutions. They have been frustrated over the years because the government, for instance, in this particular case, wanted to build public facilities on the land where people were settled. It is only right that, the government, having taken their property, we settle these people and give them the relevant documents.

The matter of other petitions and other pending similar matters has also been raised. Let me also say that during the consideration of this particular Petition, which is a fairly emotive matter, it became apparent that many similar petitions remain to be considered. We have been in discussions with the relevant stakeholders to expedite the consideration of the other petitions so that other Kenyans can also benefit. For instance, the Mautuma case just mentioned ought to have been considered alongside the Manzini case, as it concerns the same area. We regret the omission, but we will expedite it as soon as the Petition comes to the House.

The Forest Conservation and Management Act, as it is, clearly sets out the procedures for de-gazettement of any public land. That matter, together with other petitions, some of which have already been considered by the Cabinet, will be expedited as soon as they are brought to the Committee by the House.

With those many remarks, I reply.

(Question put and agreed to)

BILL*Second Reading*THE SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND
(National Assembly Bill No. 7 of 2026)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Chairman of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, I have heard you, but we are proceeding as per the re-organisation of the Order Paper by the Speaker. Proceed, Leader of the Majority Party.

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move that the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 7 of 2026) be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, allow me to, first, thank the Chair and the Members of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning for subjecting this Bill to public participation last month, when many of us were on recess. The Departmental Committee spent a lot of time considering this Bill and taking it to the public for public participation. The Committee, having conducted extensive public participation, received memoranda from at least 12 key institutional stakeholders and held physical hearings across the many counties it visited as it considered the Finance Bill.

Those of us who had time to go through the Committee's Report must have noted that the National Treasury raised concerns about excessive financial exposure, leading the Committee to strictly prohibit investments in high-risk speculative derivatives, unlisted real estate, and private equity. Those who have looked at the Bill know that these are indeed issues the Bill has pointed out.

There are also issues that the Controller of Budget warned against—a parallel financial architecture resulting in committee revisions to at least three clauses—Clauses 11, 14 and 17—making written authorisation from the Controller of Budget mandatory for all fund withdrawals. Any withdrawals from this Fund must now get authorisation from the Controller of Budget.

The Office of the Auditor-General also flagged the issue of a lack of transition triggers for resource depletion, prompting the Committee to require a pre-approved structure depletion strategy plan to safeguard long-term savings. Many of the issues raised during stakeholder engagement are contained in the Report and were also raised by other persons who appeared before the Committee. Therefore, let me not belabour those issues, as I am certain that the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, who was actively involved in the public participation process, will address some of them. That is to say, Hon. Temporary Speaker, that the Bill will be informed by stakeholder engagement and public participation through amendments when we get to the Committee of the whole House.

This is a very important Bill in the new financial architecture of our country. I speak of a new way of thinking and a new financial architecture because, when we went to the people three years ago to seek their votes, we promised Kenyans that we would re-engineer the management of public resources. We also promised to ensure that we do not overburden them with taxation. We can only do that if we take care of our resources, including our natural resources and utilise them for the benefit of the present and future generations. We cannot achieve this without a financial architecture, an institutional framework, and a legal framework that guarantees the people of Kenya that we shall safeguard the resources, now and in the future. The resources that we have today should not be utilised and depleted within one or two generations. Our children's children and their grandchildren should also benefit from resources that belong to our country.

Before Independence, many people came to Africa, including our colonial masters. They extracted raw materials from the agricultural sector, minerals, and other natural resources. They used those resources to grow their economies back home and left many African nations in squalor and abject poverty. We must remain at the forefront as a strong nation in this region. I must thank the President because he has been at the forefront of advocating for a fairer global financial architecture. Many countries in the Global South have suffered for years under an unjust financial architecture. Part of that endeavour must begin here at home. That is what informs the Government's policy position on the establishment of several new things. We began with the National Infrastructure Fund. I thank this House because that Fund is now a reality. Hon. Temporary Speaker, Hon. Caroli Omondi was just asking me to thank him because we have now secured a few additional billions of shillings from Safaricom. I am glad that there is now an appreciation that certain things being done by this Administration are in the best interests of our country and our people.

I speak about the National Infrastructure Fund because it is related to the Fund that we seek to establish through this Bill. This Bill seeks to establish the Kenya Sovereign Wealth Fund as a structured financial instrument designed to safeguard our long-term economic stability and ensure that the benefits of our natural resources are preserved for both present and future generations.

The proposed Fund seeks to achieve several objectives. These include providing the Government with a buffer against fluctuations in resource revenues and extraordinary shocks. We live in a time when our economy and macro-economic stability are suffering from external and extraordinary shocks. The war in the Middle East is one such occurrence over which we have no control, yet it affects our macroeconomic stability. As the Member for Dagoretti South has said, COVID-19 was another extraordinary shock that affected our macroeconomic stability. At that time, we did not have an adequate buffer. Therefore, we seek to have a buffer in case we have a pandemic like COVID-19, war, and the riots that you see every now and then, instigated by clueless, rudderless, and visionless politicians. Those are also shocks to the economy that affect our revenue mobilisation and resources. Should we have occurrences, we must always have a buffer. This is one of the objectives of the Bill.

Second, the Bill also seeks to provide financing for strategic infrastructure investment priorities that will foster inclusive economic growth and development. It will transcend one generation. It also seeks to provide financing for such commercially viable strategic infrastructure investments. Therefore, no funds will be drawn from the Sovereign Wealth Fund for investments that are not commercially viable.

For instance, the commercial viability of our new Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) is something that we have spoken about for donkey years. Although we know it is a commercially viable investment for our country, we do not have the immediate resources to construct it. If we had developed the Sovereign Wealth Fund years ago, we would probably have resources that we could borrow from, invest in a commercially viable investment that will help grow our economy, and repay the money. That way, we benefit future generations.

The third objective of the Bill is to build a savings base for future generations. I did not mention that this Fund will draw its revenue or funds from our mineral and oil resources: the upstream extraction of our natural resources. The money will come from our minerals and oil extraction in Turkana and, probably, other areas where we may find oil. There are minerals in Kitui. The Member for Kitui Central, Hon. Makali Mulu, will tell you that many people of Kitui suffer today because of a lack of water. They have very fertile land. Because they lack irrigation water, they sometimes suffer from hunger. They sometimes depend on relief food from the Government. Hon. Makali Mulu comes from Kitui Central in Kenya. He will tell you that this land is very rich in mineral resources. However, they are exploited by foreigners

because they have the capital to extract them. They leave the people of Kitui, today and in future, living in abject poverty.

When you extract minerals from Kitui, part of the money shared with the national Government will go into this Fund to benefit the people of Kitui now and in the future. That even a hundred years from today, children of Kitui, the great-grandchildren of Hon. Makali Mulu, will benefit from resources that were extracted by their great-grandfathers. Therefore, the third objective of this Fund is to ensure that we do what we have done with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF). That is why I said many of these things are intertwined.

Remember, we spoke here about the need for a savings culture in this country. We even moved amendments to the NSSF Bill in the last Parliament. We cannot tell people to save yet, as a country, we are not doing it. Therefore, we are institutionalising a savings culture in this Bill. We should not deplete our mineral and oil resources in the country, leave nothing for future generations, or create a buffer to run to whenever we face macroeconomic shocks brought about by war, COVID-19, or any other shock to our economy. They come at the worst times. Remember, we had the COVID-19 pandemic, and then the war started in the Middle East when nobody expected it.

A few months ago, political scavengers were inciting Kenyans, telling them that President William Ruto and this Government were responsible for rising fuel prices. They never told Kenyans that fuel prices in this country are actually lower than in many developed and oil-producing countries. Global economic shocks will always exist. When they occur, we need a buffer we can rely on. This Fund comprises three distinct components.

The first is what is referred to as the *Uriithi*, or the Heritage Component, which preserves wealth for future generations through long-term investments. The second is the Stabilisation Component, which I mentioned earlier. This component cushions our economy during periods of declining resource revenues or external economic shocks, such as war or the Ebola epidemic. When such events occur, and we are hit by economic shocks that drive up inflation, we need a buffer that we can fall back on. That is the purpose of the Stabilisation Component. The third is the Strategic Infrastructure Investment Component. This is what I was alluding to when I said we should have a fund from which to draw resources to invest in commercially viable projects that will help our economy grow.

This is a very important Bill for our country. Members will note from its provisions and from some of the safeguards highlighted by the Committee that, before any funds are withdrawn, the Controller of Budget must have oversight and visibility into such withdrawals. Additionally, no one will be allowed to use these funds as collateral for borrowing by a National Government entity, a State corporation, a county government entity, a county corporation or any other legal or natural person. Therefore, those who have reviewed the Bill will see that the only thing that can happen within the Fund is that any surplus resources may be used to liquidate or reduce public debt.

