

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 22nd October, 2003

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPERS LAID

The following Papers were laid on the Table:-

Annual Report and Accounts of Electricity Regulatory Board for the year ended 30th June, 2001, and the certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

(By the Minister for Energy)

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Forestry Research Institute for the year ended 30th June, 2000, and the certificate thereon by the Controller and Auditor-General.

*(By the Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development, on behalf of the
Minister for Environment,
Natural Resources and Wildlife)*

The Report of the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade on the Presidential Retirement Benefits Bill, 2002.

The Report of the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade on the Retirement Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

*(By the Chairman of the Departmental
Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade
Mr. Shitanda)*

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

BILL TO MAKE CATTLE RUSTLING
A NON-BAILABLE OFFENCE

Dr. Khalwale: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-

THAT, considering that cattle rustling is a major cause of insecurity in this country, which quite often results in loss of property and sometimes loss of life, and taking into account that culprits, when arrested, often walk to freedom as a result of the right to

bail and life custodial sentences; this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill for an Act of Parliament to amend the relevant sections of the Penal Code, Cap.63 of the Laws of Kenya, in order to provide for cattle rustling as a non-bailable offence punishable by life imprisonment.

REVIEW OF LAND TENURE SYSTEM

Dr. Awiti: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-

THAT, in view of the fact that many Kenyans lack land, aware that there is a wide disparity that exists in land ownership in this country, and conscious that land is the resource-based commodity which is an important factor for agricultural, industrial and commercial development of our country; this House urges the Government to review the land policy in order to establish a new land tenure system, to fix a ceiling on the amount of land that an individual can own, depending on the type of use and where the land is located.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Muite was supposed to be here to give notice of a certain Motion! Is he here? He is not there!

Next Order!

Once again, we shall start with the only Question by Private Notice.

QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO IGUNGA RESIDENTS

Mr. Akaranga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Energy the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that on 8th June, 1992, 28 people paid Kshs20,000 each to Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), Kisumu, for the supply of electricity in Igunga Village, Sabatia Constituency?

(b) Is he further aware that KPLC supplied power to 16 of the 28 people?

(c) Could the Minister inform the House when the remaining 12 people will be supplied with electricity?

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that 28 people paid Kshs20,000 each to KPLC, Kisumu, for the supply of electricity in Igunga Village in Sabatia.

(b) I am aware that, in 1994, KPLC supplied power to 21 applicants under the scheme that supplied Igunga Girls Secondary School and the environs. The estimated cost of the scheme was Kshs1,494,208 and was fully funded by the Government. The customers were only quoted for token contributions and meter deposits. Those applicants who had not paid their token contributions were not connected.

(c) Customers wishing to have power connected to their premises can apply to the KPLC for a quotation. After receiving a quotation and making the necessary payments, KPLC will then facilitate connection.

Mr. Akaranga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard what the Minister has said, but I do not see any seriousness in his response. That is because I have copies of the receipts of the people who paid their deposits in 1992 and, up to now, they have not been connected with power. For example, in the house of a Mr. Kanji, a supply post was fixed and then removed after two days. Why can the Minister not tell us the truth because it is not proper to tell lies in this House?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Akaranga! Will you withdraw the word "lies"?

Mr. Akaranga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to withdraw the word "lies", but I would like the Minister to tell us what happened to the supply of electricity to those who had paid for it.

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Mr. speaker, Sir, the truth of the matter is that the Government was quite generous to the people of Igunga. There were seven applicants who were asked to pay amounts ranging from Kshs2,000 to Kshs10,000! The highest was Kshs50,000. But those applicants have not paid to date and, therefore, they cannot be connected. But as soon as they pay those amounts, or there is evidence to show that they paid, connection will be facilitated.

Mr. Shitanda: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the Minister's answer, it appears that Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) applies discrimination in the distribution of power as far as the charges are concerned.

Could the Minister tell us why people in this particular village were supplied with power without any payment and yet the same is not done to other places?

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no discrimination by KPLC in supplying power. The project, Igunga Secondary School, was prioritised by the District Development Committee (DDC) at that particular time and the individuals who benefitted from the project did so under maximisation of provision of electricity. So, it was not that it was intended for individuals. It was intended for the school and the school benefitted.

