

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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Thursday, 19th November 2026

(The House met at 5.20 p.m.)

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

PRAYERS

PAPERS

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table:

1. Reports of the Auditor-General and Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2026 and the certificates therein in respect of the following—
    (a) Deposit Insurance Fund – Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation;
    (b) East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) CREDIT NUMBER: 6334-KE – Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC;
    (c) GOK/UNICEF Education for Young People Programme – State Department for Basic Education;
    (d) Hybrid Generation of Off-Grid Power Systems Project (AFD Credit No. CKE 1066 01 L) – Kenya Power and Lighting Company PLC;
    (e) Insurance Regulatory Authority;
    (f) Kaimosi Friends University;
    (g) Kenya Electricity Expansion Project (KEEP) – Project Credit Number 1487P – Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation;
    (h) Kenya Forest Service;
    (i) Kenya Health Human Resource Advisory Council;
    (j) Kenya Medical Laboratory Technicians and Technologists;
    (k) Kenya Utalii College;
    (l) Narok Teachers Training College;
    (m) National Drought Emergency Fund;
    (n) National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND);
    (o) Public Health Officers and Technicians' Council;
    (p) Rural Electrification in Five Regions Project (Credit Number: 11/597KE and 1407PKE) – Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation;
    (q) Sabatia Technical and Vocational College;
    (r) Tobacco Control Board;
    (s) Tourism Research Institute; and
    (t) Ulinzi Health Services Fund.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I beg to lay.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, with your permission, you will allow me to rearrange the Order Paper. We will proceed directly to Order No. 8 and then come back to Orders 6 and 7.

Thank you.

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MOTION

Hon. Deputy Speaker: There are three Chairpersons who are required to comment on this Motion. I will give them opportunity but before that, I will give the Floor to Hon. Bensuda.

Proceed.

DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 24(6), the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of His Excellency the President delivered in Parliament on Wednesday, 18th November 2026, and further, that this House notes the following Reports submitted by His Excellency the President in accordance with the provisions of Articles 132(1) (c) and 240(7) of the Constitution, laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, November 19th 2026—

1. The 14th Annual Report on the Measures Taken and Progress Achieved in the Realization of National Values and Principles of Governance.
2. The 14th Annual Report on the Progress made in fulfilling the International Obligations of the Republic of Kenya.
3. The Annual Report to Parliament on the State of National Security.

(Moved by Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah on 19.11.2026 – Afternoon Sitting)

(Resumption of debate interrupted on 19.11.2026 – Afternoon Sitting)

(Second Allotted Day)

Hon. Atieno Bensuda (Homa Bay County, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion on the Address by His Excellency (Dr) William Samoei Ruto on the State of the Nation.

I congratulate the Speakers of the National Assembly and the Senate for the good organisation of yesterday's presentation of His Excellency's State of the Nation Address. I equally join my colleagues in congratulating Dr William Samoei Ruto on his presentation. First and foremost, my congratulations go to his personality, which he exhibited yesterday. I saw a leader who spoke from the bottom of his heart and from a point of knowledge. I also saw a visionary leader who has focus for this nation. That brought me to the understanding that we were being addressed as Members of this nation and of the National Assembly. I equally thank all the stakeholders because the House was full. The Judiciary was represented. The Executive was fully represented as was the Legislature. These are the three Arms of Government. It shows that we work in unity. We have to drive this nation together as leaders.

For the Address by the President to have meaning, as a country, we have to appreciate true leadership and governance, equality and inclusivity. We also have to appreciate development and, therefore, leave politics aside. As the President was delivering his State of the Nation Address, I was seated and assessing the implementation status of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). He kept on punctuating his presentation with the Kiswahili word *usawa*. Truly, as leaders of this nation, we ought to support the President as he moves forward with BETA and *usawa ni sawa*. That was also clearly demonstrated in his speech.

As elected leaders from various constituencies, we need to understand what *usawa* means. *Usawa* was evident in various areas of his presentation, including industrialisation. First

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and foremost, I will comment on his speech on the cost of living. As I listened, I wanted to know the facts behind the cost of living in this nation. As a member of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), at one point, the cost of living was too high and I had to put a *sufuria* on my head. That was just exercising the anger we had at the high cost of living.

Since I joined the broad-based government arrangement between the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and ODM, I have seen efforts being made from all corners to ensure that the cost of living is lowered. The President demystified this as having had a very clear framework involving agriculture to bring down the cost of living, the National Youth Opportunites Toward Advancement (NYOTA) to empower the youth, and measures to ensure that production costs of industrial inputs and commodities are reduced so that processing and market sales can increase.

The growth, development and stability of a nation, particularly its economy, require time and patience. It is not a one-day journey; it requires commitment. I could hear that commitment in the speech by His Excellency (Dr) William Samoei Ruto. It is a journey. It is not when we went to supermarket shelves and found that *unga* was selling at over Ksh200. The price has now reduced. With the work being done, particularly in the agriculture sector, more progress will be achieved.

Across Homa Bay County, in the Nyanza region, Awendo, Muhoroni and Migori are areas within the sugar belt, if I leave alone the western region. If you engage with farmers in those regions, you will appreciate the Bill being deliberated upon in this country to ensure that sugarcane farmers have a conducive environment. I saw the Departmental Committee on Agriculture going round to seek the views of farmers on what should be done, particularly in that industry. The basic takeaway from farmers across the country is that they acknowledge the fact that payment is now regular when their cane is delivered to the factories. It is unlike the previous irregular payments.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Give the Honourable Member one more minute.

Hon. Atieno Bensuda (Homa Bay County, ODM): Please, I have to comment on education. Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would have requested for two minutes.

On education, I appreciate the President's commitment in requesting the National Assembly to speed up the Bill that will lead to the transformation of higher learning institutions. However, I will also use this forum to request that as we discuss the Bill, we remember that most of our students are struggling to pay school fees. The Bill that is coming to the House is going to ease their burden. We appreciate the efforts being made. I know that the President is always committed to his promises. Therefore, as one of the lecturers, I know that the needs of lecturers are going to be addressed.

In terms of capitation for institutions for persons with disabilities (PWDs), I request that as he considers other sectors of education, we also address the challenges facing PWD institutions. Regarding the 20,000 teachers who are going to be employed, I know that the principles of equality and inclusivity will be adhered to. However, I encourage that even with the recently concluded promotion exercise, more teachers ought to be promoted because a motivated teacher will definitely deliver.

In terms of education, the President confirmed that the examinations were conducted smoothly. I can attest that we did not see cases of strikes. However, I use this forum to request that …

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Member for Marsabit County, Hon. Naomi Waqo. Because many Members have stayed late to participate in this debate, let us try to stick to the five minutes rule. The Chairpersons should also get an opportunity.

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I have been waiting for this opportunity to also add my voice to the very important speech by His Excellency and the debate going on in this House. Yesterday was a unique day. As we waited

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for His Excellency's arrival, I looked at the arrangements, came into the Chamber and went back out to await his arrival. I observed that everything had been done in a very perfect way. His arrival confirmed that this is a President who is in control of his country and is hands-on.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, yesterday's annual State of the Nation Address by His Excellency the President was his fourth. I thank God that even when I was in the Senate, I managed to attend these addresses during President Uhuru Kenyatta's time. This being President Ruto's fourth address to the nation, I was able to make my own observations. This is also his final State of the Nation Address before we get into campaign mode and then the 2027 elections.

I was touched very much by the passion he had, the great plans he had even when he came in as the Fifth President and, again, his dedication and commitment to transforming this great nation. He was speaking from his heart. He confirmed to the nation that for sure, he is hands-on. There are many things he said that touched many of us but when I remember what he mentioned about Veronica, the lady who benefited from SHA, many Kenyans were equally touched. He also said that for the first time in 65 years, national examination papers were printed in Kenya. That to me is a huge achievement. He continued and said that the examinations had been conducted in a calm and orderly atmosphere. I remember when I first sat for my examinations in my rural village. As young as I was, we were all trembling because of seeing policemen and policewomen. His Excellency made us understand that for sure this government is a caring government. It is a government which prepares young people for the future.

On the economic record under BETA, His Excellency highlighted his efforts on economic stabilisation. Under agriculture, fertiliser prices have come down from Ksh7, 000 to Ksh2, 000. Over 38 million bags have been distributed to nine million farmers. The result is an increase in production from 44…

(Hon. Naomi Waqo spoke off-the-record)

The Deputy Speaker: Add her one minute please.

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Add me two minutes, please. The result is an increase in production from 44 million bags of maize in 2022 to 72 million bags. That is a huge increment.

On matters of affordable housing, there are 313,000 homes under construction in all the 47 counties. There are markets in all the 47 counties, including my county. The Moyale Cross-Border Market was launched in 2024. The Sololo Modern Market ground breaking took place in 2025. There is also the Saku Ultra-Modern Market in Marsabit and the Kargi Livestock Saleyard. We can go on and on. Under healthcare, in SHA, there are 33.7 million registered Kenyans up from 8 million. Many Kenyans have benefited. On education, 100,000 teachers have been employed with another 20,000 to be employed. Even people from my own village have been employed as teachers.

The President says, "*usawa ni sawa*". Issuance of identity cards in all parts of the country is ongoing. This has only been made possible through this regime. Mine is to urge our President to remain focused. I have no doubt that in 2027 he will be re-elected and will do more. By the time his term comes to an end or by the time he retires, many Kenyans will remember the great things he has done and the passion with which he has served this country. My…

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Next is the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. I will give chance to the three Chairpersons.

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Hon. George Murugara (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I have my 10 minutes to make comments on the speech by His Excellency the President.

The Deputy Speaker: I think it is good for Members to know that the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs is given 10 minutes. The Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Affairs also gets 10 minutes. The same goes to the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security hence the reason I am giving them priority. After that, we will just go back to the five-minute rule.

Thank you.

Hon. George Murugara (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker. The reason why we are given slightly more time is to ensure that we are able to expatiate on the speeches relating to the three constitutional requirements under Article 132 (1) (c) of the Constitution. For me, I have to speak on justice and governance because these are the areas that fall under the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Yesterday afternoon, the President walked into this Chamber. He actually strode into the Chamber with pride. We had the benefit of listening to him silently as he gave us the State of the Nation Address. Our pride was to see His Excellency the President speak with passion, vigour and determination in letting us know exactly what the country has achieved under Article 132(1) of the Constitution. That is very important, especially as we debate his speech this afternoon and on the second day of the debate.

As regards the rule of law, the President was candid that no human being should suffer in any manner that is deviant from the law and the Constitution. Where certain persons in this country have suffered, then there is a duty to compensate victims of human rights violations. He enunciated this. As regards integrity and the fight against corruption, especially by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), and other relevant agencies, including the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC), the Asset Recovery Agency (ARA), Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), and the Executive Office of the President, he stated that the fight against corruption is on and that there will be no relenting in what these entities will do to not only fight the vice of corruption but also to recover assets obtained corruptly or irregularly.

