

10:19:14 From ACCESS Coalition to Joe Ageyo(Privately) : John Kioli and Maimuna Kabatesi from Hivos would like to make remarks at some point

10:22:23 From Joe Ageyo to ACCESS Coalition(Privately) : Sorry about that mix-up

10:22:57 From ACCESS Coalition to Joe Ageyo(Privately) : No worries. Thanks!

10:35:38 From Joe Ageyo to ACCESS Coalition(Privately) : Do we know how many MPs (which) are here?

10:37:11 From Mariam : Feel free to write your questions here

10:39:20 From 991. : Thank you Mariam,

10:42:00 From ACCESS Coalition to Joe Ageyo(Privately) : Let me ask John

10:42:05 From ACCESS Coalition to Joe Ageyo(Privately) : Not sure

10:49:44 From 991. : My first question is during the CCA Forum 2019, the MoE announced that Kenya has its target to achieve clean cooking in 2028 which is 2 years before the global target. How is Kenya going to achieve this if all the benefits already gained are being eroded.

10:53:58 From ACCESS Coalition to Joe Ageyo(Privately) : John is also not sure, some had joined and left. he says maybe you can ask if any are on the call.

10:58:55 From 991. : My second question, awareness is a big barrier to change of behavior in clean cooking adoption. One thing that has come out very clearly during COVID 19, is that people can embrace change if the government enforces policy and guidelines they put in place. Indoor air pollution is killing women and children mainly especially in rural areas, how can the government assist in changing behavior of cooking in households, to protect lives during the COVID 19 pandemic and mitigate on GBV which is on increase. CCAK member & clean energy entrepreneur

10:59:46 From naftal : What are the exact or approx figures on employment does Renewable energy sector contribute to the economy?

11:00:07 From naftal : Another: What is the GDP contribution of Renewable to the economy?

11:02:50 From Daniel Wanjohi : Today over 21,000 people are dying as a result of indoor air pollution related complication and this means that by introducing VAT will make these people go back to the traditional cooking practices – this is bound to compound the impact on the poor especially during this time of COVID

11:03:53 From paul kanja : There is also a challenge that with the signing of the Bill, there will be high influx of sub-standard and counterfeit energy products flooding the market with their perceived low costs but ultimately unsustainable and impacting financial models of off-grid energy solutions.

11:05:07 From Sirayo : Apart from the tax issue, from the experience of the experts in the field, what other limiting factors for the uptake of the clean energy solutions that need to be worked on?

11:05:39 From Tonny Sudi : What happened with the Gas Yetu government project on subsidized LPG Cylinder distribution by the government and how can the private sector work with the government to achieve national distribution and penetration of cooking gas?

11:06:28 From Daniel Wanjohi : As a result of the past conducive policy environment, (3-4 yrs) we had seen an accelerated investment and innovations but what do you think the introduction of VAT will have on solar and cooking solutions will have on this front?

11:07:16 From rwaruiru : A question for the MPs present: The Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 of 30 March 2020 had proposed to delete these exemptions but parliament voted to retain them. Under the Parliamentary Standing Order No. 49, can parliament debate the same proposals (to delete the VAT exemptions) barely 1 month after the Tax Laws Amendment Act was passed?

Thanks

11:07:17 From Isaac Mwathi : My question is to Kithinji of the Ministry, What is the Ministry doing to ensure the VAT taxes are not introduced cause it directly affects the sector?

11:07:23 From Rachel Mwangangi : The government closed down the schools, hotels and other entertainment joints to curb Covid 19, this means all the cooking has to be done at home. again with the children at home cooking has to be more than three times and water heating. This means also that there is congestion especially in homes especially in the informal settlements.

11:07:34 From Justus : The number of productive jobs stimulated through improved electricity access in 2017-2018 were estimated at 65,000 in Kenya (power for all, February, 2020)

11:07:38 From 991. : Lastly, in his last address to the country the President stated his desire to build the economy, in a bottom-up approach , buy Kenya build Kenya. Is it possible to have the face of Local Kenyan energypreneuers in such panels because this is one way of bring out our local issues in VAT implications on our local businesses and local purchase.

11:08:08 From Rachel Mwangangi : my question is what measures are being taken by the government to mitigate this challenge

11:08:17 From Collins Owuor : studies in the clean cookstove industry indicate that cost of technology is the predominant influence to choice notwithstanding the composite factors households grapple with to have a choice. It is important ministry of energy makes a case of the quantitative benefits of RE to the economy vs ripple effects in event the VAT Act is implemented.

11:10:17 From naftal : Am struggling to understand the actual or appx emmissions due to use of dirty fuelwood (charcoal and firewood) and Kerosine .Per year .Those figures can then help understand the EXACT impact the rollback will have on emmissions and towards meeting the NDC targets

11:10:19 From Zacchariah Ross : The panel of this forum seem to be clearly aligned on the damaging impact of 14% VAT on clean cooking and solar PV distribution and how this will disrupt GoK's SE4ALL and SC4ALL targets.

My questions are a little bit more on the practicalities of keeping products and fuels 0 rated then:

What current lobbying efforts are being put in place to ensure paragraph 35 and 45 remain in place from the various sector players? What is Dan Kithinji's personal opinion on whether the removal of these two paragraphs will actually go through and what efforts are

being made by the Ministry of Energy?