We have spoken at length and very loudly about public debt, yet many people talk about it without taking any action to address it. You heard some Members last week pontificating about how we are getting ourselves into debt. However, they never offer alternative ideas for dealing with public debt. The reality is that the best approach to public debt is prudent management. Whether you look at Japan, the United States, or the United Kingdom, where the Prime Minister has just resigned, you realise that there is no country that is not confronted by the challenge of public debt. Even as individuals, we deal with debt on a daily basis. What we must be certain about, both as a country and as individuals, is our capacity and ability to repay our debt.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Leader of the Majority Party, just to fill you in, it is unfortunate that those Members are not here to contribute to this important debate and provide solutions to the issue of public debt.

(Applause)

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, it is, indeed, unfortunate. As you know, some of those who were pontificating here and shouting the loudest the other week even claimed that they had appeared before the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning and would be proposing amendments during the Committee of the whole House. However, when the Committee of the whole House proceeded, they were nowhere to be seen. They simply disappeared. As I have said before, all they seek to do is come during debate at the Second Reading, speak to the gallery, cut clips for circulation on TikTok and portray themselves as heroes. You are just a villain. You cannot become a hero by merely appearing in Parliament to speak to the gallery and then doing nothing. In fact, you do not even believe in the things you are saying.

(Applause)

That is why they come here to pontificate. They know that when they appear for public participation before the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, there will be cameras in the room. They know proceedings will be broadcast live. So, they imagine they will appear intelligent in front of those cameras. You have not told Kenyans that you are misleading them! You know better, and you know the truth. I say this, especially to those who claim to be students of economics. Any student of economics knows the truth. That is why I have challenged many of them, especially those who were here last week. I told them that if they had ever said something in this House on a matter of principle, they should stand by it. If they are merely playing to the gallery and the cameras, Kenyans will call them out.

I thank Kenyans because over the weekend, I saw them call out intellectual conmen and masters of intellectual deceit. They saw that some Members were merely pontificating in the Chamber, alleging that they could do things during the Committee of the whole House. Interestingly, they never filed a single amendment to the Finance Bill, which is now an Act of Parliament.

Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): What is out of order, Hon. Gitonga John?

Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, is the Leader of the Majority Party in order...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Ensure that you mention the Standing Order that you are rising on.

(Several Members consulted loudly)

Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta, UDA): Is the Leader of the Majority Party... Order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): You cannot order me. I order you to state the Standing Order on which you are rising and then explain what is out of order.

Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I have seen you allow many Members to raise points of order without asking them to state a particular Standing Order. That is not right.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): I am now asking you to state what is out of order and under which Standing Order you are rising. If nothing is out of order, just take your seat. Proceed, Leader of the Majority Party.

Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Forgive the Member for Manyatta. He is serving his first term and has not yet familiarised himself with the Standing Orders. You and other Speakers have directed that when a Member seeks to interject on a point of order, they must know the provisions of the Standing Orders. I invite the Member for Manyatta to read the Standing Orders. He should not be one of those Members who do not read. You heard a Member talk about a non-existent Clause 169 of a Bill he had not read, yet he was busy pontificating.

I thank Kenyans for calling out intellectual conmen and masters of political deceit. They should continue doing so. If I ever become an intellectual conman or a master of political deceit, Kenyans should call me out as well. Thank you for calling out the masters of political deceit and intellectual con men who pontificate on economic matters yet fail to take action. During the debate on the Finance Bill, many Members rose to oppose various clauses. When challenged to show the provisions in the Bill, they could not. They knew those provisions did not exist.

I thank Kenyans because...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): For Hon. Gitonga’s benefit, Part XVIII of the Standing Orders contains everything that you want to refer to. It is very easy. Simply go there and cite the relevant Standing Order.

Hon. Kimani Ichung’wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for guiding the young Member for Manyatta. I will also help him. In fact, the gadgets in front of us contain digital copies of the Standing Orders.

Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): I will be fair to you, Hon. Mukunji. Which Standing Order are you rising on? Order, Leader of the Majority Party. Let me hear him.

Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 105. Is the Leader of the Majority Party in order? Members can read the Standing Order.

(Several Members spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Can you stop correcting his language? Just stop correcting him. Please, proceed.

Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Protect me from these Members. I do not want to lose my train of thought. I want the Leader of the Majority Party to clarify....

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Did you say Standing Order 105?

Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta, UDA): Yes.

(Loud consultations)

(Hon. Owen Baya spoke off the record)

No, I am on a point of order. You cannot be on a point of order when I am on one. It is not possible. I am the one on a point of order.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): The Leader of the Majority Party, allow him to read Standing Order 105.

Hon. Gitonga Mukunji (Manyatta, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, my gadget is reading a different clause.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Hon. Gitonga Mukunji, you are completely out of order. Take your seat.

The Leader of the Majority Party, please, conclude your remarks.

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, let us forgive the Member for Manyata. Standing Order 105 speaks of Members remaining in their places until the Speaker has left the Chamber.

(Laughter)

You know, the Member for Manyata is doing his first term, and as the Leader of the Majority Party, I am obligated to educate him that this particular Standing Order 105 speaks to when the Speaker stands in his position at the time the House adjourns. Like now, the House will adjourn at 9.00 p.m. If he does not know, the House will adjourn at 9.00 p.m. When the Speaker is exiting the Chamber, the Standing Order says: "When the House adjourns, Members shall stand in their places until the Speaker has left the Chamber." That is why the Serjeant-at-Arms stands at the door so that we remain in our places until the Speaker exits.

You know, this House is good, which is why I thanked Kenyans and God. God is continuing to expose these people for who they are. Those who do not read simple things like a Standing Order or a book with an index, as you have guided. The Member could have just quickly checked to see what would have been relevant to what he wanted to raise.

Away from that, we must read and understand the legislative proposals that come before the House. When such an important Bill is before the House...

(Hon. Gitonga Mukunji spoke off the record)

Do not seek to interrupt the debate because I have mentioned things about people who are not reading. I will continue challenging Members of Parliament to spare time to read. We cannot be the best among the people who elected us, then when we come here, we do not read anything. We must read, internalise, and interpret what we are legislating on because we are doing it as a very solemn duty on behalf of 50 million Kenyans. I said we are fortunate that 349 of us have been privileged to come and legislate on behalf of millions of other Kenyans. Therefore, we must spend time reading, internalising, and understanding what we do. We cannot come here and talk about clauses in a Bill just to mislead Kenyans.

I know the Member for Manyatta may have wanted to interrupt me because he knew I was going to speak about this, and maybe it is time I did. We must never use the Floor of this House to mislead Kenyans out there. We did that two years ago. We misinformed Kenyans. I know there are people in Government who are part of the choreographed campaign to misinform and disinform Kenyans. I have said it in other forums that these are political scavengers who will scavenge on anything. They will scavenge on the Ebola epidemic that is in Congo, or claim that Laikipia is in Mount Kenya, just to incite the people of Mount Kenya.

The other day, I was in my constituency, telling the people of Kikuyu, whom I represent, that they must maintain the dignity and honour that the people of Kenya have accorded the people of Mount Kenya for many years. The people of Mount Kenya were never known to burn down property. They were never known for that. The people of Mount Kenya were never known to burn anything. They were known as protectors of wealth, not destroyers of it.

However, visionless, clueless, rudderless, agenda-less political scavengers have now turned our people into people who are easily incited to violence. When these political scavengers attempted to scavenge on the Ebola epidemic in the Congo, they went out inciting Kenyans on the question of Ebola, saying, "Oh, this Government wants to bring Ebola into Kenya." Yet what the Government was doing was preparing, in the event that the epidemic

reached our country, to ensure we were safe. They went telling people that Ebola was being brought to Laikipia. Shame on you, because every administration must be allowed to protect the people of Kenya. Any Government, whether this Government or any other, works for the people and protects the lives and property of Kenyans.

When these political scavengers discovered that Ebola was dwindling in the Congo and might not find its way into Kenya, as they had hoped and prayed, because I am sure they were hoping that Ebola would find its way here so that they could use it as an agenda, they moved on. They have been told they have no agenda, no vision, and many other things they are said not to have. They continue to demonstrate that those observations are true. They do not have those things they are told they do not have.

They never got tired. They attempted to scavenge on the Finance Bill 2026. Unfortunately, one of them went out and claimed that we were converting all freehold land into leasehold land and taxing Kenyans on their land. When we challenged him, he disappeared and never spoke about it again. Another one, the master of violence, claimed that we were increasing the rental income tax for Kenyans and further claimed that only people from his community are landlords. I am a landlord, so is the Member for Kitui Rural, Hon. Mboni. Hon. Mboni is my neighbour in Embakasi, where we are both landlords, although he collects more rent than I do. Yet while the Finance Bill was protecting tenants, someone was claiming we were increasing the rental income tax.

I am glad that, yesterday, none other than the President himself set the record straight on the provisions of the Finance Bill. These political scavengers have been left in shame. I know they were praying for a trigger on 25th June. I am sorry they did not find it in Ebola. They did not find it in the Finance Bill either. I now hear one of them claiming that this-and-that leaders are the ones organising these matters. Kenyans are not foolish.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, are we the first country in the world to establish such a Sovereign Wealth Fund? We are not. In the Gulf region, which I referred to when discussing economic shocks, if you go to the United Arab Emirates, a country many of you frequent, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) manages at least US\$1 trillion, that is, approximately Ksh130 trillion. You can imagine how many years of our national Budget that represents. With a Budget of Ksh4.8 trillion, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority is managing US\$1 trillion, largely drawn from oil revenues. That is what we seek to do.