On the justice sector, the President pointed out what he termed as pending Bills of this House, some of which we have already passed. Of importance is the Power of Mercy Bill, which is awaiting Third Reading; the Kenyan Judiciary Academy Bill, which has since been Read a Third time and passed; and the Judges' Retirement Benefits Bill, which now becomes the Judges' Retirement Benefits Act, because it has been assented to. That is the work of the House.

The President also touched on equality and citizenship because this is very important. When we talk about *usawa,* it applies to every Kenyan. He was candid that a child born in Tharaka should have equal rights and chances like any other child born in Nairobi or elsewhere in the country. This is what *usawa* is all about. For the first time, we must talk about equality in our country. We must also talk about equity because to some extent, we have been complaining about deviation of public resources such that some areas of this country are more developed than others. We are informed that the reason for that is that these are the most productive areas of the country. It is now becoming clear to everyone that there is no part of this country which is not productive or cannot be opened up for development.

We then had a statement from His Excellency the President on democracy and the road to 2027. This is purely with regard to the elections we are going to hold in 2027. It is very

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important that we must hold credible elections next year. There are concerns and murmurs in the country regarding what the Independent Electoral Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is doing. However, these are just jitters across the country because there is absolutely nothing to show that the IEBC has done anything wayward. The IEBC is listening because it must at all times prepare adequately. It is going to be financed and resourced. Therefore, it must prepare adequately to give this country one of the best general elections in the recent past. So, as we go to 2027, we aim to ensure that we have even more voters registered by February next year. Every Kenyan must be able to cast a vote when the time comes.

In conclusion, the President's Address set out the Government's ambition for a prosperous and equitable Kenya. Prosperity of that kind depends on the rule of law, which we must all uphold in accountable institutions and human rights that are upheld from time to time. In the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, we have a total of 13 entities that fall under this purview that we will continue to supervise.

Allow me to now speak on behalf of the people of Tharaka Constituency, who elected me to come here so that I can interpret the President's speech for them. The title was *The State of the Nation Address*. His Excellency the President emphasised on the BETA, whose first facet is infrastructure, roads, water and electricity. I always confess that Tharaka Constituency is one of the most marginalised areas in the Eastern Region of this country, and in the larger Mount Kenya Region. However, today we have seen improvement in infrastructural development. We see several roads undergoing tarmacking as well as water and electricity projects coming up. Many people would not believe that this could happen in that region.

When I came to Parliament in 2017, Tharaka Constituency was at about 9.5 per cent connectivity. Today, we are approaching the 40 per cent connectivity mark. That is not a mean feat. We have been assured that we will also be hitting the 70 per cent connectivity mark soon, like the rest of the constituencies, so that we are not left behind.

A few months ago, there was hue and cry about the Universal Health Care's Social Health Authority. Today, the burden of medical expenses for everybody, including Members of Parliament, has been lessened. Without gainsaying, SHA is meeting most of these expenses leaving us with lighter burdens.

As regards affordable housing, I have a project that has stalled in Tharaka Constituency. I may have to ask the Ministry what exactly is happening. Thanks to the Affordable Housing Programme, we look forward to Kenyans living in decent and affordable houses. Rents must go down so that everybody can afford a good house to live in.

With those remarks, I agree with the President's Address. I urge the House to continue debating it with vigour.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Let us have the Member for Funyula Constituency.

Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo (Funyula, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. Let me also stand here and make a comment on the so-called the President's Address to the Nation, which I felt sounded more like a campaign manifesto.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Oundo.

Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo (Funyula, ODM): Yes.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Correct your language. It is not "so-called." It is something that is provided for in the Constitution, which you swore to uphold and protect when you became a Member of Parliament.

Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo (Funyula, ODM): That is what I was coming to, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: So, do not say, "so-called Address to the Nation."

Hon (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo (Funyula, ODM): Let me put it that it is the Statement presented to the House pursuant to Article 132(1) (c) (i) of the Constitution of Kenya. Hon.

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Deputy Speaker, the Constitution of Kenya says the President shall, once every year, report, in an address to the nation, on all the measures taken and the progress achieved in the realisation of the national values referred to in Article 10. The President is require to report, in an address to the nation.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Article 10 of the Constitution clearly states some of the national values – which include patriotism, national unity, human dignity, good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability; sustainable development, social justice, human rights and equality.

Since 2.30. p.m., when I sat here, I have had the opportunity to peruse through this Report. I have no doubt to state unequivocally that this does not in any way address the points required of the President to address under Article 10 of the Constitution. Essentially, this is just like a presidential score card on what he thinks he has done. As we always joke out there, development is like pregnancy. You cannot hide it for long because it can be seen. You do not have to explain, conjure stories or do posturing because it can be seen.

First, there is nothing in the Address that complies with the provisions of the Constitution. I know there is an 800-page Report that has been submitted to Parliament. However, the constructive word in the Constitution was address to the nation. The very least we would have expected is that out of the 221 paragraphs of this Report, there could have been at least an executive summary on the attainment of the provisions of Article 10 of the Constitution.

Secondly, and the saddest part of it is, there was an overload of misinformation, half-truths, and matters not supported anywhere. Hon. Deputy Speaker, just allow me to make one statement. To allege that Kenya is one of the best economies in the East African region or the East African Community is a white lie. In 2025, Kenya recorded a GDP of 4.6 per cent compared to 5.6 per cent in 2022. Tanzania recorded 6 per cent. Ethiopia recorded 9.4 per cent. Uganda recorded 6 per cent. The Democratic Republic of Congo, an ethnic afflicted country, recorded 5.6 per cent.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, we cannot keep on misleading Kenyans and giving them waxing lyrics that have no relevance at all. We keep on being told that there is improvement in the education sector. This is far from the truth. Since 2022, capitation has roughly been about Ksh11,000 to Ksh12,000 per student in secondary school. As we stand now, each student is owed by this regime Ksh8,000 of every year which is about Ksh32,000. That is the reason secondary schools in our constituencies wallow in public debt. Many have been taken to court and many of their properties have been auctioned. We cannot keep telling people that we are doing well.

I will go to one of the most contentious issues called SHA. It is not supposed to be a registration bureau or a political consensus bureau. It is supposed to produce results. When you walk to a hospital, you should get medication. It is not about the number of people who have been registered. As we stand now, we are being told 33 million people have registered. Unlike the defunct NHIF, this figure includes the principal registered members plus their dependents. That is why we have a bloated figure of 33 million people. Even if you look at the demographics, people under 18 years of age constitute more than 50 per cent. There is no way you can have 33 million subscribers to a medical scheme in a population of 50 million. To make matters worse, out of those 33 million subscribers, it is only about 4 million or 5 million who are actual contributors. The rest are just flower girls who fill up the data so that you can go out there and say that SHA is working. As I stand here today, I have a constituent who has a bill in hospital of about Ksh160, 000…

Hon. Ali Raso (Saku, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is out of order, Hon. Raso? Give him the microphone to raise his point of order.

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Hon. Ali Raso (Saku, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker. My honourable colleague is not only addressing this House but he is also talking to the nation. As a Member of Parliament who represents a constituency, can he confirm that there is no a single person who has ever benefited from SHA in his constituency? This is because he is saying that SHA does not exist. As a leader in this country, is he not misinforming the House and contradicting himself by stating that SHA does not work? If he does not confirm this, then he should be ruled out of order.

Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, proceed.

Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo (Funyula, ODM): Hon. Raso is my good friend. While I was in his constituency, he treated me very well. We are friends. Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would like you to understand the issue of the figures that are being bandied around. What you are telling us about 33 million registered subscribers is a white lie. The subscribers are only 5 million.

I have a constituent who has been stuck in a hospital called Nairobi Hospital somewhere in Bamburi. He has a bill of Ksh138,600. The SHA has paid only Ksh36,600. We have to fundraise the remaining amount, yet you keep on telling us that SHA will eliminate fundraising for medical bills. It is upon us, as leaders, to tell Kenyans the truth.

(Technical hitch)

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: You can have one minute to conclude.

Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo (Funyula, ODM): We are telling Kenyans the truth.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Proceed. You are wasting your minute.

Hon. (Dr) Ojiambo Oundo (Funyula, ODM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, secondly and finally is on the cost of living. Inflation, as of September this year, was 7.4 per cent. Non-core inflation that involves the main foodstuffs and transport energy stood at 14.4 per cent and then you keep on telling us that the cost of living has been managed. Honestly speaking, Kenyans are the judges.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. May God bless you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Next is Hon. Bartoo, the Member for Moiben.

Hon. Phylis Bartoo (Moiben, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this debate. I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency, Dr William Samoei Ruto, for laying bare his development scorecard, which he has achieved in the last four years.

There is a literature scholar from Nigeria called Chinua Achebe, who said that a lizard that jumped from the iroko tree to the ground said that it would praise itself if no one else did. His Excellency (Dr) William Samoei Ruto's achievements deserve self-praise, if nobody else sees them. He deserves bragging rights because he has transformed this country to a great extent. If he were to be accorded any academic credentials, he would be referred to as 'Professor of Development'. I am saying this because I can attest to the fact that development is being felt in the entire Kenya.

I have had the privilege of moving round with my colleagues visiting constituencies to support women leaders. We visited many counties. A lot of work was going on, including road construction, electricity connectivity and construction of markets and houses. This is amazing. If somebody can say that the President has not done anything for this country, it is unfortunate. We should praise who deserves it.

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Hon. Deputy Speaker, I will zero in on my constituency, Moiben. I can enumerate the development which has taken place there courtesy of President William Ruto. In Eldoret City, at a place called Kimumu, three tarmac roads are being constructed. We have a national stadium – Kipchoge International Stadium – which is almost complete within a span of three years, yet it has taken ages for it to be constructed. In each and every ward, we have a tarmac road being constructed. We have electricity connection in every region, irrespective of who you are, where you come from and what you do for a living. Development gets to everybody equally, which attests to the fact that *usawa ni sawa*.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, in schools, parents were burdened by paying teachers who were recruited by the Boards of Management. The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) did not post sufficient number of teachers for every student. The student-teacher ratio was very low. Therefore, parents had to bridge the gap by employing teachers. During President William Samoei Ruto's tenure, 100,000 teachers were employed. Yesterday, he promised that he would employ another 20,000 teachers. So, the burden on parents has been lessened and the students are getting quality education. The additional 20,000 teachers who will be employed will also ease the burden. That is just a tip of the iceberg in Moiben Constituency. I have only listed the construction of roads, electricity connection and employment of teachers. There are very many others. Let me say this in Kiswahili. *Mwenye macho haambiwi tazama.*

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Mishi Mboko.

Hon. Mishi Mboko (Likoni, ODM)): Asante, Naibu Spika. Nampa Rais kongole kwa Hotuba ya Hali ya Taifa.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mishi, I confirm to the Members that we have about 150 minutes and at least 30 people will have an opportunity to speak if we do 5 minutes each. So, let us be patient and everyone will have an opportunity. Thank you.