Mr. Akaranga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a letter, Ref. No.7040304/268916 KAK/HMO/PAM, from the Engineer, Kisumu, KPLC had actually promised that they were going to supply electricity to these people after the payment of Kshs20,000.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, these people paid the Kshs20,000 to KPLC and there was discrimination in the supply of electricity. The discrimination came in because KANU supporters who were singing: "*KANU Baba, KANU Mama*" were supplied with power, but those who were in the then Opposition were not supplied with power. Could the Minister tell us why this was so?

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information I have is at variance with the information the hon. Member is giving. This project was intended to benefit the school and 27 people and 21 of them paid as requested. There is no evidence that seven of them paid.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member has evidence that the seven remaining people paid the paltry amount that was requested, we would be very glad to supply them with electricity as soon as there is that evidence.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.534

POLICE STATION FOR GATUNDU NORTH CONSTITUENCY

Mr. Muiruri asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) whether he is aware that there is no police station in Gatundu North; and,
- (b) if he could consider elevating Kanjeria Police Post to a police station.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Tarus): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that Gatundu North Constituency has no police station. The constituency is currently being served by Gatundu Police Station which is in Gatundu South Constituency. However, Gatundu North Constituency has one police post and three police patrol bases.

(b) I am aware that Kanjeria Police Post warrants elevation to a police station status. That decision is, however, subject to availability of funds.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what the Assistant Minister is telling the House is purely a

promise that Kanjeria Police Post should be elevated to the status of a police station. This patrol base was established way back in 1952 by colonialists. The population has increased and so has the crime rate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Muiruri! Mr. Muiruri, we are asking questions. I heard Mr. Tarus say that they are considering elevating Kanjeria Police Post to a police station. So, that is the line you should follow.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is the line I am following. Could the Assistant Minister consider getting funds for the elevation of this police post into a police station? Secondly, if at all he gets these funds, could the elevation of this police post into a fully fledged police station be budgeted for in the next financial year?

Mr. Tarus: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we shall give it due consideration.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the meantime, there are a lot of crimes being committed; ranging from murders, robberies and so forth. This police post is manned by a corporal and five police constables.

Could the Assistant Minister be kind enough, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that there are efficient patrols in order to combat crime in the area by supplying these officers with a Land Rover in view of the high crime rates in the area?

Mr. Tarus: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know we have plans to provide the necessary support to both police stations and police posts. I know that the vehicles that were acquired were not enough. However, we are planning to acquire additional vehicles and this particular area will be given due consideration.

Mr. Kombe: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister consider putting up police stations in every constituency, if not every division, because security is not anything to be compromised?

Mr. Tarus: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think one other fact that has to be known is that it is not enough to have police posts or police stations in every constituency, because their efficiency and performance is also very vital.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question by Mr. Omingo!

Question No.578

VIOLATION OF PATIENTS' HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Omingo not here? We will leave his Question until the end. Let us move on to the next Question by Mr. Kaindi.

Question No.684

DISMISSAL OF MR. MAKAU FROM
PRISONS SERVICE

Mr. Kaindi asked the Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs:-

(a) whether he could explain to the House under what circumstances was Warder Bernard Mambo Makau, PF No. 26348/94044834, dismissed from the Prisons Service with effect from 12th May, 2003; and,

(b) whether he could consider reinstating him to service.

The Minister of State, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs (Mrs. Kilimo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Warder Bernard Mambo Makau, PF No. 26348/94044834, was dismissed from the Prisons Service with effect from 17th March, 2003 on disciplinary grounds. On eight occasions he was

charged with various offences ranging from absenteeism, wilful destruction of Government property and being under the influence of alcohol while on duty. He was convicted as per the forces' standing orders. In the course of his service, he was interdicted twice.

(b) Having been dismissed because of his poor record of service, the department cannot consider his reinstatement as that would not serve the best interests of the Prisons Service.

Mr. Kaindi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the young man is a born-again Christian and, therefore, he is not a drunk.

(Laughter)

However, what has been presented by the Minister are allegations. Could she order further investigations into this matter because information that we have is that there were very major differences between the officer and his immediate boss?

Mrs. Kilimo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we implicate the officer, the eight occasions when he was found not fit to serve in the Prisons Department are on record. These are as follows: On 1st October, 1997, he neglected duty contrary to Section 124 of the Prisons Act.