As we have been told, it is possible within our lifetime not only to move this country from a developing nation to a developed nation, but also to enact progressive laws that will enable it to manage trillions of dollars, or trillions of shillings, through a sovereign wealth fund. Such a fund will guarantee future generations a secure nation. We will remember that in our time, we did not merely read Bills the way we continue to invite some people to read Bills and Standing Orders. We will also remember that we utilised our intellect to safeguard our resources for our own benefit and for the benefit of future generations. The people of Manyatta, just like the people of Kikuyu, expect Hon. Mukunji and me to legislate on their behalf and in their best interest. This is one such Bill that I look forward to all of us supporting because it speaks to the issues that we all pontificate about in rallies out there. I invite us all to help grow this economy, safeguard the future of our children and their children, address macroeconomic shocks, and support this country in pursuing commercially viable investments that can utilise such a Fund.

Just to give you another example, in Norway, the Government Pension Fund Global invests its revenues generated from petroleum resources. Today, it is the world's largest sovereign wealth fund, managing assets exceeding US\$2 trillion and investing globally in companies. Very soon, our nation will be investing globally. In fact, those who have read this Bill will see that it speaks to that. That is why we are avoiding the roots of speculative

derivatives and investments, so we can invest globally where we get the highest returns to grow our economy and secure it for future generations.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, let me not speak about the governance and administration of this Fund, as they are clearly spelt out. The Bill establishes a board of directors responsible for the governance of the Fund. It is, therefore, not a Fund that will be controlled by any single person in the Government. Should this Bill pass into law and become an Act of Parliament, the board will formulate the investment policies, oversee the management of the Fund, appoint professional investment managers, and ensure compliance with the Act.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): Order, Leader of the Majority Party.

(Hon. Peter Kaluma and Hon. Rozaah Buyu entered the Chamber holding hands)

What is happening with these two Members walking in? What is happening, Hon. Kaluma and Hon Rozaah Buyu?

Hon. Members: They are walking down the aisle.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai): The way you are walking into the House is completely unparliamentary, and it is out of order. You are lucky that you are sitting on the same side of the House.

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I think it is because Hon. Peter Kaluma's tie, the Member of Homa Bay, matches very well with the beautiful dress of the Member from Kisumu, Hon. Rozaah Akinyi Buyu. They are both very smart. We have noticed them.

I was saying that the Bill contains very robust accountability mechanisms. It requires annual audited financial statements, annual performance reports, audits by the Auditor-General, submission of reports to Parliament, and publication of the Fund's financial and investment performance for public scrutiny. As I said, the Committee has further improved it to ensure that even the Controller of Budget has purview over any withdrawals and what is going on in this Fund.

*[The Temporary Speaker
(Hon. (Dr) Rachael Nyamai) left the Chair]*

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

The Bill also creates mechanisms to ensure that, at least three months before an election, an audit of this Fund is conducted and the Fund is frozen during the electioneering period to safeguard it from abuse. The Member for Dagoretti South will tell you what happened with Telkom in the last Parliament. People are rushing to steal from the government. Nobody will be in a rush to steal from this Fund because we are putting safeguards in law. Whenever there is a transition from one government to another, nobody will abuse their office to steal from the public. This Fund is intended to benefit us and future generations.

The accounts of this Fund will be held in the Central Bank of Kenya. Therefore, when we sell our resources and the government receives its share of revenue from minerals or our oil reserves, this money goes directly into the holding account at the Central Bank of Kenya. I do not want to be like the Members who are quoting clauses that do not exist in the Bill. The holding account is provided for in one of the clauses. If you read the cash management in Clause 23 on the holding account, you will see how, within 10 days after money has come in, it will be distributed into the three components of the fund. Clause 7 states that an account shall be opened and operated at the Central Bank of Kenya for the fund, to be known as the holding

account. This holding account shall be used for receiving, holding, and disbursing all proceeds of the fund. Therefore, whether it is from minerals in Kitui, gold in Marsabit, gold in Ikolomani, gold in Transmara, or oil from Turkana, all such monies will be received into this holding account and maintained in Kenyan Shillings at the Central Bank of Kenya. Even the Committee has acknowledged that the Controller of Budget must have oversight of this account to ensure that any withdrawals are made in a transparent and accountable manner.

I do not wish to say much, as my seconder is a very intelligent and diligent Member of Parliament. When you hear me use the words intelligent, diligent, and sharp, I cannot be referring to any other Member except the Member for Molo, the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning. I had the occasion to join him in his constituency on Saturday for an empowerment programme, along with the Governor, Hon. Susan Kihika. I can attest that the people of Molo appreciate the intelligence and brilliance of their Member of Parliament. They love their Member of Parliament and are certain that he will secure a third term. So, when those who do not read Bills shout *Wantam*, they must know that the Member of Molo is, indeed, going for a third term. The people of Molo appreciate his intelligence and brilliance.

In fact, I met several boda boda riders during that empowerment, and they informed me about the work their Member of Parliament is doing to expose those who do not read and those who claim to be lawyers yet cannot read and interpret the law. The Member for Molo read the provisions of the law for a Member who had alleged that she is a lawyer and actually interpreted the law almost in vernacular for that Member to understand. It is only that the Member for Molo is from the Rift Valley. Otherwise, if the Member for Molo were from Kirinyaga, I am certain he would have translated that law into the vernacular. The only thing I heard is that he also accused some people of being smugglers. I hope those smugglers never bring anything into the chambers of Parliament. I hope those smugglers can be exposed for what they are.

I beg to move and request Hon. Kuria Kimani to second.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Leader of the Majority Party, I have had the privilege of working with the Member for Molo, Hon. Kuria Kimani. I will tell you it is not just the people of Molo who acknowledge that he is a genius. I have become a finance expert under his tutelage in the Finance Committee in less than a month. He is a very sharp individual, and we wish him well as he seeks a third term, just as we are serving our third term. Hon. Kuria Kimani, you may proceed.

Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo, UDA): I thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, and, indeed, thank the Leader of the Majority Party for the very kind words. From the outset, even before I go through my notes on this Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill, I wish to thank the Leader of the Majority Party for visiting my constituency on Saturday. We had a very productive full-day engagement with our people. We told them the truth about the work we are doing here. We have very alert Kenyans. They called and told us that they follow our debates in Parliament and follow up on what is happening. Also, they are calling out those who engage in misinformation and disinformation. I was very happy, especially with how we conducted the debates on the Finance Bill.

Hon. Kaluma, I also take this opportunity to urge Members of Parliament, especially the younger Members serving their first term... My apologies, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I am used to referring to you as Hon. Kaluma when you are in the Committee, and now I am forgetting that I should address you as "Hon. Temporary Speaker".

When we were elected in 2017 to serve our first term, I can point to examples such as the Hon. Murugara, the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, Hon. Atandi, Hon. KJ, myself, and many other first-term Members of Parliament in the last Parliament, who were very active in this House.

(Applause)

We hardly missed sittings. Of course, we could not easily catch the Speaker's eye at first because we had legendary Members such as Jimmy Angwenyi, Dr Nyikal, Dr Makali Mulu, the veteran Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, and, of course, Hon. Kaluma. The Speaker would always notice those Members of Parliament. So, we would sit patiently and wait until towards the close of the House to make our contributions. Eventually, the Speaker would notice and say that this person understands how to debate.

I remember that it was during that period that I realised I enjoyed contributing to matters of finance. Thereafter, any Speaker in the Chair would give me an opportunity to contribute on financial matters, even before late in the evening, to contribute on matters on finance. I, therefore, want to encourage these young Members of Parliament to do the same. It is good to seek re-election, engage with the public and make public statements. However, one must also invest time in honing legislative skills and building one's record in this House. Even if one is re-elected, they may not have the opportunity to serve in any departmental committee as chairperson or in the leadership.

To add to that, I heard some Members giving excuses as to why they were not on the Floor of the House to propose amendments they were propagating in the media. Some were not even present to vote because they had other commitments. It is important to point out to Kenyans that being a Member of Parliament is a full-time job. If you do not attend Parliament, you are absconding from duty.

As a Catholic, Hon. Temporary Speaker, you may recall the words of St. Jose Maria Escrivá on the sanctity of work: If you are paid for work that you do not do, then you should not be paid at all. We only sit here three days a week—Tuesday from 2.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m., Wednesday for the full day, and Thursday. What other business would one have, especially when we are making the Budget of the country?

It is important that Kenyans have been able to see the hypocrisy and the conmanship, as the Leader of the Majority Party has described it, and they are being called upon to be responsible citizens. We are in a position of privilege, and the substantive Speaker often reminds us that we cannot be Members who complain to the same public that elected us to Parliament. When *Mama Mboga* is discussing these matters in the market, or when bishops are discussing the Finance Bill and other issues in church, we cannot also be discussing those same matters in churches and at funerals while absconding from our duty to attend Parliament. We must put that into proper perspective.