Hon. Mishi Mboko (Likoni, ODM): Asante, Naibu Spika. Nampa kongole Mhe. Rais kwa Hotuba ya Hali ya Taifa, ambayo imeangazia maadili ya taifa, misingi ya utawala, na usalama wa taifa. Mipango hii yote ameiangazia kupitia miradi na maendeleo ambayo ameendeleza.

Kwanza kabisa, ninatoka Pwani na kwa hivyo nitazungumzia suala la ardhi. Suala hili limekuwa nyeti sana. Kumekuwa na dhuluma za kihistoria, hasa kwa wale wanaotoka Pwani, Bonde la Ufa na sehemu nyingine za Kenya. Lakini juzi, Mhe. Rais alipeana hatimiliki 1.8 milioni, zikiwemo 400,000 za sehemu ya Pwani. Mimi kama Mjumbe wa Likoni, nashukuru sana kwa sababu watu wangu 2,010 walipata hatimiliki, na atarudi tena mwezi wa Disemba kutoa hatimiliki nyingine takriban 20,000.

Tukizungumzia suala la miundomsingi, tunaona kweli Mhe. Rais ameweka usawa katika miundomsingi. Kule Pwani, kuna ile barabara kubwa ya Mtwapa hadi Malindi. Hiyo barabara ilikuwa ndogo sana, lakini imepanuliwa na inaendelezwa. Vilevile, barabara ya Mombasa–Nairobi inaweza kupanuliwa iwe na barabara mbili za kwenda na mbili za kurudi. Hilo ni jambo la msingi sana.

Tunaona pia kule sehemu za bara, Rironi–Mau Summit, Isiolo–Mandera na barabara nyingine ambazo zinatengenezwa. Haya yote yanamaanisha kwamba wakulima ambao wanataka kupeleka mazao yao sokoni lazima wapate miundomsingi ya barabara.

Aidha, amehakikisha kwamba masoko yamejengwa, na si masoko ya bidhaa za wakulima kutoka mashambani tu, bali pia masoko ya wavuvi. Kule kwangu Likoni, kwa Mhe. Machele, Malindi, Nyanza, na Kenya nzima, kuna masoko ya wavuvi. Hilo ni jambo la kuboresha biashara kwa wakulima na wavuvi wetu.

Rais ameangazia suala la elimu vizuri sana. Tulikuwa na uhaba wa walimu lakini tumepata walimu 100,000. Hawa walimu hawakutoka sehemu moja kama ilivyokuwa kitambo, ambapo sehemu moja ya nchi ndiyo ilikuwa inatoa walimu wote. Hata sisi, katika eneo-bunge langu, tumeweza kuajiriwa walimu. Hilo linamaanisha usawa ni sawa.

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Tunaona madarasa 23,000 ambayo yametengenezwa sehemu zote za Kenya. Hili halijafanyika sehemu moja tu, kama ilivyokuwa kitambo. Walimu wataongezwa. Maabara, zile tunazoziita *laboratories* kwa Kiingereza, tumeona nyingi sana ambazo zimejengwa sehemu tofauti za nchi, huku eneo-bunge langu likiwa miongoni mwa maeneo yaliyobahatika.

Nikizungumzia mambo ya afya, suala la SHA tukatae tukubali, limeleta tija. Zamani tulikuwa na National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), ambapo waliojiandikisha walikuwa takriban 8,000,000 pekee katika miaka yote hiyo. Sasa hivi, kwa muda mchache, takriban watu 32,000,000 wamejiandikisha. Hiyo ni dhahiri kwamba SHA inafanya kazi. Harambee zimepungua, na imetusaidia katika matibabu ya maradhi sugu.

Kilimo kimeangaziwa, kuanzia kilimo cha wakulima nyanjani hadi kilimo samawati. Wavuvi wamepewa boti za kuwawezesha kupata tani nyingi za samaki. Vilevile, *landing sites* na sehemu za kuhifadhi samaki zimewekwa.

Jambo lingine ni pesa za kusawazisha, yaani *Equalisation Fund.* Tunajua 16.8 bilioni zimepelekwa katika sehemu zile zilizokuwa zimegandamizwa na kusahaulika. Sehemu hizo sasa zinafaidika kutokana na miradi katika sekta ya maji, afya…

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Give her a minute to conclude.

Hon. Mishi Mboko (Likoni, ODM): Pia, kuna wazee wetu wengi waliokuwa wamestaafu, lakini ilikuwa vigumu wapate pesa zao. Sasa hivi, badala ya siku 82, wanapata malipo yao kati ya siku saba.

Pia, kumekuwa na usawa wa kijinsia. Tumeona vijana wetu wakipata kazi zile tunazoziita 'za majuu'. Takriban vijana 700,000 wamepata hizo kazi.

Tukiangalia ajira zilizotokana na ujenzi wa nyumba za bei nafuu, kumekuwa na ajira nyingi sana kwa mafundi wa kila aina na *engineers* wetu. Vilevile, tumeimarisha uchumi katika biashara zinazohusiana na ujenzi. Jambo hilo limeleta matokeo mazuri sana.

Alizungumzia pia suala la usalama kwa kina. Tunapoelekea katika uchaguzi, amesema kwamba walioathirika katika masuala ya usalama walilipwa fidia, na akazungumzia mikakati ambayo imewekwa na Serikali.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Before I go to the next speaker, I know Hon. Raso had raised a point of order when you were correcting the Hon. Member for Funyula. He first said that the State of the Nation is a "so-called document". We then corrected him and ruled that it is provided for in the Constitution. When they say that the report shall have measures taken and progress achieved in realisation of national values, one of it is applying the Constitution as set out in Article 10. When housing is built, it is the right to housing under Article 43. When education funding is provided, it is applying the right to education as per Article 43. When you say that there is healthcare, again, it is the right to health that is part of our social economic rights as set out in our Constitution. So, it is important, again, that we do not mislead Kenyans, but say things as they are. What was before the House, or what we are debating today, is solidly provided for by the Constitution.

When it says that the report should also have progress made in fulfilling Kenya's international obligations, most of the items relate to some of the obligations that Kenya has under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including housing, education, health, sanitation, and social justice. That, again, is part of our international obligations. It is not a scorecard of the President. It is him confirming that he has undertaken the work as required under our international obligations and within what is required by our Constitution.

Even something as simple as Article 43 started with the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights, which Kenya ratified and then domesticated under Article 43 of the 2010 Constitution. So, Members, let us try to be factual so that the House is not disrespected by the public. Thank you.

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Next, I will have the Nominated Member, Hon. Bishop Kosgei. Everyone will get a chance. We are going in that order. In law, Hon. Ng'elechei, we say order of seniority. So, let Hon. Bishop go on.

Hon (Dr) Jackson Kosgei (Nominated, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I take this opportunity and join my colleagues in congratulating His Excellency the President for the in-depth State of the Nation Address he gave yesterday according to the law. I would like to congratulate the President, particularly on what he referred to as the foundational physical structures. I will borrow the Swahili words used by Hon. Mboko, *miundo msingi*, that is, the foundational infrastructure for the nation. This is the first time in many years since Independence that the country has taken time to develop basic infrastructure.

After World War II, 27 European countries decided to develop their economies by planning and investing in basic infrastructure, including roads and railways.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: One moment, Hon. Bishop. Hon. Kamene, you are next. I hope you are not leaving. Proceed.

Hon. (Dr) Jackson Kosgei (Nominated, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. Some of the foundational infrastructure that sustained European countries included roads, railways, bridges, boats, airports, electricity connectivity, and water supply. That was the basic infrastructure for Europe's development.

Under the guidance of their leaders, they first established a reconstruction bank for Europe, similar to what this country has just enacted into law as the National Infrastructure Fund. They also agreed on the mode of developing the entire continent. Today, if you travel from Eastern Europe to Northern and Western Europe, you will feel as though you are in the same country. This was the subject of a speech by Josep Borrell in 2022, which was termed racist. He said, "Yes, Europe is a garden. We have built a garden. Everything works. The rest of the world is a jungle, and the jungle could invade the garden." That was somewhat racist, but I think they took pride in what they had done for their continent. One of the things that enabled them to develop their countries was solidarity of purpose. For our country to develop, we should not sit back and watch others work while making comments that we want to see them fail. We should be driven by the spirit and desire to see our country develop.

With those remarks, I congratulate His Excellency the President for being bold and speaking from his heart about what has happened in this country over the last one year.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member for Elgeyo Marakwet.

Hon. Caroline Ng'elechei (Elgeyo Marakwet County, Independent): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to speak on the State of the Nation Address. I want to begin by saying that the President has given everybody in the Republic of Kenya equal opportunity. In the coming years, if all goes as the President intends, it will not matter whether you live in Mandera, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nairobi or any other part of Kenya because the President is working hard to ensure that all regions are developed.

I come from Elgeyo Marakwet County, which is well known in Kenya for having experienced insecurity over the past 35 years. Hardly a week passed without a death resulting from cattle rustling. People were killed, and firearms were widespread in Elgeyo Marakwet, Turkana, Samburu, West Pokot and other counties, particularly in the pastoralist regions. For 35 years, the second, third and fourth presidents were unable to find a lasting solution to banditry. We kept losing and burying our people. Consequently, we were left behind compared to other regions because our children could not attend school consistently. Our youth could not leave Elgeyo Marakwet to seek employment because they had to guard their homes and their parents' livestock.

When President William Ruto came to power, it took only about two years to address the situation. I can now speak authoritatively that, over the last two years, there has been no death resulting from banditry involving firearms. I appreciate the President and believe that

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this situation will never recur. It had become a tradition for young children to grow up knowing banditry as a way of life. That is a great achievement by the President for the people of Elgeyo Marakwet County.

Apart from keeping livestock, we are also farmers. The subsidised fertiliser, whose price has reduced from Ksh7,500 to the current Ksh2,000, has enabled many people to take their children to school. The livelihoods of the people and the economy of the area have also improved greatly because we can now farm. It had reached a point where farmers had reduced their cultivated land from perhaps five acres to half an acre because they could not afford fertiliser. This has benefited not only farmers in Elgeyo Marakwet County but also the entire country because the harvest increased from 44 million bags to 71 million bags between 2022 and last year. The President has ensured that we have sufficient food in our country. This is important because a country cannot progress if it cannot provide food for its people.

I am also happy about the SHA. When the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) was in place, it could only cover hospital beds. Today, SHA has onboarded many benefits for contributors. With SHA, you are not limited to receiving benefits according to how much you contribute. A person contributing Ksh650 can access services just like someone contributing Ksh2,000, including a Member of Parliament who contributes about Ksh30,000. Those who have the advantage of contributing more can assist those who contribute less to access better services. As the Bible says, "He who is given much, much is expected," and we are happy. The President gave us the example of a woman who was suffering and worried about raising money for medication while feeding her family, SHA ensured that she was taken care of.

I also want to commend the President for caring about the local *mwananchi* and implementing the bottom-up approach in education. Many people look at the employment of 100 teachers as merely providing jobs for teachers.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: One minute to finish your sentence.