On 22nd January, 1998, he was absent from duty without a good cause. On 19th March, 1998, he committed an act of prejudice of good order to the Prisons Department contrary to Section 124 again. On 30th November, 1998, he committed an act of wilful destruction of Government property. In fact, on that day he is guilty of two offences. He was under the influence of alcohol apart from destroying property.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 16th August---

Hon. Members: *Tosha!*

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! Mr. Kaindi, do you really think it is in the interest of this person that we continue with this Question?

(Laughter)

Mr. Kaindi: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This is because according to the documents I have, first and foremost, his immediate boss says the officer was on probationary terms, but I have a letter which confirms that the officer, even after being dismissed, tried to seek some benefits. I have a letter which shows that he was confirmed. The dismissal letter insists that he was on probationary terms.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Kaindi! That is precisely the point.

Mr. Kaindi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think we should pursue the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Kaindi! Sorry, but the young man mentioned is not here and what the Minister is reading out is quite damaging for the young person. He probably would reform if that should be the position. I do not think we need to expose him to the whole country.

Mr. Kaindi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no quarrel with your ruling. Could the Minister, therefore, agree to avail herself so that we can discuss the matter.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order, Members! I have never stopped Members from discussing with Ministers. All I was worried about here, is the exposure of this young person about all these things which I do not think are in his interest. Quite frankly, I do not want this to continue. So, can we leave it at that?

(Applause)

Question No.723

BRANDING/PROCESSING OF KENYAN COFFEE

Mr. Kamotho asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he is aware that small-scale coffee farmers are obliged to sell their produce below production costs while international companies such as Nestle, Kraft, Sara Lee and Proctor & Gamble, which purchase over half of the world's production, are making billions of dollars from brand coffee sales; and,

(b) what immediate and long-term plans the Minister has put in place under the brand names to process the coffee and market it for the benefit of the small-scale Kenyan coffee farmers.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Khaniri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that small scale coffee farmers are selling their coffee produce below production costs while multinational companies such as Nestle, Kraft, Sara Lee and Proctor & Gamble who purchase over half of the world's coffee production, are making billions of dollars in profit from branded coffee sales.

Currently, there is an over-supply of coffee in the world market such that demand is lower than supply. This, therefore, means that the above companies are able to buy their coffee from producing countries at low prices.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, currently, the prices are below production cost and coffee producers, all over the world, are suffering as a result of low income from coffee.

(b) The value addition is a private sector domain and the Government through the Coffee Board of Kenya, is encouraging the licensing of more coffee roasters and packers who are expected to create various brand names for Kenyan coffee and export it to the world market.

However, the cartels that sell blended coffees in the world market and developed countries, where most of the coffee is consumed, have put very high tariffs, sometimes up to 500 per cent and also non-tariff barriers which make it difficult for developing countries to enter the value-added coffee market.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an issue that needs to be discussed by the developing countries in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations so that the high tariffs and non-tariff barriers are removed.

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly, I would like to thank the Assistant Minister for the answer. But I would like him to clarify whether the current situation of the coffee supply in the world market is actually caused by coffee production in Kenya. Coffee production in the country has fallen over the years; from 140,000 tonnes to only 40,000 tonnes. So, even if the prices in the world market were to go up once again, the country would not be able to take any advantage of better prices of coffee.

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, definitely it is not the production in Kenya that is causing the situation that is prevailing now. If the hon. Member was here this morning, there was a Motion on coffee and I tabulated some of the causes of the low production.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister says that we cannot value-add our processed coffee because of the escalating tariffs in our traditional markets. Could he consider exploring and promoting new markets especially in the East, for example, Russia, China and Japan? We should add value to our coffee and export it directly to those countries through Germany or England.

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, my Ministry will consider that, but I just want to inform the hon. Member that the countries he has named are not very good consumers of coffee. Nevertheless, we will look into that.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister confirm or deny that the problem facing the coffee industry is not about marketing, but purely the position that we do not have any coffee at all? What plans is the Ministry going to put in place to ensure that Kenya goes back to the production of coffee before we discuss the marketing issues?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to deny the claim that we do not have coffee at all. I know the position is that some farmers have been uprooting their coffee because of the low prices they fetch on the international market.

I am very sure that if the prices improve, then, farmers will revert to coffee farming just as it were.