Turning now to the substantive matter before us, the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 7 of 2026), I will begin with the story of Norway. The story starts in 1969, when Norway discovered oil in the Ekofisk field in the North Sea. This was their first oil field, and production began in 1971. However, that is not even the heart of the story. The heart of the story lies in Norway's Government Pension Fund Global, the largest of its kind in the world, with assets exceeding US\$2.2 trillion. It is managed by Norges Bank Investment Management. However, the question is: what is the source of this immense wealth? The answer is that it is the investment of surplus revenues from oil and gas resources. The other question is: for whose benefit are these investments made? They are made for the current generation, but most importantly for future generations of the people of Norway. The Norwegian people ask themselves the hard questions. We have been blessed with a surplus of oil and gas. What do we do to ensure that this wealth helps us and our future generations instead of becoming a resource curse, or what we call in economics, the paradox of plenty? How do we grow?

Let me speak to the phrase I just said—the paradox of the plenty. It is also known as the resource curse. This is a counterintuitive phenomenon whereby countries rich in natural minerals often experience lower economic growth, weaker institutions, greater inequality, and

poorer development outcomes than resource-scarce nations. Observers noted this as early as the 18th century, and it gained rigorous academic attention in the 90s. This is a key mechanism in what is referred to as the Dutch disease, where a resource boom drives up the national currency, making other exports like agriculture and manufacturing uncompetitive. These two concepts, the paradox of plenty and the Dutch disease, occur when a country gets resources and all attention is turned to those resources.

I can give an example where we get oil from Turkana, then all of a sudden, we have a lot of resources from these minerals. Of course, all the attention of the people will go to this particular sector because it is very profitable. In the case of oil, you just mine and get your resources. Therefore, people will stop investing in other sectors like manufacturing and business. I followed the debate on this Turkana oil story, where the people of Turkana were saying that now that they have oil, they do not have to do business, farm or do anything else. That concept is what you call the paradox of the plenty. You expect that once you have plenty, you will succeed, but it ends up being the opposite. If you read the history of the Dutch, this is what led to what we now refer to as the Dutch disease.

We need not travel far for cautionary tales. Look at Nigeria, our sister nation. They have the largest oil reserves in Africa and are one of the world's top exporters. For decades, oil has dominated exports and government revenues, yet millions in Nigeria remain trapped in poverty. The Niger Delta bears the scars of environmental degradation and unrest. Agriculture and manufacturing have atrophied, and institutions have grappled with corruption and elite rent-seeking. Even consider closer home, the Democratic Republic of Congo. They are endowed with over 70 per cent of the world's cobalt, which is very critical for the global green energy transition. They are blessed with vast coal deposits, which are essential for the manufacturing of electronics. They have copper, gold and diamonds, but what has happened? Instead of prosperity, these riches have often fuelled conflict, instability and the capture of narrow interests, leaving one of the planet's most resource-rich nations among the poorest. What a paradox! What a resource curse! This is a paradox of plenty in stark relief. Abundance that breeds scarcity and wealth that weakens rather than strengthens a nation. So, without proper safeguards, such riches, compounded by Dutch disease, can spread like dengue fever, sapping institutional vitality, fuelling division and conflict, and depriving current and future generations, even as the ground yields its treasures.

By answering this question wisely, Norway developed a model. They developed a vehicle. They developed a blueprint which has become a success and a lesson to the rest of the world. That is the same question we ask ourselves today. It is stacked in the pages of this Bill. Words with a profound call to us and the future; legislative sentences that are not just mere words, but the map to our prosperity as a nation. The clauses and parts in this legislative vehicle will hold significant meaning in the welfare of our country.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the 61 clauses contained in this Bill should not confound anyone in this House as to what a sovereign wealth fund is, or that it is clothed in difficulty. Its promise is simple. If we were to have oil, which we do; if we have minerals, which we do; and if we were to discover other natural resources hidden as they may be, which we do; what legal instrument should we have to ensure that these resources are utilised and invested in a manner that grows them and to bequeath them to our children and our children's children?

Who is to manage these funds? How should the fund be invested? What safeguards should we have in place to ensure proper controls over its withdrawals? How do we preserve the fund? What lessons can we learn from other countries? This is precisely what this Bill seeks to address. It seeks to provide a legal framework for the effective administration and management of mineral, petroleum, and other resource-based revenues.

Before I proceed further, one may ask: What is a sovereign wealth fund? In 2005, Andrew Rozanov coined the term. The simplest definition is that they are government-owned

investment funds with investments in foreign financial assets. Just as an individual, governments invest in foreign financial assets and, most importantly, make money. The story of sovereign wealth funds gained prominence in 2007/2008, although it started much earlier. Today, there are many sovereign wealth funds. Examples include Botswana's Pula Fund. By the way, Pula is Botswana's currency. I also learnt that in Setswana, it means "the rain". We can also talk of Australia's Future Fund, China's Investment Corporation, Singapore's Temasek Holdings Limited and the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation. I cannot exhaust the list.

In the beginning, there was a lot of suspicion about what sovereign wealth funds were. There was fear among recipient countries about whether such funds could be used for political ends. However, that misunderstanding has been cleared, and in place, we now have what are known as the Santiago Principles. These are principles agreed upon by countries and sovereign wealth funds across the world. Membership is voluntary, and the framework encourages self-assessment and adherence to specific principles on the management of these funds. One of those principles is what may not be so interesting to Members of this House— the avoidance of political inference in terms of management of these funds.

(Hon. Raphael Wanjala spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Raphael Wanjala, how can you interrupt such a learned presentation on this Bill, which is deemed complicated? Hon. Caroli, who is on the phone there? That is not right. If Hon. Members wish to pick up phone calls, there are rooms even behind the Speaker.

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): There is nothing out of order. Continue.

Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, in Africa, the success story of a sovereign wealth fund is Botswana's Pula Fund. They are our close neighbour. They had this foresight in 1993, and in 1994, they operationalised the Pula Fund. If you have visited Botswana, you have seen how beautiful the country is. It is also blessed with many diamonds. The fund was established under the Bank of Botswana Act. These people had such vision, foresight, and thoughtfulness that, as a result, Botswana is one of the most successful countries in our region.

The ultimate question that every Member of this House will have to answer quietly in his or her heart is this: Long after we have served our terms of leadership, way into the future when we are great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers, when we have grey hair, and our bones are frail, and our eyesight is fading, what shall we tell our great-grandchildren and grandchildren? If we do not bequeath them something precious that will outlast all of us, would it then be a proud moment? What if we were to tell them that this evening, 24th June 2026, we supported a Bill that peered to their future, untainted with the dangers of selfishness and present occupations, to preserve and grow wealth that they would inherit in a world that will be different and that we might not inhabit? Would it be a better legacy that would soothe our collective conscience as a nation? Is this the time, if we had a time machine, to understand the gravity of this moment? That is a decision before this House, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

As I finish, tomorrow, 25th June, is a very important day in our Republic. Tomorrow is the day we went through personal losses. Tomorrow, two years ago, is when disinformation, misinformation and propaganda brought our country to her knees. As we welcome those who wish to commemorate the day by remembering the lives lost during the 2024 protests, let us do so within the provisions of our Constitution. Your right to protest does not take away my right

to own property. Your right to protest does not take away the right to life of police officers. The right to protest should not take away the right of other road users.

In Molo, I had a discussion...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Is the time for Hon. Kuria Kimani up?

Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo, UDA): No. As we commemorate that day, I was saying I had a discussion with members of the business community in Molo Constituency on Saturday. We had a candid conversation. In 2024, the attackers who came to our home were paid. We have not moved away from the home where we live. In fact, when they brought down the wall, it was my neighbours who protected what remained of that wall for several months because I did not even have the courage to go back there until I put up another perimeter wall.

The business community told me that they thought I was being attacked because I was the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning. However, last year, when they were commemorating, and they tried to attack us, but they could not, some very irresponsible people, I do not want to use the word 'idiot', paid some people to vandalise the town. Now, Molo Sub-County does not have a fire engine because the one there was burned down. We do not have county offices because they were burned down. We are asking: so what does the sub-county fire engine or the county office have to do with whatever you were agitated against?

After that, when they realised they did not get anything, they went to the shops. They first went to the market and stole *ndizi* from market women. They then went to the shops. They also went to the uplands butchery and stole meat. They went to Itumbi's shop in Tayari and stole all his stock. There are so many other businesses that suffered.