Hon. Caroline Ng'elechei (Elgeyo Marakwet County, Independent): Many people look at the employment of teachers as merely providing jobs for them, but it is also about providing quality education to poor children in this Republic. Previously, the number of students per teacher in a classroom was very high. However, many students can now receive special or adequate attention from teachers because more teachers have been employed. Since Independence, Kenya has employed 220,000 teachers, while President William Ruto has, in only four years, employed 120,000 teachers. That is more than half the number employed over the past 60 years. The President is doing a good job, and we want to pray for him. We hope to receive more benefits from this Government and live like people who pay their taxes properly.

Lastly, the Rironi-Mau Summit Road has claimed many lives, especially among those travelling to Western Kenya and Nyanza.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Trans Nzoia. Then I will go back to the chairpersons.

Hon. Lillian Siyoi (Trans Nzoia County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I also stand to applaud and thank the President for his speech yesterday. If any other Kenyan listened to the President so well yesterday, they would realise that this country is headed in the right direction. I stand to applaud the President because he is one leader who has stuck by his manifesto. When he campaigned, he said that he had a bottom-up perspective and that is exactly what he has done. From his speech yesterday, I will mention the issues one by one. I will start with subsidised fertiliser. Being a farmer in Trans Nzoia and coming from a county that is the food basket of this country, I want to thank His Excellency the President because of the subsidised fertiliser. This year, we did not produce too much food because of drought. I extend my appreciation to the President because even after that, he reduced the price of fertiliser to Ksh2,000 from Ksh2,500.

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A good leader is supposed to take care of people's interests. The interests to me are food, shelter, health and education. I also want to applaud His Excellency on the issue of education, whereby, from next year, all students joining universities and colleges are going to be given full Higher Education and Loans Board (HELB) assistance. That means a student who comes from a humble family and a student who comes from a rich family will all get education equally and will all attend school because of His Excellency William Samoei Ruto.

I also want to speak on health. Right now we have SHA, which has assisted both the poor and the rich. As my fellow colleagues have just said here, how much you contribute does not matter. It covers equally the poor and the rich, regardless of what they have contributed. This is exactly what His Excellency, Hon. Dr William Samoei Ruto, has been saying, that u*sawa ni sawa* to each Kenyan in this country.

I also applaud the President because of ensuring that development has been distributed equally across the country. Projects such as affordable housing, markets, and roads have been equally distributed.

I also stand to oppose what the Opposition are talking about. They said that His Excellency is not supposed to come here and tell us about the roads and stadia he is building because that is not what he is supposed to tell us. Hon. (Dr) Oundo said that whoever is pregnant does not need to say that they are pregnant because it will literally show and development should appear the same way. I want to tell Hon. (Dr) Oundo that you might think that somebody is pregnant, but, maybe, she is sick and has kwashiorkor. So, unless she confirms that she is pregnant, you will not know whether she is pregnant or not. So, it is right for His Excellency, Hon. William Samoei Ruto, to remind Kenyans what he has done because it is him who knows what he has done. The Bible says that you should remind them, even if they know. You need to tell them to keep remembering whatever they have been told and that is exactly what His Excellency William Samoei Ruto has done.

I applaud him and ask Kenyans that this is the kind of leader that we are looking for. This is the right leader that we need to vote for a second time so that he continues doing development for this country. He will ensure that Kenyans get everything that they need.

Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. (Rtd) Major Bashir, standing in for the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations.

Hon. Major (Rtd) Abdullahi Sheikh (Mandera North, UDM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. First and foremost, I applaud and congratulate His Excellency the President for the wonderful State of the Nation Address that he gave yesterday. When I compare this address and the previous one, I think there is quite an improvement from what we have heard before. Therefore, I just want to say congratulations for what he has done.

Just to remind ourselves that the Constitution, of course, obligates him to do the same. However, remember, we have had previous governments and presidents who were also obligated to do the same. If I reflect on the previous addresses that were given by previous governments, I think what we were used to before was just a sort of drama. What we had yesterday and in the previous Address is actual reporting to Parliament and to Kenyans. Just to talk about a few of the points that have been raised, the slogan of U*sawa ni Sawa*, is something that I have looked at critically in his speech. When he says u*sawa ni sawa,* it means that we need to have equity in all matters of national discourse.

When I pick a few things, like infrastructure, the 740-kilometre road that starts from Isiolo to Mandera gives the longest stretch in Kenya so far. These proposals were there before, but they were lying on the shelves. What the President has done is to remove them from the shelf and put them on the road. That is why this stretch of 740 kilometres is happening now on the ground, with different stages of construction. The 740 kilometres will be a lifeline for the people of the north, and especially for North Eastern. People who have never seen a simple

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stretch of tarmac will be able to see what a tarmac road is. When we hear u*sawa ni sawa,* then we really know it is happening on the ground.

Another issue is that of citizen services. His Excellency the President, while in Wajir, announced the unnecessary vetting to acquire Government services, especially identity cards and passports shall be abolished. It required someone to boldly come out and say this and it happened with President Ruto. We had other presidents who have never talked about or touched on that kind of programme before. Since Independence, up until the President abolished this kind of discriminatory vetting, our people were subjected to inhuman and disrespectful vetting to acquire national documents. But look at what the President has done! He said every person in Kenya, in every part of Kenya, is equal and that they shall be treated equally. In his Report yesterday, it reflected the same, that this is what has been done, this is what is happening and it is ongoing. We could have some issues, probably, passport issues. Maybe the people handling them might not have realised that this is a shift from what used to happen before. From the President's point of view, from the regime's standpoint and policy, that discriminatory vetting has been removed.

The President talked about the issue of teachers. I can confirm that almost 600 teachers were recruited in my county, Mandera County, employed and posted to schools. We have never had this kind of employment ever since Independence. For the whole country, he talked about 100,000, and he has also assured that he is going to employ another 20,000 teachers. That means the teachers who have been asking for employment, most of them will get employed. Never before has this happened in this country. There is an issue of housing projects happening across the country. I can confirm that in each of our counties, in each of our constituencies and I speak for my county as well, Mandera North, I have a housing project and hostels ongoing. Even now, I have a tarmacked road within the town that is ongoing. I do not think we would have had this if we had another President.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the President mentioned that the Constitution guarantees everybody the right to decent housing. How come previous presidents and regimes did not address this matter and ensure that everyone had access to decent housing? They did not. However, this is being implemented under the leadership of His Excellency William Samoei Ruto, and we tell him *pongezi* for doing that.

There are many other programmes, such as the NYOTA Project and the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO), which are being implemented across the country. These programmes have also reached Mandera County, just like other counties.

When I look at the performance of the previous four presidents and compare it with the four years of President Ruto's administration, the difference is worlds apart. What we could not achieve in almost 60 years has been achieved in just four years. I do not think Kenya will easily get another President in the like of William Samoei Ruto because he is visionary. He looks beyond the present.

The other issue is investment. Look at the Lamu Oil Refinery, which is a Ksh2.2 billion project. It is one of the largest Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) of its kind since Independence. Such an investment has never happened before. What does that demonstrate? It demonstrates investor confidence in this country. Investors have confidence in the President and his regime. That is why someone can come and invest Ksh2.2 billion in a project here in Kenya and where is the investment being made? In Lamu, a county that has previously been neglected. That is where the issue of u*sawa ni sawa* comes in. We know that the people of Lamu have wanted such projects for a long time, including under previous administrations.

The Lamu Oil Refinery has now been fast-tracked and it is ongoing. I think we should interrogate what has been said against what has actually been done. Sometimes, it is important to give credit where it is due. If something has not been done, we should say so and identify

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the existing gaps. However, we must also acknowledge what has been achieved. Of course, there is still much more to be done.

I wish previous presidents had started what William Ruto has initiated over the last four years. Kenya would be at a very different level today. Consider the 740-kilometre road. If its construction had started about 10 years ago, imagine where we would be today. For the first time, we are seeing a tarmacked road being constructed, and we have been promised that it will be completed by 2028.

I can confirm that, in my constituency, the stretch to Rhamu is being done, just like other sections. Of course, it will take some time for the entire road to be completed by 2028. However, work has been done, and we are extremely happy about it. Our people should also feel that they are part and parcel of Kenya. They struggle whenever it rains because of the poor road network.

A 740-kilometre road is not a joke. It is a long stretch. However, with a tarmacked road, we will live to see the day when it reaches Mandera. I think this is something we can be proud of, and we want to encourage the President to ensure that the project is completed and commissioned, perhaps, during his next term. Considering the work he has done for this country, I do not think Kenyans will reject him. I wish him all the best. Above all, I am equally happy about the issue of u*sawa ni sawa*, because the country belongs to all of us. We are all equal. We may live in different geographical locations. We may belong to different ethnic communities or clans, but we are all Kenyans. That is why the slogan u*sawa ni sawa* resonates well with the people of Kenya, particularly those from the north.

Thank you very much. I support the State of the Nation Address.

The Deputy Speaker: Next is Hon. Raso.

Hon. Ali Raso (Saku, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I wish to join my colleagues in congratulating and thanking His Excellency the President for his Address to the nation yesterday from the Floor of this House. In leadership, there is something called courage. I think President William Ruto demonstrated courage yesterday.

Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1963 is what divided this country across the rail. It proposed that development should be concentrated in areas with potential. This covered only 20 per cent of the country, while the remaining 80 per cent was left behind. This is why I think some people are opposed to William Ruto. The 20 per cent of the country received the railway line, infrastructure, educational institutions, hospitals, and other social amenities.

Today, William Ruto is saying *usawa ni sawa* that we should distribute the wealth of this country across all parts of Kenya. There are roads everywhere, markets and institutions, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and many others. People are asking where the 85 per cent of the national Budget that remains at the national level is going, considering that only 15 per cent goes to the counties. President William Ruto has demonstrated that resources are available and that they must reach all parts of Kenya.

I wish to support what Hon. Bashir has said. Today, in less than four years, the longest road in Kenya, from Isiolo to Mandera, is under construction and is likely to be completed within the term of one President. The Isiolo-Marsabit road, on the other hand, took approximately 15 years to construct, covering slightly less than 500 kilometres. This demonstrates the level of commitment and the aggressive approach to development under this President.

The second issue is citizenship. For those of us who come from marginalised areas, such as the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) regions, I think we were citizens of Kenya only to a certain extent. We were not treated as full citizens because obtaining a national identity card or a birth certificate was very difficult. Getting a passport was almost a lifetime achievement. Today, however, these essential documents are available to all Kenyans, irrespective of where they come from, their religion, creed or beliefs.

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When you are a citizen but cannot access these important rights, you begin to ask yourself: Am I part of the Kenyan system? Am I part of this nation? We must, therefore, thank the President, particularly as people from these regions for *usawa ni sawa,* and for ensuring that we are recognised as Kenyans like any other citizen.