Mr. Kagwe: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware that under the WTO current round of negotiations, nations are supposed to register their own brands under geographical indicators so that brands can be owned by countries rather than nations? Is he further aware that if we do not do that the Kenya brand coffee will eventually be held by multinational corporations and it will be alien to Kenyans themselves?

(Applause)

Mr. Khaniri: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am aware, but it is unfortunate that we do not have these branded names in Kenya and we export our coffee green.

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister consider giving coffee farmers, particularly the small-scale coffee farmers, free inputs so that the production of coffee can go back to where it used to be and we have something to market in the world coffee market?

Mr. Khaniri: My answer, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is in the affirmative.

Mr. Speaker: Let us have the next Question by Mr. Syongoh.

Question No.412

ACCESS ROADS FOR LAKE VICTORIA
FISH LANDING BEACHES

Mr. Syongoh asked the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Housing what plans he has of building all-weather access roads to various fish landing beaches along Lake Victoria.

The Minister for Water Resources Management and Development (Ms. Karua): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to answer the Question on behalf of the Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Housing. The Ministry intends to upgrade to bitumen standard and rehabilitation of Lake Victoria ring roads. The road development projects are at various stages of implementation, ranging from early planning stage to tender evaluation. I wish to add that the districts around the Lake region are among those that are covered under the Roads Network 2000 Maintenance Programme for the Lake shore roads. The programme is geared to start in early 2004.

Mr. Syongoh: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to express my gratitude for the very comprehensive and positive reply. Could the Minister tell the House when those roads that are outside the Roads Network 2000 Maintenance Programme are likely to be constructed?

Ms. Karua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has a comprehensive programme of rehabilitating all roads, and planning is underway. I would like to invite the hon. Member to liaise with

the Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Housing to ensure timely implementation of the programme.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, let us have the next Question by Mr. Wario.

Question No.539

FREE EDUCATION FUNDS FOR MARAMTU
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. Wario asked the Minister for Education, Science and Technology who received the Kshs28,000 sent to Maramtu Primary School for the implementation of free and compulsory primary education.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The head teacher of Maramtu Primary School received cheque No.000166 for Kshs28,871.00 on 19th February, 2003, on behalf of the school.

I would also like to confirm that since then some more money has been sent to the school. In April, we disbursed Kshs116,291 to Account I and Kshs28,490 to Account II. Recently, Kshs88,128 was disbursed to Account I and next week, the school should be receiving Kshs12,672 through Account II.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Wario: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while appreciating the Assistant Minister's answer, may I ask what checks and balance mechanisms the Ministry has put in place to monitor how this money is being spent?

Dr. Mwiria: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first measure that was taken was to train the headteachers on the management of school funds. Secondly, there is a Monitoring Unit from the Ministry.

There are people who are going round to check the extent to which the money is being used for the purposes which it was meant. But we also encourage the Parents and Teachers' Associations (PTAs) and school committees to be involved in checking how the money is being used. In fact, headteachers are encouraged to list on a board how they have spent the money that they have received.

Mr. Twaha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently in Lamu, one of the primary schools was closed down because the roof and toilets were in very bad shape. The health officer had to shut it down. We approached the District Education Officer (DEO) for funds to repair the school, but he dragged his feet and never brought forth the money needed. Eventually, some councillors, parents and myself came together and we repaired the school. Do we really have free and compulsory primary education under the NARC Government or not?

(Laughter)

Dr. Mwiria: Well, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is aware and I am sure he agrees with us that we have free and compulsory primary education under the NARC Government. But he should remember that we have always emphasized that this is a partnership with communities, and there are certain things that the community has got to do. We will make sure that pupils have adequate teaching and learning materials.

Mr. Khalwale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fund for free and compulsory primary education was divided into Account I and Account II. Some schools in this country have the missed money for Account II, especially in Kakamega District. Could the Assistant Minister tell us why this is so?

Dr. Mwiria: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we realize this is a problem being experienced countrywide. It

is because headteachers give us different accounts. We are trying to rectify this problem through the DEOs' offices and the schools to ensure that the accounts they give us are the correct ones as per the records in the banks. This is a problem, especially with the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB). But we are trying to rectify that as a Ministry.

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of these primary school headmasters have already started messing with the funds sent to them. Considering the fact that the PTAs that the Assistant Minister is talking about are not in a position to audit the accounts of these schools, and the auditors sent from the headquarters here are not adequate to reach all the corners of this country, could the Ministry consider using the auditors based at the district treasuries to be monitoring what is happening to the funds sent to the primary schools?