The business community told me today, because this is on television and Kenyans are watching, that they will protect their businesses. Go and protest, but do not destroy other people's property. Picketing and demonstrating are enshrined in our Constitution. You have the right to do that. However, the right to own property is also enshrined in our Constitution. Therefore, we will also exercise the right to protect our property and public utilities, as enshrined in the Constitution. Having your rights does not mean you deny me my rights. In the same way, having my rights does not deny you your rights.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the earlier discussion by the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining was about the boundaries of forests. Molo has also suffered on the verge of conflict on the boundaries of forests, especially in an area I represent called Mariashoni Ward. In the previous administration, the boundary of the forest and the people of Mariashoni was a changing target. We had to call them out and ask how the boundary line keeps changing. As the Departmental Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining addresses this issue, I urge them to look at where the boundaries of other forests should be. Let there be predictability and a clear beacon that shows where the boundary is. They are bringing restorative justice.

The people of the Ogiek Community, who are called Dorobos, exist in Mariashoni, Molo Constituency; Nessuit and Kuresoi. Traditionally, they live in the forests, which they protect. If you remember your history, they were referred to as hunters and gatherers. They lived in the forest. There is a case that they won at the East African Court of Justice. It is important for justice to be served to these people in their lifetime. We had a candid discussion with them. It is also time to remember the neighbouring communities which benefit from those forests. Human beings can coexist peacefully with wildlife and our forests and still benefit from both.

One of the legacy decisions His Excellency the President has made is to return these national parks to the communities. A few weeks ago, I went to pick up my family in Amboseli National Park, where they had gone for a holiday. When driving out of there, it was impressive. I saw Maasais with their cows inside the park, and a few kilometres farther on, still inside the

park, I saw a pride of lions. They have done that for generations. This could not have been possible if Amboseli National Park had not been given to the communities. Even people who used to farm in the forest under what was once called the shamba system should be allowed to do so. We can grow potatoes there, as we take care of the trees. Once the trees become big, you will harvest your potatoes, take care of your trees, and then you will move to the next plantation. It is possible for all of us to coexist.

Lastly, when we conducted public participation on various Bills, I was with you and other Committee Members. It was very impressive to see how knowledgeable and involved Kenyans want to be and are in the affairs of running their country. For example, I was impressed to see young people in Turkana explaining the difference between the First and Second Schedules of the Value Added Tax (VAT), that is, exempt and zero-rated. They were trying to explain it in Kiswahili, but they understand what the movement from zero-rated to exempt means. This shows that these Kenyans comprehend these matters and are now following our discussions and policies intelligently, deliberately, and actively. Therefore, I call upon the members of the Executive to utilise well the resources that they are allocated by this House. Let them do that diligently, fairly, equitably and ensure there is value for money for all Kenyans. I submit, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

I second.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Thank you very much, Hon. Kuria Kimani. It touches every Member that you have said we have a date with history and destiny through this Bill.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Kangongo Bowen (Marakwet East, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Kangongo Bowen.

Hon. Kangongo Bowen (Marakwet East, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I rise under Standing Order No. 97, on time limitation of debate. The Leader of the Majority Party and the Chair have spoken and provided us with insights into what the Bill is about. I suggest that every Member be given three minutes to contribute.

(Several Members spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): What is the feeling of the Members?

Hon. Kangongo Bowen (Marakwet East, UDA): Five minutes, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Why not agree on five minutes each, and those who can compress can have three minutes each. Can we agree on that, or I put the question?

(Question put and agreed to)

Let us have Hon. John Kiarie followed by Hon. Gitonga Murugara. This will ensure that those in the House have a chance to speak. Let us also limit our points of order because of the paucity of time.

Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, this is a historic piece of legislation that has come before us. I commend the Mover of this Bill, the Leader of the Majority Party and the Seconder, Chair for the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, for bringing it to the House. If this Bill is passed, it will be illustrious for the 13th Parliament.

Two issues stand out: For starters, it is important for generations to learn the African wisdom, that you do not eat the fruit and its seeds. A family cannot slaughter a chicken and also feed on the eggs. There must be something in our economy that we preserve for future generations.

Secondly, the sector in which...

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Temporary Speaker, kindly protect me from all the loud consultations and reset my clock. I seek your protection. As I mentioned, we have to decide that we are not like the people who eat their economy, both the fruit and the seed. We cannot afford to be the people who eat the chicken and the eggs it lays. We must preserve our economy for future generations.

We have also observed the dangers of misappropriation of national resources if we do not superintend over them with good pieces of legislations. We have a Bill that seeks to provide the government with a buffer to ring-fence against revenue shocks we face during global economic shake-ups like those we witnessed during COVID-19. We should also provide financing for strategic infrastructure development projects in our country. If for no other reason, our generation must support the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill.

Reading through the Bill, I see *Urithi*, which is the heritage component of the Fund. As the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning mentioned, if you visit places like Norway, you will find that their fuel resources serve not only the current generation, but also those to come. We must have a fund that stabilises and cushions our economy in unstable times.

Thirdly, the Bill presents itself as a strategic infrastructure funding component, which forces us to prudently borrow internally. Rather than using a resource, we can invest it as seed money for necessary projects and public goods. The Bill contains in-built safeguards such as the role of the Controller of Budget. I commend the Committee for remembering what happened in the run-up to the last elections when Telkom Kenya was raided and sold. I support the safeguards in the Bill.

Finally, we have completed consideration of the Finance Bill. Some people are urging our youth to go out and destroy property. Dagoretti South Constituency bore the heaviest brunt of the 25th June 2024 protests. However, knowing that there is no good reason to protest against the Finance Act as it has already been assented to, the 25th June 2024 commemoration must be genuine. Your rights end where mine begin. Burning offices...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Give Hon. KJ one more minute to conclude his contribution.

Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. As we commemorate 25th June 2024, we must remind ourselves that we should not destroy the infrastructure we have invested in. Some politicians mobilised the public to burn down a police station and the Kikuyu Constituency Office, knowing well that those were public resources. Rebuilding them requires a budgetary allocation. We should remember the lives lost not only in 2024, but also in previous protests. The 25th June 2024 protests were not special.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Let us have Hon. Gitonga Murugara, the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Hon. George Murugara (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to support this very important Bill. I love the title of the Bill as it alludes to the creation of sovereign wealth. Sovereigns were monarchies in history. Republics took over the title "sovereign" when they gained their independence. Now that Kenya is an independent Republic, we have every right to take the sovereign title.

In 1884, the sovereigns of Europe met in the German city of Berlin. What they were doing is exactly what we are doing today: trying to create sovereign wealth for those countries, which would benefit, among other things, from everything we have said here, including economic stabilisation, critical infrastructure, and future generations. They were partitioning and dividing Africa among themselves purely for these purposes, not because they loved our continent, nor because they loved our people. They were doing it for their own gain, creating sovereign wealth.

Today, we are debating a very important Bill, the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill. It will become an Act of Parliament, and it is important that we discuss what this Fund will entail.

First and foremost is stabilisation. Stabilisation means that when the country faces hardships, including, at times, foreign exchange challenges, this Fund will step in to ensure the country does not sink further. This is a very important component because we have seen countries become unable to manage themselves and eventually go down the drain.

Secondly is strategic infrastructure. There comes a time when a country identifies a project that is considered so strategic, yet it may not have the money to fund it. Instead of running to lenders every day, some of whom are unscrupulous and unconscionable in the manner in which they lend money, saying, "I give you a pound for another pound of flesh," this Fund will help the country develop such infrastructure.

Then there are future generations. For those sovereigns at that time, it was purely for their own children, so that they would be cushioned against poverty, without giving a damn about what happened to Africa or Africans. We may not have a lot of endowment like the countries we have cited as examples where this law is applied, but the little we have must be for ourselves as we live today. We must also bear in mind that we have children and our children's children who will be here tomorrow and who need protection. This is foresight. Thank you everybody.

The Bill is by the Leader of the Majority Party. It has emanated from the Cabinet. It will be implemented by our President, Dr William Ruto, and his Deputy, Prof Kithure Kindiki. I like the accolades that were given to our Chairperson of the Departmental Committee of Finance and National Planning. We should extend them to the Chairperson of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, who is seated over there. We have always called him an expert. This is another expert. Definitely, the President and his Deputy are experts.

As for tomorrow, we must stand by what the Constitution provides. Everyone has the right to picket, but we must remind them that their rights end where ours begin. To our police officers: tomorrow, if anyone comes out to demonstrate, please provide them with security.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Give Hon. Murugara a minute.

Hon. George Murugara (Tharaka, UDA): But please do not destroy property. Do not cause injury. Do not make anyone suffer loss of life. Because, as we have said, your rights end where my rights begin. There are defences available for what anyone does in response to a breach of the law, including self-defence when I feel threatened.

Second is the defence of property, where I feel my property is threatened. We do not want to go that route. We call for peace and understanding. Let the young people, for whom we are making this law today, exercise their Constitutional rights in a manner that is careful, keeping in mind that tomorrow, they will be where we are, and their children will be where they are.

I support.

The Temporary Chairman (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Thank you, Hon. Murugara, for the wise words. Is Hon. Atandi requesting to speak to this now or later? You must know that Hon. Atandi is an expert.

