

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF VIHIGA



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER, ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND
CLIMATE CHANGE
OFFICE OF CECM

Telegram CECM

When replying please quote

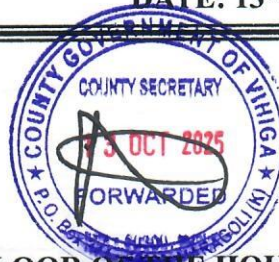
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P.O BOX 344-50300

MARAGOLI

DATE: 13th Oct, 2025

To: The Clerk of the County Assembly
Vihiga County



Through: County Secretary and Head of Public Service

RE: RESPONSE TO STATEMENT SOUGHT ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE

Reference is made to your letter Ref. VCA/ADM/LEG/ENV/24/9/9VOL.II/50 dated 2nd October 2025 in which a statement was sought in the floor the house.

Attached please find the response.

Thank you.

Dr. Jairus Amayi



CECM - Environment, Water, Energy, Natural Resources and Climate Change



RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT SOUGHT ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE

BACKGROUND

The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution mandates counties to implement specific national laws on natural resources (minerals included) and environmental conservation. The Mining Act 2016, provides that all minerals are owned by the national government in trust of the people including licensing and permitting (Art. 12(3)). However, the County Government is required to advance community best interest and ensure responsible activity within the sector. Specifically, Article 94 (1) provides for establishment of Artisanal Mining Committee in each County whose chair shall be the representative of the Governor (Art.94 (2)) and functions shall include advising the representative of the Director of mines in the granting, renewal and revocation of artisanal mining permit (Art. 94(3)).

Therefore, the Department wishes to respond to the statement sought on the floor of the house as outlined hereunder.

RESPONSES

QUESTION 1: Has the County Government of Vihiga established necessary legal framework guiding the mining activities in Vihiga County, if not which measures have been put in place as checks and balance on mining?

RESPONSE 1: The County has developed Sand Harvesting and Quarrying Policy as a necessary legal framework to guide utilization of low value minerals. The utilization of the high value minerals such as Gold is not being a devolved function, and is guided by the National Mining Act of 2016. The Artisanal Mining Committee was constituted and it is operational as provided in the Mining Act, 2016. The county has further established and operationalized a County Mining Services Desk.

QUESTION 2: What has the County Government of Vihiga done to ensure that the communities around mining areas are benefitting from the diverse available resources?

RESPONSE 2: The County Government of Vihiga has done the following:

- a) Collaborated with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the State Department of Environment and Climate Change (SDE&CC) to establish the Chambiti Mercury Free Gold processing demonstration/training centre for Artisanal and small scale miners. The project, which is located at Chambiti area, is at advanced stages of the infrastructure development.
- b) Supported and promoted the establishment and growth of mining sector-based Cooperatives and Associations through holding Artisanal Mining Stakeholders Consultative meeting.
- c) Conducted routine assessments of mining activities to offer technical assistance on safety.
- d) Established contact with the Department of Commerce, Tourism and Cooperatives with the aim of expanding their scope of capacity building to incorporate mining cooperatives.

QUESTION 3: How is the County Government effectively harnessing revenue from investors?

RESPONSE 3: In the Financial year 2023/2024 the Department activated cess for Gold, Sand, Murram and other quarry products as tabulated below.

S/N	Natural Resources Mining	Unit of Measure	Charges (Ksh.)
1.	Exploration fees for Natural resources	Per Annum	50,000.00
2.	Small mining or Natural resources extraction operation with up to 10 employees	Per Annum	12,500.00
3.	Medium mining or Natural resources extraction operation with between 11 and 50 employees.	Per Annum	30,000.00
4.	Large mining or Natural resources extraction operation with over 50 employees-Large scale mining firms	Per Annum	200,000.00
5.	Business permit for Mining and Transporting of sand, ballast, marram and hard core for major construction firms	Per Year	20,000.00
6.	Mining and Transporting of sand, ballast, marram and hard core up to 7 tons for small Transporters	Per trip	200
7.	Extraction of murram by big companies	Per m3	30
8.	Mining and Transporting of sand, ballast, marram and hard core greater than 7tons or equal to 10 tons	Per trip	300
9.	Mining and Transporting of sand, ballast, marram and hard core greater than 10 tons	Per trip	400
10.	Operating Mining Shafts per shaft	Per Annum	10,000
11.	Leaching Plant operation	Per Annum	50,000
12.	Gold Mining-Crushing	Per Annum	6,000
13.	Gold Mining-Crushing	Per Month	500
14.	Gold Mining-Buying Centre Per kiosk	Per Annum	5,000
15.	Gold Mining-Plating	Per Annum	25,000
16.	Gold Mining-Transport of Unrefined material containing Gold	Per Tipper above 10T	10,000

As a result of inclusion in the Finance Bill, 2024, the mining sector became a key Departmental revenue stream contributing to the general improvement in own-source revenue for the County. The revenue collected from gold and sand/murram cess amounted 2,500,000 and 3,600,000, respectively.