Dr. Mwiria: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a very good suggestion and we shall consider it.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, let us have the last question from Mr. Wario.

Mr. Wario: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. For the sake of transparency, could the Assistant Minister consider training the PTA members of each and every school in this country?

Dr. Mwiria: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact, the training that took place initially involved a representation of the members of the PTAs. But I agree that it would be a good idea to train more of them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Let us have Mr. Samoei's Question.

Question No.332

REPOSSESSION OF TURBO
HEALTH CENTRE LAND

Mr. Samoei asked the Minister for Health:-

(a) whether he is aware that the land earmarked for the expansion of Turbo Health Centre has been allocated to private developers; and,

(b) what plans he has to repossess the land and upgrade the health centre.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Konchella): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Turbo Health Centre is on a non-surveyed plot estimated to be two acres. I am not aware that this plot has been allocated to a private developer.

(b) My Ministry has requested the Commissioner of Lands to confirm the ownership of the plot on which the health centre is located. At the same time, the Ministry will allocate additional drugs and equipment to enable the Turbo Health Centre to function as a full health centre.

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has deliberately decided to refuse to answer my Question. There was a request by the community for 20 acres of land to be allocated to the health centre. On top of the two acres on which Turbo Health Centre currently stands, 20 acres were allocated to it by the Ministry of Lands and Settlement, and we have the letter of allotment to that effect. That is the land which seems to have disappeared. The documents at the Records Office in Eldoret are missing. That is the Question I was asking the Assistant Minister to answer.

Turbo Health Centre is actually due for upgrading to a Sub-District Hospital. Without this facility of land, it would be very difficult to upgrade that health centre. So, I am asking the Assistant Minister to tell the House what happened to this piece of land which had been requested by the community and, indeed, given to them.

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are aware of the request by the local community leaders

for land to expand the local health facility as proposed to the District Development Committee (DDC). But the land that was recommended is a forest land located in Lugari Constituency of Western Province, and not in Rift Valley Province.

As to whether this land has been allocated, it is a matter we are requesting the Ministry of Lands and Settlement to address, because it is not part of the land that the hon. Member wishes to have as it is located in a different province.

Mr. Bahari: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to tell the House that he is still consulting with the Ministry of Lands and Settlement, when it is less than 100 metres away from his office, and considering that this is a very important matter which has been brought to the House?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Bahari, that is contrary to which Standing Order?

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this must be on efficiency!

Mr. Sambu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My point of order does not refer to any specific Standing Order. The people of Kenya sent us here to ask questions on their behalf, but the Ministers are tackling these questions with a lot of laxity. You are also asking us to state under which Standing Order we are raising some of the issues in this House. Kenyans do not understand that kind of language!

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sambu, what are you saying?

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is time you realized that the people of Kenya take Questions more seriously than any other business that is conducted here!

Mr. Speaker: What are you saying?

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said what I have said!

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Sambu, you are being rude to the Chair and the House. I consider that disorderly and you must now leave for the balance of the day.

(Mr. Sambu withdrew from the Chamber)

(Applause)

Order! Hon. Members, I do not expect to see that kind of behaviour from Mr. Sambu again, or any other hon. Member behaving that way, before this House. We expect this House to be treated with respect and dignity by all. Next time Mr. Sambu behaves that way, I will call upon his naming, or any other hon. Member, for that matter!

Proceed, Mr. Samoei!

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have heard correctly that the Assistant Minister, indeed, has confirmed that there was a request and there was a grant. The only problem the Assistant Minister seems to have is that the land in question is in Lugari Constituency in Western Province. This facility does not belong to Rift Valley Province. This facility is used by the people of Lugari and the people of my constituency. I would like to know what the problem is. Is it because part of that land is in Western Province?

Mr. Speaker: That is quite right! I think the concern by Mr. Samoei is genuine. A dispensary and a forest, obviously, belong to the Government. The Government does not reside in any particular province. It resides in the whole of Kenya. Mr. Konchella, what is the problem?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we received this Question last week. I have asked the Commissioner of Lands to confirm the ownership of this land so that my Ministry can do something

about it.

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is not being honest to the House. I brought this Question to this House in March when this House was opened. It is untrue to allege that this Question was brought last week. The Assistant Minister needs to own up and tell us who was given this piece of land on which the health centre is supposed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Where was this Question? It is pretty old!