(Laughter)

Hon. Samuel Atandi (Alego Usonga, ODM): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. First, I appreciate the Leader of the Majority Party for the manner in which he has explained the Bill to us. Kenya, under the leadership of His Excellency, President William Ruto, is making a lot of progress, especially in the exploration of oil and the identification of various minerals across this country. It is estimated that the value of minerals in our country is worth trillions of dollars, and what we now need is to find a way to explore them for the benefit of this country now and in the future.

This Bill is very important. It is one of the few Bills I am certain is a product of experts in government. As it has been explained by the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, my friend, the competent Member for Molo, the future of our country depends on what we do now and the plans we put in place in terms of law. For the future of our children, the resources we will gain from investments in mineral and oil exploration must be well utilised, and there is nothing better than the Bill we are discussing.

I went through some aspects of the Bill and I am very happy that there is a miscellaneous part in the Bill that talks about how misappropriation of resources from this Fund will be dealt with. The provisions are very strict on anybody who misappropriates these funds. First of all, the penalties are very strenuous, and also the Bill protects the Fund from politics. It provides that three months before a general election, there shall be an audit that will tell us that, as we are going to a new regime and an election, this is how the fund was implemented by the previous regime, so as to protect the Fund from politicisation and from the outgoing regime misusing the resources. I really support the Bill and urge Members to also do the same because the Bill will reshape our country.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon (Dr) James Nyikal. I am still on the line of experts donated to the Government.

Hon (Dr) James Nyikal (Seme, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to support this Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill. I have waited here this long because I believe this is an extremely important Bill. A country, just like a household, needs to save and look into the future. A country, again, like a household, needs a buffer. If things go wrong, what do we do? As a country, you can only save from the natural resources that you have now. If you manage your things well now, that is the time to put something aside so that you can use it in the future.

Natural resources are exhaustible. You have them today, and tomorrow you do not. If you do not set something aside, you will definitely be in trouble later, and then you will face the curse, as the able Chair of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning indicated. We also need to know that, at times, even when you have these resources, you can experience shocks that stop you from using them. So, it is the best thing to do. Therefore, it is best to put in place a Fund that addresses all of these. For that reason, I support this Bill.

Part II of the Bill is the most important because it establishes the Fund and sets out its three components. The first component is the future generations. We are not only saving for today, but also for the future. We utilise what we need now, but whatever is surplus, we save. The second component relates to stabilisation. There are times when we need to stabilise the cost of living. For example, situations may arise in which developments outside our borders and in the global economy affect us very seriously. We need to protect our people and the cost of living. Therefore, we need something to create stability. We are currently suffering because of high oil prices, not because of anything of our own making, but because of events happening elsewhere. If we had a Fund, we would stabilise our economy.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I also like the logical sequence of this Bill. We can also put in place infrastructure that helps grow our economy and enables things in the country to run and manage its affairs. That is the third component of the Bill.

Clause 5 sets out the objects of the Fund, which are in harmony with what we want to do. The purpose of the Fund shall be to provide the national Government with a buffer against fluctuations in resource revenues, to finance strategic infrastructure investments, and to hold savings. This is almost natural. One is left asking, how come we have not done this before?

Clause 6 in Part II of the Bill goes on to explain the sources of the resources to be set aside. These include the Government's share of profits derived from upstream petroleum activities, excluding any share payable elsewhere; petroleum royalties payable to the Government; mining royalties payable to the Government; and bonuses received by the Government. What we are saying is that, if revenue comes to Kenya that we did not expect, we do not utilise it. We should not suddenly expand our consumption. We should have a place to keep it.

Part IV of the Bill addresses management and is aligned with the Public Finance Management Act, as clearly outlined in Part III. Part V provides guidance on how to invest, where to invest, and what is allowed and what is not. This is a well-designed Bill. It meets our needs. We also have to change other laws to accommodate this Bill. We have laws in Miscellaneous...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Thank you. Hon. David Mboni will speak after Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona because of rank and precedence.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona (Suba North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I wish to cautiously support this Bill. On the face of it, this is an extremely good Bill, especially for our country. Earlier, I was at a function where I was being interviewed by one of these young people trying to make a living. They asked me what I think Kenya really needs. What we need is hope, especially for our young people and for the future. Therefore, when we have a Bill that seeks to invest in our future, it is exactly what this country needs. I will not repeat what other Members have said. However, I put a cautionary tale. If you look at other countries that have gone through this, they are considered highly successful, like Norway, which has the Government Pension Fund Global. The Norwegian Fund was established in 1990, and its assets exceed US\$1.8 trillion.

Singapore has the Temasek Holdings and GIC, which invest national reserves globally. The assets exceed US\$800 billion in combined value. Botswana has a Pula Fund, established in 1994, which helps to stabilise the economy and preserve wealth for future generations. Then, we have the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority, which was created in 2011. It is considered fairly successful as well. We also have mixed successes in Chile and Kazakhstan. We can borrow largely from these countries.

One of the things you see very clearly in these countries is independent, professional management. Then, they have strong parliamentary oversight and public transparency. I know people have raised the issue of constitutional conflict with the Consolidated Fund. Should somebody go to court, we leave it to the court to determine. But Parliament plays a very important role in ensuring proper oversight. Then, there are clear rules on deposits and withdrawals. There is limited political interference, investment of surplus or natural resource revenues rather than borrowed funds and long-term savings objectives benefiting future generations. This is where I have my cautionary tale.

If you look at Kenya and the countries I have mentioned, the ones we appear most comparable to are Singapore, Botswana and Nigeria, which have stabilisation functions, infrastructure investment windows, and future-generation savings components. However, we also have Malaysia, which has not done very well. It is considered a notable failure. Kenya needs to be careful to learn from Malaysia. It established a strategic sovereign investment fund, but it was embroiled in one of the world's largest corruption scandals.

Billions of dollars were allegedly misappropriated, which demonstrates how weak oversight can undermine such funds. The reason I said I am cautiously optimistic is that we

know that one of the things that bedevils Kenya is corruption. We are setting up something which is noble and good. Since I came to Parliament, this is one of the best Bills that I have seen. But will we stay true to the objectives and aims of the Bill when it becomes law, or is it a cash cow that people will be using to enrich themselves?

We have oversight mechanisms, but we do not give them regard. We were talking earlier about counties. We can see how people loot them dry. Because of political correctness, we turn a blind eye to those who do it. Can you please give me a minute? Will this not be another case? This is an excellent idea, but I am very worried. Unless we deal with corruption, we might end up going the same route as Malaysia.

Finally, I would like to encourage our police officers. Should people come out to demonstrate tomorrow, be human. Do your work. Do not kill and shoot.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Give Hon. Millie a minute.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona (Suba North, ODM): Thank you. Do not shoot and kill. I am speaking as a former expert demonstrator. If I were shot and killed, I would not be in this Parliament today. I encourage people to be cautious and responsible. Those who are demonstrating should neither hurt other people nor destroy property. Police officers should be civil and humane. Do not shoot and kill people. We are all Kenyans. Why are we killing each other?

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I support the Bill cautiously.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): I have recognised Hon. David Mboni.

Hon. David Mwalika (Kitui Rural, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. As a Member of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning, I support the Bill. This Bill addresses the concerns raised by Kenyans during public participation on Safaricom's divestitures. One of the concerns raised was, if you sell everything, what will you leave for future generations? I think this Bill addresses that concern.

There are many sovereign wealth funds around the world that have been very successful. We know, for example, of the Government Pension Fund of Norway, which has a market value of about US\$2 trillion. That is approximately Ksh260 trillion, an amount that could fund our Budget for over 50 years and pay off all our loans.

The Bill contains several clauses that we need to examine carefully. The first is Clause 5, which addresses the purpose of the Bill. One of the proposed purposes is to cushion the country from extraordinary shocks. We need to define what constitutes an extraordinary shock. In my view, extraordinary shocks should be limited to matters affecting macroeconomic stability, such as exchange rate fluctuations, oil price shocks, interest rate movements and inflation. That way, we focus on maintaining macroeconomic stability. If we leave the definition too broad, then issues such as drought may be brought within its scope, yet those matters should be addressed through other mechanisms.

Clause 6 of the Bill proposes the sources of revenue for the Fund. These include the Government's share of petroleum revenues and royalties from petroleum and natural gas. However, it is also important that we include a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of Government shares in some State enterprises. That would ensure that we continue to build resources for future generations. Indeed, that was one of the proposals made by stakeholders during public participation.

On the issue of stabilisation, Clauses 11 and 17 propose a maximum allocation of Ksh10 billion. Any amount in excess of that is proposed to be used for other purposes, including addressing public debt. I am of the view that any decision relating to the use of these funds for public debt reduction should be subject to parliamentary approval. Parliament should have the final say, and it should not be left solely to the Cabinet Secretary.

On the issue of strategic infrastructure under Clause 12, this appears to borrow heavily from the National Infrastructure Fund concept. Strategic infrastructure should be limited to

infrastructure directly linked to the exploitation and development of natural resources. For example, if it is a pipeline, it should be a petroleum pipeline; if it is a refinery, it should be related to petroleum processing; and if it is a railway, it should be for transporting those resources. If the provision is left open-ended, then it overlaps with the mandate of the National Infrastructure Fund. In that case, there would be no need to duplicate the function. We, therefore, need to structure that provision more clearly.