The other area is security. As the Committee that exercises oversight over the security agencies in this country, particularly the internal administration and security services, we have observed that today, the guns are silent in the North Rift, Upper Eastern, North Eastern, Lamu and other areas. This is because the Government has expanded the presence of the administration across the country, irrespective of whether one supports or opposes the Government. This demonstrates that the President wants the country to be secure and ready for development.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, there are now more administrative locations, more sub-counties and more police stations. Following the deployment of 10,000 police officers, the ratio of citizens to police officers is now one officer to 150 citizens. We have not yet attained the United Nations standard, but we are moving in the right direction. We are also establishing the Judiciary Police Unit (JPU), the National Government Administration Police Unit (NGAPU) and the Energy Police Unit (EPU). This further demonstrates the Government's commitment to ensuring that every part of this country is covered. Judicial officers should be able to go about their duties without fearing for their safety or worrying that someone may harm them because of a decision they have made, such as when sentencing a hardcore criminal. The President was able to emphasise to the police and the IPOA that we must abide by the rule of law so that nobody steps over the boundaries of the law that they are supposed to enforce.

The other good thing, which Kenyans must appreciate, is that whatever has happened in terms of law enforcement, whether in this Government or the previous ones since 2017 breached the law, the President took responsibility for compensating those families that have lost their loved ones, those who have been injured, and police officers who have been injured or killed in the line of duty. That shows a lot of courage and a lot of responsibility.

Agriculture contributes 24 per cent to our GDP. It is about food security. It is about the affordability of food. When we address the issue of tea farmers, coffee farmers, milk farmers and livestock farmers, we are saying: Can we have money in the pockets of our people? Can we improve their purchasing power? All economies are local. When a livestock farmer in Marsabit feels that when he sells his cows, goats or camels, they fetch a good price, that family is comfortable. When food prices are affordable, and food is available and accessible, then it means Kenya becomes a nation that is at peace with itself.

Finally, it is on SHA. Hon. Oundo has said something which I think he did not mean, but he tried to suggest to some extent that SHA does not exist. However, as a Member of this House and as somebody who represents a community and lives among the community, many of us have witnessed people who would have died in their houses, in their villages or in hospital beds because they could not access healthcare. Today, we have relatives, friends and family members who have been treated, and SHA has enormously contributed towards those bills. Otherwise, we would be doing harambee and holding all kinds of fundraisers so that individuals can access healthcare.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank yo. Hon. Member for Mwea, Hon. Mary Maingi.

Hon. Mary Maingi (Mwea, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me a chance to contribute to the President’s State of the Nation Address. I congratulate and support the President for his address yesterday. In my heart, yesterday, he spoke about lowering the cost of production and also increasing productivity. I confirm that this is what is working for my people in Mwea Constituency.

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I come from a constituency which has been a bit left behind over the years for some strange reasons. So, whenever you touch on lowering the cost of production for my rice farmers, that is a most welcome move. When he spoke about lowering the cost of production, what came to my mind was the fixing of the on-farm roads in our irrigation scheme. He spoke about 500 mega dams which are going to be constructed using the National Infrastructure Fund. As those 500 mega dams are being constructed, Nyamindi Dam is not going to be left behind.

When we speak of Nyamindi Dam, I want to give a case in point; Thiba Dam. Through Thiba Dam, we managed to increase rice production from 124,000 tonnes in 2022 to a high of 169,000 tonnes because we now have double cropping. We actually have three seasons. We have double cropping, and we also have ratooning. We have the main crop in August, the ratoon in January, and another season in between. That is how we have managed to increase productivity.

With the construction of Nyamindi Dam being part of the 500 mega dams, I can confirm that we are going to increase rice production in Mwea Constituency and possibly be able to support food security or feed this country sufficiently with rice without having to import any rice.

The President talked about the dualling of the Makutano-Embu Road. Makutano is the gateway to Mwea Constituency. It is the road that Mwea Constituency farmers and constituents use to deliver our produce to the markets. It is the road that we use to go to hospitals and various other places and learning institutions. I am urging the relevant agencies to move with speed, without any further delay, and let us see work begin on the ground for that to be actualised. That is a most welcome move, and it is going to really support and open up Mwea Constituency so that it never feels left behind like other constituencies in this country.

The President talked about SHA. The Member for Funyula has talked about the non-existence of SHA. I want to confirm to this House and to Kenyans that SHA, indeed, works and has four pillars. We have the Primary Healthcare Fund (PHCF), for which you do not need to pay. All you need to do is register, and you do not even need to pay. This is the one that caters for outpatient services in Level Two hospitals and Level Three dispensaries.

I also want to confirm to this House that our defunct National Hospital Insurance Fund only had seven million registered members, while SHA has over 33 million people registered under it. We are actually…

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Just give her an extra two minute, please. Give her two extra minutes to finish her sentence.

Hon. Mary Maingi (Mwea, UDA): I would like us to congratulate the President. With those few words, I beg to congratulate him and pray for him that God keeps him for long. This is the President this country has always needed. He is, indeed, the President this country needs.

I beg to support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Members, we still have another 90 minutes, which means we still have space for several more people. I will go to Hon. Kawanjiku, then come to Hon. Cherorot, and then we will proceed.

Hon. Njuguna Kawanjiku (Kiambaa, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for this chance to debate the President's State of the Nation Address, which is very paramount as far as our Constitution is concerned.

I want to start by thanking and congratulating the President because he has made major strides in terms of making sure that we move this nation to the next level. There are major issues, especially those that have been brought to the fore as far as infrastructure is concerned. When this Government came to power, a number of issues could not be addressed due to lack of funds. After winning the General Elections, the Kenya Kwanza Government knew it had a problem. We knew we would encounter difficulties in ensuring that we sustain the ship until 2027 while making sure that the country is peaceful, the security sector is moving well, the

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economy is growing and national savings are increasing every day. This is worth thanking the President for and encouraging him to continue doing what he needs to do because some of the decisions this House has made have been very difficult and unpopular to our constituents, but from where we sit now, we can see light at the end of the tunnel. There were things we needed to do as a country.

There were major issues that the President talked about. I feel proud to be part of this House that passed the law of the National Infrastructure Fund (NIF) which enables us to source resources and ensures a number of infrastructure within the country without even going through the Exchequer and the normal avenues of funding the development that we have been campaigning and fighting for. When a road in your constituency has been allocated Ksh20 million in the Budget yet it requires Ksh5 billion or Ksh7 billion, it cannot even cover the cost of tarmacking a one-kilometre road due to inflation. The National Infrastructure Fund is a game changer. We thank the President because he mentioned a number of projects that we are looking up to. In Kiambaa, Kiambu County, where I come from, the President has promised to start the dualling of the Muthaiga-Kiambu-Ndumberi road before the year ends. That will be a game changer for the people because my county is the bedroom for Nairobi residents. People come to work in Nairobi then go to sleep within Kiambu County, therefore, traffic along Kiambu Road is enormous. I appreciate the President. Even though the politics of the day may dictate a number of issues, we ask him to continue doing what he needs to do. It is not a matter of popularity; it is about doing the right thing.

The modernisation of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) is long overdue. I remember he said that we must make sure we bring change. The first thing a person sees when they visit our country is our airport. Other countries like Ethiopia and Tanzania are building better airports than JKIA. The President should continue doing what he is doing because it will have a ripple effect on tourism. He is currently building the Bomas of Kenya Conference Centre, and the Talanta Stadium. There are a number of projects which we will probably live to celebrate him for in the next five or 10 years. People are talking about some of the projects because they are still at the foundation stage. Wait until we complete the Rironi-Mau Summit Road and the new JKIA, where tractors and contractors are on site trying to beat time because of the deadlines they have been given. Those are some of the issues we have raised. The President should continue doing what he needs to do. He also mentioned that we have saved almost Ksh800 billion of our national savings since 2023. It is something that we are looking up to. I have been looking around, and major infrastructure projects…

Hon. Deputy Speaker: You can give him a minute to finish.

Hon. Njuguna Kawanjiku (Kiambaa, UDA): Many infrastructure projects have been carried through by pensioners. For example, the Julius Nyerere Bridge in Tanzania was constructed using pensioners money. There are a number of things we have achieved like Social Health Authority. We have employed 6,000 interns in the housing sector. This is also the only administration that has employed 100,000 teachers in five years. The president is doing a number of things and we are here to support him. Some of us are saying *usawa ni sawa* because we now have markets in Kiambaa. Previously, Kiambaa Constituency only had main roads, but as we speak, other roads that connect to our homes have been constructed by this administration. *Usawa ni sawa* is not only for people who come from Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), but it is also for nearby counties and constituencies which have been unable to get the right share of the national Government cake for construction of roads, market and Kenya Medical Training Colleges (KMTC). We have achieved a lot especially what the Government has done with SHA. We support the President and we will continue to do so. That is why we are saying *usawa ni sawa*. We are guaranteed that once he manages to be re-elected in 2027 to 2032, which I know he will through God's grace, he will take this country to another level.

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Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Member for Fafi has removed his card. Hon. Cherorot, I forgot I said that I would release him for prayers. Let him go first. Proceed.

Hon. Farah Yakub (Fafi, UDA): He is a good friend of mine. I think you can excuse me for that.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for this opportunity to add my voice to the debate. I hereby commend, support, thumbs up, praise and applaud the President, His Excellency Dr William Samoei Ruto's speech that he made yesterday. It was marvellous and to the point. We were hooked to the end. The start of his speech was what brought us in. He started with an analogy of two children, one born close to a tarmac road and the other born in areas where there are no roads. He told us of the opportunities the child born close to a tarmac road has and the lack of opportunity for the one born where there were no roads. It was basically an equity, *usawa ni sawa,* statement. That is what the whole speech was all about. That made us listen to the last ounce of his speech.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the speech talked about the financial aspect and the stability this country has under his leadership, talk of the stability of the dollar at Ksh129, inflation rates going down from two digits to close to four and Ksh15 billion-dollar reserves. All these were milestones under his leadership, which needed to be commended. When this Government came into power, we thought it would collapse due to financial issue but that stability has given Kenyans the opportunity to prosper and do business. This has now become the norm. When the President talks about economic stability, it has become the norm. It is nothing new to us but people forget where we came from. When we talk about repayment of the Eurobond, we never thought Kenyans could repay Ksh200 billion within a short period of two years in this term. This President made sure that every ounce of his blood has been used to ensure the Ksh200 billion Eurobond has been repaid. We applaud him for that.

The President talked about all sectors, and every sector he talked about touched on every corner of this country. Every Member of this House heard their constituency being mentioned unlike in other State of the Nation Addresses. When he talked about roads, he mentioned Turkana, Wajir, Mandera and Lamu, places we never heard in previous speeches. When we talk about roads, I am here to testify that my constituency, Fafi, which is one of the most marginalised constituencies, today can celebrate tractors being in place in Bura East Sub-County constructing a two-kilometre road with the possibility of extending to five kilometres. In Fafi Sub-County, two kilometres are also being undertaken in the next one week courtesy of Kenya Urban Support Programme under the leadership of this President.