11:10:56 From Sharon Kinyua : as per health issues also this Covid 19 is affecting mostly people with asymptomatic diseases thus if VAT is put into place, we are back to traditional cooking ways, health issues arise and thus COVID 19 cases will arise since we don't know even when this Covid 19 pandemic will end.

11:12:52 From Elizabeth Muchiri : When standards are clear and the quality of imported products compare, then taxes can be useful in encouraging early stage growth of local industries. For instance, taxes on imported LPG cylinders has encouraged local production, which has enabled several start up companies to start local production and create jobs in the sector

11:15:03 From Daniel Wanjohi : The government committed to meet the universal access to clean cooking solutions by 2028, what measures is the government doing to ensure it happen coz reintroduction of VAT seem to be counterproductive of this commitment?

11:16:26 From Gathogo : Comment: It would have been super helpful if the National Treasury was also invited to this call and share their perspectives as to what informed the reintroduction of VAT on clean cooking and solar products. Clearly the RE sector needs more fiscal incentives to spur local manufacturing inline with the Big 4 agenda and specifically local manufacturing.

11:16:39 From Irene Mwaura : What is the Ministry of Energy doing to ensure that the Bill is not passed as it is? What is the likelihood of other energy sub-sectors (LPG, Biogas, wind, etc) and ongoing programs such as KOSAP being indirectly affected?

11:17:50 From Elizabeth Muchiri : From the Bill, LPG remains VAT zero-rated

11:19:24 From Zacchariah Ross : As an annex to my previous question: what can we – as individuals and those listening in elsewhere – do to keep solar and clean cooking products VAT 0 rated?

11:20:16 From Daniel Wanjohi : What does increased VAT means to project like KOSAP that is targeting the FRONTIER COUNTIES where disposable income is a challenge?

11:21:28 From Kipngeno Hillary : The conversation we should be having. Getting a lot of insight here

11:25:22 From Esther Wanza : As it is adoption of clean cooking products is a challenge. Many go for the firewood and the 3-stone method due to their availability and affordability. Most homes own the Kenya Ceramic Jiko because its the only affordable stove besides the 3-stone tier. Introducing VAT on these products will take us back to the drawing board.

11:25:36 From Daniel Wanjohi : Cookstoves is one of the key sector to help Kenya meets its emissions reduction target to the tune of 6 million of carbon equivalent contribute

11:27:40 From Justus : I would wish to share my comments on the subject on discussion, which email can use to submit the same?

11:28:03 From Liz Mutura : what can the RE experts/ General public Do to prevent clean cooking and solar products from Being Taxed?

11:28:32 From Max : Taxation is how governments raise money to fund development and social projects. The government should invest in this sector, at the moment it is mainly driven by private sector with huge support from development agencies and NGOs...by

introducing VAT , the government is failing in creating an enabling environment for the cookstove sector to thrive

11:28:46 From Elizabeth Muchiri : LPG cylinders are VAT-able and yet the complete assembled LPG kit of a 6kg cylinder withh gas, burner and grill are still more affordable than the improved cookstoves without fuel. Cookstove manufacturers need to address some more fundamental issues with the technology or pricing

11:29:39 From Sharon Kinyua : i believe the private sector really supports the government to achieve their projects esp to the marginalised areas thus the government especially the Parliamentarians should ensure that they dont take up this VAT on the products since even their areas will be affected.

11:30:48 From Daniel : Thanks all, in addition to the benefits of clean cooking energy which seems to have most participants here, please remember also the benefits of green energy(Solar Lights), use of traditional kerosene causes more respiratory problems to quite a number of our population in the rural areas. in addition to this modern Solar home systems come with accessories like TV that are of great help in learning to our children and other accessories like mobile phone chargers to keep all population connected.

11:33:48 From Justus : The VAT introduction in the sector will affect the NDCs targets as well as the NCCAP.

11:35:03 From Collins Owuor : Generally the fluid nature of our policies are seemingly what reverses gains and slows down momentum of clean energy access. It is paramount that MPs ammend the bill as the VAT will increase costs which is the predominant factor that influence choice. Secondly, what stage is the government roll out of subsidized LPG in informal settlements?

11:36:18 From Justus : The same will slow down the efforts towards 10% forest cover

11:37:04 From Wilkista Akinyi : I think the finance bill 2020 is a document that is self-conflicting to an extent. Because while it deletes paragraphs touching on importation and manufacture of solar and clean cooking products. It still retains paragraphs that exempt the raw materials imported/locally sourced towards manufacture of the said products. In a nutshell, there is motive to promote local production but not comprehensive thinking on overall gains/universal targets.

11:41:13 From Janet's iPhone : audio ?

11:42:20 From Kipngeno Hillary to ACCESS Coalition(Privately) : Can I be able to get the audio record of this conversation..

11:48:45 From ACCESS Coalition to Joe Ageyo(Privately) : Gupta left. Thank so much for everything. We are forever indebted.

11:50:04 From ACCESS Coalition to Joe Ageyo(Privately) : Gupta left. Thanks so much for everything. We are forever indebted

11:53:25 From Rachel Mwangangi : thanks team. stay safe

11:53:40 From Mariam : Thank you all

11:53:52 From Irene Mwaura : Thank you.

11:54:01 From Inutu Katoti : Thank you, very insightful

11:54:05 From Justus : thanks