Clause 42 restricts investments in speculative derivatives, unlisted real estate and private equity. When we look at the Norwegian Fund, we see that it has invested in more than 7,200 companies worldwide. It controls approximately 1.5 per cent of all listed companies worldwide. Therefore, we may need to reconsider these restrictions so that the Fund can also invest here.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): You have a minute remaining.

Hon. David Mwalika (Kitui Rural, WDM): The Fund can also invest in profitable companies, so we do not need to restrict it to Government securities only.

Lastly, we should include a provision on joint ventures. For example, if we want to invest in a refinery but do not have enough capital, we can invest alongside other investors. A refinery is a very expensive undertaking. Kenyans would benefit if the Fund could invest a percentage of its resources in such projects.

I support the Bill.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Let us have Hon. Robert Pukose.

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to the Bill. At the outset, I support the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 7 of 2026). As the Leader of the Majority Party and the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning have mentioned, sovereignty means independence. It means that one has the power to support oneself. The Bill secures our children's future by ensuring that part of our country's wealth is set aside in a fund for their benefit.

I am a maize and coffee farmer. You do not consume everything you harvest at once. You store some of it after drying it to ensure that rats and weevils do not consume or destroy it. You must put safeguards in place. Similarly, this Fund must have safeguards. The Controller of Budget is involved to ensure the Fund is protected and lasts for a long time.

Norway was able to explore oil and gas drilling and save a portion of its resources over time. Those savings have accumulated. We can imitate that. Our neighbours have done so. This Bill is timely. More than six decades after Independence, this is the first administration to consider setting aside part of the nation's wealth for future generations.

This is an excellent idea by the President and his administration. It will ensure that we have something that exists beyond our lifetime. Future generations will remember President William Ruto for coming up with the Fund. Whenever we encounter economic hardships, we will be able to draw from this Fund to save our country from various macroeconomic shocks. Oil prices are rising due to the developments in the Middle East. Had we established a Sovereign Wealth Fund earlier, we would not be where we are today.

With those few remarks, I support the Bill.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Let us have Hon. Kassim.

Hon. Kassim Tandaza (Matuga, ANC): Asante sana, Mhe. Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipatia fursa hii. Ningelala nikiwa mgonjwa kama singepata hii fursa. Katika nchi yetu ya Kenya, mahali ambapo kumeshawahi kutolewa rasilimali ya mabilioni na matrilioni ni Kwale, wakati tulikuwa na kampuni ya *Base Titanium Limited*. Hilo linajulikana wazi.

Kuhusu huu Mswada, namshkuru Rais Daktari William Samoei Ruto, kwa sababu alipokuwa akitafuta kura, jambo ambalo tuliweza kumweleza haswa sisi watu wa Kwale ni kuwa, *Base Titanium Ltd* na madini mengine mengi ya thamani yalichimbwa lakini hakuna

ushahidi wowote wa kuonyesha kuwa Wakwale ama Wakenya kwa ujumla, wamefaidhika. *Base Titanium Ltd* ilichimba kwa miaka kumi, ikachukua rasilimali yetu, ikaenda na kutuachia mabwawa. Sasa kilichosalia labda ni kuwakumbusha kuwa mbu wanaotufyonza sehemu ile, ni kwa sababu ya madini yaliyokuwepo. Hiyo sio sifa nzuri ya kueleza vijana wetu na vizazi vinavyokuja. Kwa hivyo, ningependa kutoa shukrani kwa Rais. Ile ahadi aliyosema kuwa tukimpatia kura atakuwa na suluhu ya mambo kama haya, leo itatimika. Mimi ni mmojawapo ya watakapo ingia katika kumbukumbu za historia kwa kuhakikisha kuwa tunatengeneza sheria ambazo wakati rasilimali zetu zitatumika, vizazi vijavyo vitaweza kukumbuka na kunufaika kutokana na faida hiyo.

Tuko na madini pale Mrima *Hill* ambayo sote tunayajua. Inasemekana kuwa dunia nzima, ni Mrima *Hill* tu ndio iko na madini ya thamani zaidi. Hii ni kwa sababu sio madini ya kawaida. Hatuzungumzii dhahabu, fedha au shaba. Ni madini ambayo wanasema ni *rare-earth*. Katika ulimwengu mzima, mwenyezi Mungu aliona kwamba ni busara kutubariki na madini hayo. Tumekua na tashwishi kubwa kwa sababu ikiwa *Base Titanium Ltd* ilituacha na mabwawa ya mbu, sembuse Mrima *Hill*, ambayo ni kubwa na yenye thamani zaidi? Endapo haingechimbwa kulingana na ule mfumo wa zamani bila kuwa na sheria hii, tungenufaika vipi? Je, Wakenya na Wakwale wangenufaika vipi pamoja na vizazi vinavyokuja? Kwa hivyo, ni mwafaka kila mmoja kuiunga mkono sheria hii kwa sababu ya mazungumzo tuliokuwa nayo na Rais.

Tumekuwa na haya mazungumzo na Wizara husika pamoja na Rais. Tulikuwa na wasiwasi kuwa ikiwa hali itakuwa kama ilivyotokea pale mwanzoni kupitia *Base Titanium Ltd*, hakutakuwa na haja ya madini kuchimbwa. Nataka kuwaambia Wakenya, na haswa wakwale, kwamba historia inatengenezwa leo. Kuna sheria inayoundwa, na tusiwe na wasiwasi tena kuwa endapo madini yetu ya Mrima yatachimbwa, yatapotea kama rasilimali yetu ya *Base Titanium Ltd*. Pia, kuna sheria ya madini, *the Mining Act*, iwapo kutakuwa na tatizo.

Niko na tumaini kuwa, tukipitisha hii sheria, tutaweka uwazi mbali na kuwekeza kwa niaba ya vizazi vijavyo ili wenyeji wanufaika wakati uliopo. Hatuwezi kufikiria vizazi vijavyo ilhali wale walioko hawanufaiki, wanadhaliishwa na kuteseka. Hicho ni kifungu ambacho tutakipiga msasa ili wenyeji wasidhulumike tena.

Naunga mkono Mswada huu, na sio kwa mikono pekee, bali pia na miguu kwa sababu ya furaha niliyo nayo; kwamba, sisi tulio na rasilimali hatutadhulumika tena.

Asante.

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

Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to support the Bill. At the onset, the Bill is part of the history of the Broad-based Government. We have seen great things being implemented during this period: the Infrastructure Fund, the Fiscal Policy and the Debt Management Policy. These are things that have never been done before.

This Bill is part of the new thinking that reflects the fiscal maturity of our country. I want to thank the Mover and the Seconder because, for the first time, Kenya has started positioning itself as a financial hub. The kind of thinking that many countries embraced before is now happening in Kenya. We really need to be proud of this 13th Parliament.

I know many critics will come out and say that we already have an Infrastructure Fund. I want to tell them from the onset that there is a difference between the Infrastructure Fund and a Sovereign Wealth Fund. We are encouraging savings. We are encouraging investment for today and for the future.

I do not want to belabour the point because we have already established the benefits of having a Sovereign Wealth Fund. We have relied heavily on debt, and this creates a long-term avenue for financing our economy going forward. The young people who demonstrated in 2024 were saying that there was nothing the Government was doing for the youth of this country. I tell the young people out there that this is one of the things the Government is doing for the

future of this country. Therefore, if they are listening, we are establishing a solution for the future. That is one of the key benefits of this Bill.

This Bill has answered one question that has consistently arisen as a concern, and that is governance. The Bill has addressed the issue of good governance, and I want to assure Kenyans that this fund is ring-fenced. The issues of governance, accountability and transparency have all been addressed by this Bill. The Bill clearly sets out responsibilities for professional management. It is also very clear that political interference has been blocked.

I want to thank the Leader of the Majority Party for his contribution. I also wish to make an appeal to the young people tomorrow. Timau has recently been a centre of demonstrations. I want to advise them that it is very easy to destroy what we have built over the years. As you serve those who are forcing you onto the streets, remember that if you destroy a road that has been built, you disrupt the economy of this country.

I support this Bill, and I congratulate the President for giving us the opportunity to think broadly, without limitation, and to implement, as Parliament, what we believe is best for this country. We should feel indebted to the President and his Administration.

I thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. John Namoit.

Hon. John Namoit (Turkana South, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker...

(Some Members spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): They were producing petroleum the other day. Hon. Baya.

Hon. Owen Baya (Kilifi North, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, after he finishes, we call upon the Mover to reply, considering the time and the fact that we still have some fundamental matters to conclude before 9.00 p.m. Definitely, this Bill will come to the Committee of the whole House, where we will say the things we want to say now. We must finish the County Allocation of Revenue Bill.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. John Namoit, please try to compress your contribution. Can you do so in less than three minutes?

Hon. John Namoit (Turkana South, ODM): Yes. At the outset, I register my support for the Bill. This is one of the best Bills for which this 13th Parliament and His Excellency President (Dr) William Ruto's Government will always be remembered.