When we talk about agricultural and economic sectors, we have livestock which are dear to us. Over 3 million herds are covered under livestock insurance, and Ksh3.8 billion is also given to small-scale livestock traders. Unlike previous speeches where only agriculture, coffee and tea were mentioned, fish was also mentioned in this speech. This was basically an *usawa* speech which touched on every economy or corner of this country. The President talked about the National Infrastructure Fund, and we were happy to hear that 50 mega-dams are going to be constructed, with each county getting one mega dam. This is news to us. The whole of the Northern Region has never had any mega-dam, but today we can celebrate that, among the 50 mega dams, one is coming to my county, Garissa, just like other counties in the country. That is what we call equitable distribution of resources, and that is what has been missing in Kenya.

The President spoke about teachers. It is a living testimony to my constituents. Before this Government came into office, 16 primary schools were closed because of insecurity. Today, I can testify that all the primary schools in my constituency are functioning. In fact, one such school that was closed is Gubis Primary School, and a head teacher who was serving at that school was commended on Teachers' Day as the best teacher in leadership in Garissa

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County. His name is Digale Abdi Aden. I congratulate him on that achievement. This is courtesy of the improvement in security under His Excellency the President.

I can categorically say that that was a speech meant for all Kenyans. It was touching…

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Add him a minute.

Hon. Farah Yakub (Fafi, USA): I can categorically say that the speech touched every corner of this country. It also touched every person in this country. *Mama mbogas* were mentioned and the youth were mentioned. In fact, even police officers were mentioned because of the compensation to be offered as a result of the 2024 mayhem. Therefore, I can say that the President's slogan, *Usawa ni Sawa*, is a slogan that started in this House today, and we are here to support him and ensure that that *usawa* is achieved across the country. I support the President and give a thumbs-up to his speech.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Give Hon. Cherorot the microphone.

Hon. Joseph Cherorot (Kipkelion East, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker...

(Technical hitch)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Let me switch off my microphone.

Hon. Joseph Cherorot (Kipkelion East, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to the ongoing debate on the President's State of the Nation Address, which he gave yesterday. Yesterday was a great day in our country. Our President had the opportunity and time to give us a scorecard of what he has been doing for the last four years. If we go back to the last four years, when our President took power, there was nothing in the coffers of our country apart from the instruments of power that he was given. There was nothing else.

Through his wisdom, our President embarked on a process by first stopping borrowing so that we could move forward as a country. That means that he himself was committed to ensuring that he changed this country. Today, we can talk about the progress and development of our country.

I listened with disbelief when Hon. Oundo said that what the President said was just a statement. The President is practical. That is what he has been doing, and everyone can see it. I want to challenge Hon. Oundo to drive along the Rironi–Mau Summit Road so that he can see what is going on there. Even though he was telling us that the Government had done nothing, in Funyula Constituency, we know that he has benefited. There are 955 housing units that have been constructed in that constituency.

Again, there is the Nangina–Sio Port-Matayos Road, 113 kilometres, which has also been constructed in Funyula, as well as the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) market in Luanda. Therefore, whatever Hon. Oundo was saying is intended to mislead Kenyans. He needs to learn and visit several places to understand and be informed about what has been happening in this country.

Our President has also done a lot in the education sector. The 100,000 teachers who have been employed will help our students to not only gain knowledge, but also benefit the families of those teachers. Again, there is the 20,000 teachers who are going to be employed. The President has done great things for this country. He is also a symbol of unity. I have never seen a President who is so committed to his citizens. Under this leadership, we have seen a lot of changes, and we are yet to see more.

In Agriculture, when the President took over, fertiliser was going for Ksh7,000. Right now, we are talking about Ksh2,000 for a 50-kilogramme bag.

Similarly, there are the roads. Apart from the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) roads, such as the Mau Summit–Rironi Road, we also have other roads. The President talked about

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the Nairobi-Mombasa dual carriageway, which is in the pipeline. All these are going to simplify transportation in our country. We also have the railway and the JKIA project that is ongoing. As Kenyans, we have to celebrate and be thankful for what the President is doing. We have to give him our support and make sure that his second term is assured.

Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member for Bureti.

Hon. Kibet Komingoi (Bureti, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, there is nothing greater than when the President of a nation stands before the nation to communicate the great things he has done, the work that has been undertaken, the work he promised the people, and how he has been able to deliver.

The President was not only giving us the State of the Nation; he also gave us his vision for this country, which is that Kenya may be able to achieve the Singapore vision and become a First World country.

Starting with education on the question of recruiting teachers, while it may mean employment to someone, it also means that the teacher-student ratio gap has been bridged. One of the things that I believe has been achieved through this is that, by recruiting teachers, the President and this Government have been able to support parents who previously had to pay for additional teachers. This has reduced expenditure on education from the parents' pockets. In turn, it has reduced the cost of education to parents. Therefore, while the recruitment of teachers may be seen as employment, it should also be seen as one of the basic components of reducing the cost of education and putting money back into parents' pockets.

Secondly, is the question of subsidies that have been offered to farmers. Look at the provision of fertiliser to the entire tea, coffee, sugar and the horticultural sector. Those sectors have increased production. If production has increased while costs have reduced, the sum effect is that farmers are gaining more from the same effort they put in because they are getting more returns at a lower cost.

There may have been a lot that the President needed to say, but one thing that I noticed was missing from the President's speech was rural electrification. This is one of the major projects that this Government has undertaken, supplying electricity to households and people across the country. This is not only to improve their lives and increase security in areas that have been lit up, but also to provide opportunities for citizens to use this energy and power to support their livelihoods, improve dignity in their homes and create business opportunities.

One thing that we also noticed, and for which we thank ourselves as Members of Parliament, is the supportive legislation that we have provided for the macro-economic stabilisation of this country. I recall the State of the Nation Address of 2023. One of the mistakes we made in that speech was not giving a clear description of where the nation was. Kenyans may have missed the opportunity to listen and hear from the President how the nation was in terms of the stability of our economy, the security of our people, the food security that was at the brink, and the dollar that was running haywire. If all those thoughts had been brought out clearly, then we would have been able to see the tremendous effect of the leadership of Kenya Kwanza and the governance that has been undertaken by this administration.

Finally, the whole question of investment in infrastructure is so that we can set foot into the next stage of developing in this country by equalising and providing equity to all. I can even tell the people of Bureti that the Imarisha – Kusumek – Kiptui Road will be tarmacked very soon. This is because of the leadership being provided by the Government and by ourselves as this Assembly in trying to deliver to the people of this country.

This was massive information that Kenyans should listen to. Let the propaganda stay aside. Let the naysayers stay aside and let the President govern by this clear philosophy.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Member for Machakos, Hon. Kemene. Are you ready?

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Hon. Joyce Kemene (Machakos County, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for this opportunity. Article 132(1) of the Constitution of Kenya states that the State of the Nation Address is the President's annual constitutional report to Kenyans on measures taken and the progress made in realising Kenya's national values and principles of governance. The State of the Nation Address is more than a political speech or a general review of Government activities. It is intended to provide a constitutional accountability report covering issues such as respect for the rule of law, protection of human rights and inclusivity, among others. The President presented Kenya as a resilient nation, highlighting economic stabilisation in agriculture, education and healthcare. He argued that development was becoming more geographically and socially equitable, with his clarion call of *Usawa ni Sawa*. Thus, the Address succeeded theoretically but failed on the specifics.

The speech relied heavily on outputs such as jobs created, teachers recruited, houses built and classrooms constructed, among others, without sufficiently demonstrating whether the programmes had produced improvements in living standards. The majority of these jobs created are in the formal sector, thus raising questions about job security, wages and social protection. It is not simply about how many people are registered, recruited or enrolled, but whether citizens are receiving better services, higher incomes and lower costs. The President has promised to reduce household costs and increase incomes, yet his Address does not convincingly explain how ordinary families would experience that improvement amid high taxes, high food prices, education expense and debt pressure, among other challenges. The speech was thus heavy on policy activities.

The President cited increased funding.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order, Hon. Mutunga?

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, with a lot of respect, I would like to inform Hon. Kamene to re-read the Report. The President did not just flash figures, he gave statistics to back them up. Upon taking leadership, he discovered a deficit of 116,000 teachers. He has now employed 100,000 teachers. That number will soon go up to 120,000. Are those just flashy statistics or the actual reality? Does Hon. Kamene know schools which do not have teachers? My constituency had a deficit of 282 teachers in secondary schools, which has now reduced to 151. We also had a deficit of 82 teachers in primary schools. Why is Hon. Kamene misleading Kenyans?

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Proceed, Hon. Kamene.

Hon. Joyce Kamene (Machakos County, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I have a lot of respect for *Mheshimiwa* Mutunga, but I am speaking about realities. It is true that teachers have been recruited, but other issues such as school capitation still persist. It is not just about recruiting teachers. We want to look at education holistically. Hon. Mutunga will just have to excuse me because I want to be factual. Recruitment of teachers has always been done even by previous governments, but we want to improve our education standards. The high cost of living is making it very difficult to educate our children.

In his Address, the President also promised to reduce household costs and increase incomes, and yet, he did not convincingly explain how ordinary families would exercise that improvement amidst high taxes, high food prices, education expenses and debt pressures. The speech was heavier on policy compared to action.

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): On a point of order, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is your point of order, Hon. Waqo?

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Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker. I do not want to interfere with my friend's debate, but she is reading her speech, and yet, she is supposed to debate sensibly. She is reading her notes which is not right.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kamene, refer to your notes, but do not read them.

Hon. Joyce Kamene (Machakos County, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I just want to point out that we cannot all see things from the same angle. Affordable houses are being constructed and I have even visited the ones in Mavoko Constituency. However, will the people in Mlolongo who currently live in shanties be able to afford those houses? I do not think it is possible. I am speaking from experience. A comparison shows that the affordable houses are almost the same price as houses in the private real estate market. If the aim of the affordable houses is to assist those who are suffering, the prices should go down, so that we can accommodate *mama mboga* in Mlolongo or Mavoko.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, with that…

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I will give you another two minutes to finish your sentence.

Hon. Joyce Kamene (Machakos County, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I want to conclude by saying that people down there are suffering because of the high cost of living. That is what we are keen on because we represent the people. They are the ones that brought us here and that we speak for. Let us see how to reduce the high cost of living.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Member for Wajir West.

Hon. Yussuf Farah (Wajir West, ODM): Thank you Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to also add my voice to the President's Address.

Yesterday the President spoke with clarity, conviction and evidence. What he said is clear. He talked about his journey for the last four years and how he came into power finding a crippling economy in this country. He explained how he managed to navigate the problems and the challenges that we face in this country. It is a fact that this country has had very many challenges. However, the path or steps that the President took to counter those challenges was highlighted yesterday with clarity and conviction.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I know the President came with a slogan of *Usawa ni Sawa.* Let me highlight some of the *usawa ni sawa* in the Kenyan context. When you want to start a certain project or you want to do an action, you must have the intention. You must acknowledge the problem and act on it. That is exactly what the President did.

The President of Kenya stood in front of this Parliament and the rest of Kenyans yesterday, acknowledged that some parts of this country have been marginalised for long while some parts of this country have been developed using the taxpayers' money of each and everyone in this country. For a President to stand in front of Kenya, talk about Wajir Town, Turkana, Lamu and Mandera and the challenges faced in those parts and acknowledge is a step towards progress. That clearly shows part of these counties were never mentioned, acknowledged and no one even realised that they were marginalised by the previous successive regimes. *Usawa ni sawa* means a child in Wajir County can get equal opportunity in education, healthcare and in infrastructure like a child in Kiambu, for example.

For the first time in the history of this country, we have tarmac roads, at least, an inch in each and every sub-county in Northern Kenya. That clearly shows when we are talking about the first tarmac road, we are not exaggerating, it is a fact, it is known and it is clear that the President has decided that this country must be treated equally. We are not exaggerating when we talk about the first tarmac road. That is a known fact. It is clear that the President decided that every part of this country must be treated equally. The road from Mandera to Garissa is 750 kilometres long. The late President Kibaki started it from Garissa to Modagashe and it stopped there. From Modogashe to Mandera, we had no road at all. It was a rough road. The President has taken a bold step to construct that road. He promised that it would be completed by 2028, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

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The issue of vetting before getting an identification card was a problem.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Please give him more time. Proceed, Hon. Yussuf.

Hon. Yussuf Farah (Wajir West, ODM): The vetting before getting an identification card was only subjected to the people of Northern Kenya. They were subjected to vigorous and illegal vetting by the country that they claim to own. They were unable to get identification cards and passports.

It was very difficult for a mother or pastoralist from Wajir West to walk into a Government office and get an identification card. It used to take about a year to get it. When the students completed their secondary education, there was a problem with the issuance of identification cards. We all know how essential an identification card is to a person from those areas. The President of the Republic of Kenya took a bold step to abolish that discriminatory and illegal policy that was in place. The people of Northern Kenya get identification cards now without being subjected to that kind of humiliation.

The President also talked about SHA which is a dignified universal health coverage for all Kenyans. It was only the privilege of very few Kenyans to get healthcare in this country. However, everyone, regardless of status and employment positions, accesses healthcare today.

We also have affordable housing projects, although there are challenges. I acknowledge that the project is not being implemented everywhere. That is a challenge to the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, but not the President. He gave out instructions, but there are delays in implementing those projects in the northern part of the country. We would like the Principal Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary concerned to act and at least deliver some projects there.

On the issue of empowerment, we all know how the NYOTA Project has assisted the youth who were given about Ksh25,000. This is a lot of money to an entrepreneur like *mama mboga.* They receive free money and training. That is done everywhere and not in specific places.

I conclude by saying that holistically, what the President read and communicated to the country is that we are not yet there, but we have taken a step towards prosperity and a better Kenya.

With those few remarks, I thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I will give the first opportunity to the ladies. I will allow Hon. Dorothy Ikiara to contribute first.

Hon. Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I take great exception in supporting the 4th State of the Nation Address by His Excellency the President. This was not only an eye opener for Kenyans, but it was also a way of making them understand where we have come from and where we are going as a country.

The President touched on a wide range of achievements and strides that have been made by this Government. As he was campaigning to become the President of Kenya, he had a manifesto, which had a plan for this country. The plan was riding on five key pillars, one of which is the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). I will concentrate on it because it will move our country forward.

His Excellency the President laid bare all the Government's achievements, among them youth empowerment. Our country has suffered a great deal because majority of our youth are jobless. The President established programmes like the Hustler Fund from which a majority of our youths were able to borrow money and advance their interests in many areas. The Hustler Fund has assisted many Kenyans, including women, to unlock their potential. To date, the Fund has enabled many small traders to leverage on their borrowing and to run their day-to-day activities without going to the banks. Before the Hustler Fund, about 7,000 Kenyans had been flagged by the Credit Reference Bureau **(**CRB), but that is not the case today.

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We also have the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Project, which targets youths between 18 and 29 years. It offers start-up capital. Yesterday, His Excellency the President said that those young people will not only get start-up capital, but they will also be trained in other skills to improve and carry out their day-to-day businesses. I encourage the youth to make use of either the NYOTA Project or the Hustler Fund to get start-up capital so that they can earn a living.

I listened very keenly to the contribution of a Member who was talking about education. When it comes to employment of teachers, there has been no other time in the history of this country when we have employed as many teachers as during the tenure of His Excellency the President. In other years, during the other regimes, we used to employ 5,000 teachers in one year. But this time around, we have employed 100,000 teachers, with an additional 20,000 teachers to be employed this year. That means that the quality of our education will improve. It has always been said that education is an equaliser. It is also said that if you want to destroy any nation, you do not need atomic bombs. You only need to lower the quality of education, and that will be it. Today, we are proudly saying that every school-going child can walk into a classroom and find a teacher. That means that these children we have today will be well prepared for the future, and they will be able to comfortably compete with other children across the globe. A proper basic education is the foundation of every child. If we invest in education, we are surely investing in the future.

The President was also very categorical when he said that the new Education Bill brought before this House guarantees that every child who finds their way to the university, a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institution or Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) will not struggle with fees anymore. That is a plus for us because some of our students get an opportunity to further their education, but they get stuck somewhere because of the high fees.Therefore, they are unable to advance their education. Now, there is a guarantee that university education, TVET and KMTC education will be catered for. This relieves our parents of the huge burden of struggling to pay school fees for their children.

The President went further to state what this Government has invested in. The Government has deliberately invested in hostels for our students. Over the last few years, we have seen what has been happening in our universities. In some universities, our girls have to walk long distances from the universities to their places of residence. This has endangered their lives. We have even lost some young students, both male and female, through murder or mugging on their way to or from universities. With the assurance from His Excellency that hostels will be built within school compounds, parents will be sure that the security of their children in school is guaranteed. I have heard…

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Let her finish the sentence.

Hon. Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I have heard a few Members…

(Technical hitch)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Move to another microphone.

Hon. Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I have heard a few Members say that the President's speech had no content and that there was nothing in it for Kenyans. But I am a Christian. I remember the account in the Book of John, Chapter 20, verses 24 to 29, about Thomas, a disciple of Jesus, who doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead, even after knowing that he had been crucified. When he was told that Jesus had risen, he insisted that unless he touched the wounds, he would not believe.

I want to challenge those who are doubting to visit areas where this Government, under the leadership of His Excellency President William Ruto has delivered. Let them visit areas where Affordable Housing Projects are being implemented and take selfies. Let them also go

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to the Rironi-Mau Summit Road Project and visit the areas where dams are being constructed and roads are being built. This will be a true testimony to them that this Government has performed.

I thank the President for giving hope to millions of Kenyans who have been yearning for change in this country. If I were to calculate the number of years since we attained Independence in 1963, a person who was 18 years old and voted at that time would be 81 years old today. That person would have voted 13 times. If anything like what we are witnessing in Kenya today had been achieved during those years, this country would be a different place and a small heaven for all of us.

Kenyans are looking forward to a prosperous nation where all citizens will share the national cake. Today, development is being undertaken across the country. There is no part of this country that is being left behind. We have heard testimonies in this House that roads are being built from Moyale to Mandera, an area that never had a tarmac road. Today, however, such a road is becoming a reality.

My excitement today, as I stand in this House, is that I know the many lives we have lost at Nithi Bridge. Today, I am a witness that the road at Nithi Bridge is under construction. The contractors are already on site. If that project addresses the problem of deaths at Nithi Bridge, then I would say that Dr William Samoei Ruto has done a lot. I am even more excited that the President mentioned in this House that he intends to dual the Makutano–Embu–Meru-Maua Road. To me, that is a great achievement because if this country achieves tangible development and the equitable distribution of projects, I would say that the President is right in his statement that u*sawa ni sawa*.

I want to challenge those who are doubting to come and see for themselves. I can set aside a day and take them around the country so that they can witness the development they may not be able to see with their eyes. With that, I congratulate His Excellency the President. Let us move this country forward. Let the critics remain behind, because they cannot stop us from developing this nation.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Next is the Member for Tigania West.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to also contribute to this debate on the State of the Nation Address.

We are very familiar with the politics of the day. We know that, in politics, and unfortunately for Kenya, people would like to project their voices and share their ideas with Kenyans with the aim of sowing what they believe to be the truth and propagating falsehoods and promoting misinformation and disinformation. This is what has been happening. I would not be surprised if Hon. Members have stood in this House and said that this report was not good enough.

There are two things I would like to say in this respect. We should listen to others who are not Kenyans. They envy us. Earlier this week, on Monday and Tuesday, we had the entire international community here. They came to discuss the Third Global Parliamentary Summit Against Hunger and Malnutrition. They spoke from their hearts after the President opened that Summit. Some wanted to meet him thereafter and request him to be their goodwill ambassador, especially for Africa, because he spoke boldly, confidently and courageously about how Africa can defend itself and how Africans can develop using their resources.

I was a little bit worried because the international community was listening, and they were very, very uncomfortable. But the President said it as it should have been said in 1963. Way back in 1945, the global community met and agreed that there would be what is called official development assistance. They agreed that official development assistance for those

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countries that had not developed would be around 0.7 per cent of their budgets. Unfortunately, that money does not even help us. But let us not go into that.

Today, I want to stand before this House and state that we have an extremely good President. Kenyans will miss Dr William Samoei Ruto long after he has ceased to be the President of Kenya. They will remember the kind of things he has done, even in those backyards that have terribly opposed him without any regard for anything he is doing to develop this country across the board.

It is his duty, according to the Constitution that we passed in 2010, to address this Parliament immediately after the formation of the House, and every year to give the State of the Nation Address. In yesterday's State of the Nation Address, many issues came out. He outlined and very carefully and articulately explained his position. I have read through that report. The President would introduce an idea and then break it down into very basic form that everybody would understand. He fulfilled his duty, and he has done so promptly for the last four years.

Our President is a humble man. If I may be very honest, he spoke with a lot of humility. We have seen many presidents in this country. Our President has been called anything. In fact, he jokes about it, and sometimes you wonder. But as we sit here today, listen to each other and contribute to this report, other people are meeting elsewhere to try to poke holes in this report and produce their version.

I have not even started. I am just introducing my contribution. I beg to be given some time. They will produce their version. You will see it in many forms.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Give him some additional time.

Hon. (Dr) John Mutunga Kanyuithia (Tigania West, UDA): You will see it in press releases. You will also see it in statements made in hotels. You will see it everywhere. But I would like to stand here and tell Kenyans what describes the actual situation as it is today. If anybody wants to know that 133,000 houses are complete, they can travel across this country. If they want to know that 300,000 houses are in progress, they can see them. If they want to know the plan to construct one million houses, they can talk to Hinga. It is possible.

The cost of living is one of the issues that I am sure our colleagues on the other side of the divide will use, and it has been tried miserably. Some of them are trying to bring it out here. Regarding the cost of living, if you want food to be cheap, first you have to make the food production process cheap. What has this Government done? It has looked into three fundamental factors to make food cheap. One is this Government has brought down the cost of fertiliser from Ksh7,500 to Ksh2,000. If that is not reducing the cost of production, then I do not know what cheapness is. This Government has also gone ahead to provide seeds. If you want to increase production and productivity, there are three things you need to look at. One is the soil health, that is fertiliser, which is cheap and the quality of seed which is equally available and cheap. It is now going at half the price after the Government put it under the agricultural subsidy.