My oil-producing County, Turkana, will soon be launching oil exportation in Mombasa, either in December 2026 or January 2027. Alongside counties that produce minerals or other extracts, we will be the first ones to support this Bill because development will be realised through it. In the Petroleum Act, for example, 25 per cent of revenue raised goes to the county and community, while 75 per cent goes to the country. This Bill is an assurance that any revenue set aside from oil reserves will be utilised in developing counties or areas where oil comes from.

Secondly, through this Bill, I now support the journey to Singapore. It will help us save and create investments that will enable us to journey towards that. Thirdly, this Bill realises intergenerational equity and savings for the future. In a province like Alberta in Canada, where oil is produced, natives or aborigines appreciate that the country takes care of their welfare by ensuring they get royalties from oil. This is one of the best Bills that should have happened like yesterday.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Caroli Omondi, in under three minutes, make your contribution.

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, it is very unfair. We sit here for four hours waiting to debate this and then you want to take it away from us. I rise under Standing Order 35 and draw your attention to the fact that there is no quorum in the House.

(A Member spoke off the record)

It is not being stupid; you must respect us. There is no quorum in the House. There must be respect.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Kassim Tandaza.

Hon. Kassim Tandaza (Matuga, ANC): I do not want to use some derogatory language to call Hon. Members the term that he has used. I am even afraid of using it again, or just mentioning it. Are we stupid? Is that not what you said? Are you proud of that? Do you want your electorate to know that you are calling your colleagues stupid yet you are also in this House, Hon. Member? Is he in order?

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Kassim Tandaza, sit down. Hon. Caroli Omondi, did you use the words "stop being stupid" in reference to Members?

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): I said: "I rise under Standing Order 35 to draw your attention to the fact that there is no quorum in the House".

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): No, that is fine.

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): And I said: "You have to respect us. We are not stupid". That is what I said. Get *The Hansard*.

(Loud consultations)

Yes, that is what I said.

*(The Temporary Speaker consulted
with the Clerks-at-the-Table)*

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Caroli Omondi, you made those remarks just when you were recognised to make your contributions. I want to caution again: if you used the words "stop being stupid" or the word "stupid" in reference to either the Speaker or the House, I ask that you withdraw it before we verify the record, as it is currently being checked.

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, just check the record. I did not say that. I stated, "we are not". I did not refer to the Speaker or the House. We have been sitting here all afternoon. If you insist that I withdraw the word "stupid", I have done so.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): You cannot lament about sitting here.

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): Okay. I have withdrawn the word "stupid". I rise under Standing Order 35 to draw your attention to the fact that there is no quorum in the House.

Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah (Kikuyu, UDA): Hon. Temporary Speaker, earlier I had cautioned Hon. Caroli Omondi on his recent behaviour in the House. I do not know what is informing this anger in him. It is very dangerous to be consumed by anger when you are growing old. I can confirm, and I would want us to go back to *The Hansard* because indeed, Hon. Caroli Omondi drew your attention to the fact that there is no quorum after he had been given an opportunity to speak, having lamented that you had not noticed him. When he raised that issue, Members protested because all the other Members present in the House had

substantive contributions regarding this Bill. Nonetheless, he is right to say there is no Quorum, and if he believes so, he can draw your attention to it.

Further to that, he said, "Stop being stupid". I beseech you to direct that we check The Hansard. I heard him clearly from my position, and so did Hon. Kassim Tandaza. It is now 12 minutes to 9.00 p.m., and Hon. Caroli Omondi may not have the capacity at this hour to know what he has said. We must confirm this through *The Hansard*. If he indeed said those words, I will be seeking to move a Motion to name him. We must conduct business in this House with the dignity it deserves. If any Member has no dignity for himself, we do. No Member of this House, including the Member for Suba South, is stupid. We must protect the dignity of every Member in this House, including Hon. Caroli Omondi. I will always safeguard your dignity.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg that you direct that the Hansard be checked. We had consultations with the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Traditionally, when a person rises under Standing Order 95, the Speaker has a range of discretion to determine whether a question should be put for the Mover to reply or whether further opportunities can be granted to additional Members. This is why Hon. Owen Baya raised the issue regarding Hon. Caroli. However, you notice that I still allowed Hon. John Namoit to speak without putting the question. Unknown to you, I had recognised Hon. Mishi and Hon. Ruweida to speak after you. I was acutely aware that while at least one Member has the right to stand under Standing Order 95, I maintain the discretion as the presiding officer to determine whether there is still interest among Members in a matter. I had made that determination, which is why I was selecting you to speak. You are entitled to raise the issue of quorum. Furthermore, the Speaker is not made aware of such matters until they are raised.

Ordinarily, once you raise the matter that you are raising, the Bell should be rung. I am currently under Standing Order 1 because of what the other Members and I heard, which is different from what you are saying, Hon. Caroli. You leave the Temporary Speaker with no other option but to call for *The Hansard*, which is already being checked. However, because you are a very good Member of this House, if you said in reference to either the Temporary Speaker or Members, and you used the words "stop being stupid," please withdraw it so that we go to those procedural processes. I ask that you apologise for the dignity of not only the Chair but all of us.

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I did not say the Speaker is stupid or the Members are stupid. I said, "We are not stupid," meaning those of us who are on this side. That is what I said, and *The Hansard* will bear me out. In any event, I already withdrew the assertion that, on our side, we are not stupid.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Caroli Omondi, it is being confirmed to me that what I heard, what Hon. Kassim heard and what several Members across the aisle heard is that you said, "stop being stupid" That is what is on *The Hansard*.

Hon. Caroli Omondi, I am giving you the last chance to withdraw the terms "stop being stupid" and apologise to the Temporary Speaker, the Members and the House.

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I have no problem withdrawing those words, and I have no problem apologising to the Temporary Speaker and to the Members because. As far as I know, what I said was, "we are not stupid". However, if that is what you recorded, I withdraw and apologise. Nonetheless, I rise under Standing Order 35 and, once again, draw your attention to the fact that there is no quorum in the House.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Caroli Omondi, the Speaker does not record anything. I am telling you what *The Hansard* says. Can you make an unequivocal withdrawal and an apology?

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): No, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I have already withdrawn and apologised. One more time, I will withdraw and apologise. Okay.

(A Member spoke off the record)

I have said ‘I withdraw and apologise.’ Once again, I rise under Standing Order 35 to draw your attention to the fact that there is no quorum in the House.

(A Member spoke off the record)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Caroli Omondi, do you want to withdraw the terminologies that you used and apologise or do I proceed under Standing Order 107(A) straight away?

Hon. Caroli Omondi (Suba South, ODM): I withdraw and apologise. Under Standing Order 35, I again draw your attention....

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Caroli, I am going to deal with you now under Standing Order 107A. And just for clarity, let me read it to you:

Gross disorderly conduct

107A. (1) A Member commits an act of gross disorderly conduct if the Member—

- (a) defies a ruling or direction of the Speaker or Chairperson of Committees;
- (b) declines to explain or retract use of unparliamentary words or declines to offer apologies, despite having been ordered to do so by the Speaker;
- (c) demonstrates or makes disruptive utterances against the suspension of a Member;
- (d) attempts to or causes disorder of whatever nature during an address by a visiting dignitary;

Let me skip paragraphs (f), (g), (h), and (i) and go to Standing Order 107A(2). It says:

In this Standing Order, “unparliamentary language” means the use of words which, in the opinion of the person presiding, are deemed to be impolite, rude, abusive or inconsistent with parliamentary procedure or practice.

Standing Order 107A(3) says:

The Speaker may call a Member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to order, and shall order the Member to withdraw immediately from the precincts of the Assembly for a minimum of five days and a maximum of twenty-eight days, including the day of suspension.

I called upon you, notifying you of the use of the words ‘stop being stupid’ in reference to both the Speaker and the House. I requested you do so several times, with clarity and

unequivocally, and you refused. This being the first time I am meting out this punishment, I suspend you from the House for a period of five days. I will give you the minimum five days, so that it becomes a caution to all of us. Let me make Members understand that when you dishonour the House, rules of procedure become secondary to the powers of the procedure under Standing Order 1.

Hon. Caroli, you are accordingly ordered to exit the precincts and you will be out of the service of the House for five days. Do so immediately. As you exit, I direct that the Quorum Bell be rung. Hon. Caroli Omondi, that decision takes effect immediately. Do not require us to request the Serjeant-at-Arms to forcibly remove you because there is a greater consequence to that.

(Hon. Caroli Omondi stood up in his place)

Hon. Caroli, do I order the Serjeant-at-Arms?

(Hon. Caroli Omondi withdrew from the Chamber)

(The Quorum Bell was rung)

I order the Quorum Bell to stop ringing.

(Hon. Gitonga Mukunji consulted loudly)

Hon. Mukunji, order. We are adjourning the House.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Kaluma): Hon. Members, the time being 9.00 p.m., this House stands adjourned until Thursday, 25th June 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

(The House rose at 9.00 p.m.)

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