The other thing that has been brought out clearly is the messaging of the extension service and the registration of farmers. The articulate organisation of the delivery of these agricultural subsidies has enabled every Kenyan. If that is not equalisation, somebody should tell us what equalisation is. Every corner of this country receives fertiliser and seeds. God has also been magnanimous and generous to us. He has continuously given us rain for the last four years and that is why we have never had a problem apart from this year. If you reduce the cost of producing food, food becomes cheap. No wonder the two-kilogramme bag of maize meal, which was going for Ksh230 is now from Ksh150 to Ksh160. The more we produce for ourselves the better.

The State of the Nation Address captured that we have significantly reduced imports like maize. We are also reducing import of sugar. After we enacted the Sugar Bill in this House,

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which was assented to in 2024, that value chain or that sector has completely turned around. We discovered within our research system that we have 27 varieties of sugarcane. Some of them can mature in eight to 12 months. The variety that has been on the farm matures in 22 to 24 months. We will reduce the turnover period by half which means that we will be producing double the amount of sugar we have been producing in the past. If that does not touch the sugarcane farmer, somebody should tell me what would.

The Government has literally intervened in the coffee sub-sector. Farmers in the coffee sector were getting peanuts. They sometimes get Ksh60 per kilo or even nothing. Farmers in this country took it upon themselves to uproot coffee bushes. They took it upon themselves to substitute coffee with maize and beans. Today, we are telling farmers to plant coffee because it will be the next gold after tea and they are hearing us very well and taking it very kindly. Today, farmers are looking for coffee. I am a coffee farmer and I can proudly tell Kenyans that this year I got Ksh132 per kilo, which means it is possible to get it from every part of this country.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, healthcare forces families to sell their land and property to take care of the sick. If there is provision for healthcare, which is cheap and available across the entire country, how can we say that there is no equity or equality? SHA is working and there are many testimonies that can attest to the same.

Stabilisation of the shilling is another issue. I know our friends will dwell on the cost of living. Who does not know that the Kenyan Shilling is trading at Ksh129 and Ksh130 against the Dollar today? It has been happening for about one year.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Member for Chesumei, Hon. Paul Biego.

Hon. Paul Biego (Chesumei, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for this opportunity to contribute to the debate on the State of the Nation Address by the President. I rise today not merely to debate the speech but also to support the National Development Agenda and further, to demonstrate how its implementation is beginning to translate into meaningful development opportunities for the great people of Kenya, and especially the people of Chesumei who reside in Nandi County.

Apart from the many infrastructure programmes taking place across the country, including the Mau Summit-Rironi Road, which eventually stretches to Malaba, I would like to give practical examples from my constituency. I want to demonstrate what the President was saying and how it is being cascaded down to our constituencies. One of the significant roads, covering approximately 12 kilometres and valued at about Ksh700 million, is the Chepterit-Masaba-Belekenya Road, which I officially launched, and which is now being upgraded to bitumen standard.

For many years, that road and many other roads there have experienced difficulties. Our people have been having a lot of difficulties transporting agricultural produce, particularly during the rainy seasons. These roads that are constructed across the country are going to improve connectivity, reduce transportation challenges and, in so doing, strengthen economic potential.

Apart from that road, I would like to recognise many other roads that are being upgraded to bitumen standards across the country. I am also fortunate to have many roads being upgraded to bitumen in Chesumei. We have roads within Mosoriot Township that have been upgraded to bitumen standards, and that centre will soon become a town because there is so much going on there. We have the Chepterit roads and link roads, including Baraton. Most importantly, the road that had stalled, like the Danger-Chemoswa Road, which is very critical, has been advertised. Sooner or later, the contractor will be on site.

I must also commend the President for the many roads he mentioned, although some people think it is a lie. In my constituency, another road project, Kipsamoite, is underway. That is clear evidence. I have evidence that work is ongoing. My constituency is one of the 290,

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which is proof that work is underway; we just need to ignore the naysayers. What we need to do is urge the agencies and contractors to maintain quality standards so that our constituents can benefit.

I would also like to highlight and demonstrate the progress in affordable housing. In my constituency, the President launched over 1,000 affordable housing units. When I hear some of my colleagues fail to acknowledge that affordable housing is something that is going to take Kenya to the next level, I urge the President and Kenyans to ignore such sentiments. This housing initiative has the potential to improve access to decent housing, create employment and stimulate economic activities within Kenya and our constituencies.

In addition, we have the modern markets. We have one in Mosoriot, which has enabled traders to have a better trading environment, improved sanitation, supports small businesses and creates opportunities for our farmers.

I wish to commend the national Government for a road that was gazetted just the other day, namely the Ndalat-Sigot-Kapng'etich-Kona Road, which for a very long time, since 1963, had not been seen. We also have roads from Kapsisiywa to Kaiboi, which the President launched. The road network, which had been locked has now been unlocked.

On issues to do with agriculture, especially in my constituency, which is predominantly agricultural, our people depend on maize farming, dairy production, tea, horticulture and other agricultural activities. The President reported that the cost of a 50-kilogramme bag of fertiliser had reduced from Ksh7,500 to Ksh2,000. By so doing, national maize production has increased, and there has been a lot of improvement in the tea and dairy sectors because of subsidised fertiliser. These interventions have direct relevance to the households we represent. Even if people are trying to dismiss the President's speech, it speaks to the hearts of Kenyans, more so, to those I represent in Chesumei.

I, therefore, urge the Government to sustain the fertiliser subsidy, strengthen agricultural extension services, improve access to affordable credit and address the challenges of tea and milk pricing. Our farmers, like every other farmer, deserve a dignified income from their hard work.

On education, I welcome the President's announcement that the Government has employed over 100,000 teachers and it is still going to employ another 20,000. During the Uhuru Government, in 10 years, only 56,000 teachers were employed. Therefore, even if somebody wants to think that this Government is not working, let them prove otherwise.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Allow him a minute.

Hon. Paul Biego (Chesumei, UDA): Let me summarise.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: We still have two more statements.

Hon. Paul Biego (Chesumei, UDA): The greatest investment we can make for our children is in education, and I have taken a great step in ensuring that this happens. In Chesumei, I initiated a programme called Chesumei Elimu Bora Initiative (CEBI), under which each parent pays only Ksh1,500, making education affordable. We must ensure that children from all humble families especially from Kosirai, Kaptel, Chepterit and other parts of this country, get an opportunity to pursue higher education, just as I am doing in Chesumei.

On healthcare, SHA is working. The registration of 33.7 million Kenyans is testament to that. Electricity connectivity has increased significantly. I have about 50 schemes, covering over 50 villages, that are currently being connected to electricity, while others are waiting. There is a lot of tremendous improvement.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Exactly one minute, because we have a challenge. We have two statements that are yet to be made.

Hon. Paul Biego (Chesumei, UDA): Okay. On youth empowerment, the President spoke about the NYOTA Programme, digital employment, international labour mobility and the Hustler Fund, which are initiatives we need to applaud. I also emphasise on the importance

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of inclusive development which the President committed. This means ensuring that no community is left behind with his slogan of "*usawa ni sawa*". I commend that. As the representative of the great people of Chesumei, I can see tremendous change. I thank the President. It is our obligation to support his vision of a productive, inclusive and equitable Kenya.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members, this Motion will still continue for another two sittings. We shall continue at the next sitting. For now, let us go back to the next order. We have a statement by Hon. Kamene, Member for Machakos County.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

REQUESTS FOR STATEMENTS

LACK OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSE IN MWALA SUB-COUNTY

Hon. Joyce Kamene (Machakos County, WDM): Hon. Deputy 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 Social Protection regarding the lack of motor vehicles for child protection response in Mwala Sub-County, Machakos County.

The Mwala Sub-County Office for child protection services is mandated to safeguard the rights and welfare of children, including rescuing and protecting those subjected to sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and neglect. However, the area continues to grapple with rising cases of gender-based violence against adolescents and sexual violence against minors, with many cases remaining unreported. Discharging this mandate requires children's officers to travel across the sub-county to respond to reports, assess cases, rescue children from unsafe environments and facilitate access to medical care, psychosocial support, legal assistance and rescue centres.

The vast geographical coverage of the sub-county and the distances between communities and service centres necessitate the provision of a dedicated vehicle to facilitate these interventions. The lack of reliable transport hampers emergency responses, household visits, follow-ups and coordination with the police, health facilities and other relevant agencies. A dedicated vehicle would facilitate timely rescue and protection of vulnerable children and reduce their exposure to further harm.

It is against this background that I request for a statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Social Protection on the following:

1. The plans and timelines for provision of dedicated motor vehicle to the Mwala Sub-County Children's Office to facilitate emergency responses, rescue operations, household visits and follow-ups.
2. The interim transport arrangements to facilitate timely intervention in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, child abuse and neglect pending the provision of a motor vehicle.
3. The measures being taken to address gender-based violence against adolescents and sexual violence against minors in Mwala Sub-County, including facilitating the reporting of cases and coordination with the police, health facilities and other relevant agencies.

Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Naomi Waqo, could you give an undertaking on behalf of the Committee?

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Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Yes, Hon. Deputy Speaker. We will make sure that the Member gets a response within two weeks.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Member for Wajir West Constituency, Hon. Yussuf Farah, give the final statement.

REGISTRATION OF COMMUNITY LAND IN WAJIR WEST CONSTITUENCY

Hon. Yussuf Farah (Wajir West, ODM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(C), I rise to request a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Lands, regarding the proposed survey, demarcation and registration of community land in Wajir West Constituency.

On 5th June 2026, the State Department for Lands and Physical Planning issued a notice of intention to survey, demarcate and register community land within Wajir South Constituency. However, the notice did not specify the wards, locations, villages or geographical boundaries to be covered by the proposed exercise. This has raised concerns that the exercise could extend into community land in Wajir West Constituency, potentially prejudicing the rights and interests of the affected communities. There is, therefore, need to clarify the scope of the exercise and the safeguards for neighbouring community land.

It is against this background that I request a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Lands on the following:

1. A report on the specific geographical areas, wards, locations and villages in Wajir South Constituency earmarked for the proposed survey, demarcation and registration of the community land.
2. Measures put in place to ensure that the proposed exercise does not encroach upon community land belonging to Wajir West Constituency.
3. A report on the consultations undertaken with the County Government of Wajir and affected communities in Wajir West Constituency.
4. Mechanisms put in place to resolve objections, competing claims and boundary disputes before the survey, demarcation and registration exercise is concluded.

Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Waqo, do you want to give an undertaking on behalf of the Departmental Committee on Lands?

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I will give an undertaking on behalf of the Committee. The Member will receive a response within two weeks.

Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, we have concluded the business for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The time being 8.24 p.m., this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 24th November 2026, at 2.30 p.m.

(The House rose at 8.24 p.m.)

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