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Health to ascertain who owns that land. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Lands and Settlement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, however, as far as this Question is concerned, we have asked the Commissioner of Lands to ascertain the ownership of this land and report back to the Ministry to tell us what happened to that land.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part "b" of the Question states that the land the residents requested was grabbed by some people. In fact, it has been allocated to a private developer. This Question is not truly being addressed. The only way out of this problem is for this Question to be deferred so that the Assistant Minister can do some better homework.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Konchella, what is your response? Was this land actually allocated to an individual?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are yet to ascertain who this land was allocated to. If the hon. Member could allow us to find out from the Commissioner of Lands, we will report back to this House who owns the land and whether we can ask for it to be repossessed.

Mr. Speaker: I will defer this Question for a week. Is a week enough for you, Mr. Konchella? Do you want two weeks?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Speaker, Sir, two weeks will be adequate for me.

Mr. Speaker: Is that alright with you, Mr. Samoei?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seem not to have a choice.

Mr. Speaker: Why?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, because the power is with you and the Assistant Minister.

Mr. Speaker: I am also consulting you. That is why I am responding to you!

Mr. Samoei: Okay, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, the Question is deferred for two weeks.

(Question deferred)

Question No.408

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Ali's Question is deferred.

HEALTH FACILITIES FOR BUTE/BUNA
HEALTH CENTRES

(Question deferred)

Question No.393

SEWERAGE SYSTEM FOR KERUGOYA/
KUTUS MUNICIPALITY

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Karaba also not here? He is absent, therefore, his Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Question No.578

VIOLATION OF PATIENTS' HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Omingo's Question for the second time. Mr. Omingo not here?

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Omingo is outside the country. He is in Arusha on official business. Could you, kindly, defer his Question until he comes back?

Mr. Speaker: Very well! Thank you, Mr. Angwenyi, I will defer the Question.

(Question deferred)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

LAUNCHING OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY PAPER

The Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand on a point of order to inform the House that the Ministry of Planning and National Development is planning the launching of the Economy Recovery Strategy Paper (ERSP), in all the provinces of the Republic on Friday 24th October, 2003. This launching process will be led by Cabinet Ministers and we are requesting Members of Parliament in the various regions to join in the launch of the ERSPs in the provinces. In the North Rift Valley, this event will be at Sirikwa Hotel. In South Rift Valley, it will be at the Stem Hotel. In Nyanza Province, it will be held at the Sunset Hotel. In Western Province, it will be held at Kakamega Golf Hotel. In Central Province, it will be held at the Green Hills Hotel in Nyeri. In Coast Province, it will be held at the Mombasa Beach Hotel and in North Eastern Province, it will be held at a Government house in Garissa. The launch in Nairobi and Eastern provinces will be done later because of logistical reasons. The date for the launch in Eastern Province will be 31st October, 2003 at the Meru County Hotel.

This is important because economic recovery must not only be the concern of us in Nairobi, but of the people of Kenya as a whole.

AGRICULTURAL SYMPOSIUM AND NEPAD REGIONAL SUMMIT

The Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to announce to hon. Members of the House that from 4th to 5th November, we shall hold an agricultural symposium here in Nairobi, at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, organised by the farmers and the Government to fast-track economic recovery in agriculture. Beginning this Friday, we are going to have a NEPAD Regional Summit here, attended by all the members of the region.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first, it will be a technical committee meeting followed by a meeting of Permanent Secretaries, then a meeting of relevant Ministers, and on 29th, a summit hosted by the President, in which

all the Heads of States of the nine member countries of the NEPAD region will attend.

Thank you.

WITHDRAWAL BENEFITS FOR MR. GATOKA

The Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Mwakwere): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, the Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development read a comprehensive answer to a Question that was asked by Mr. Rai on the amount of money that was paid to Mr. John Tsuma Gatoka. We did not reveal the amount of money yesterday because we did not have the exact details. I have the honour to present the details. Mr. John Tsuma was paid on 14th August, 2003 vide cheque No.462958 of the NSSF, a total amount of Kshs12,247 as his terminal benefits.

I beg to table the same.

*(Mr. Mwakwere laid the document
on the Table)*

POINTS OF ORDER

INVITATION TO ERSP LAUNCHING TANTAMOUNT TO AMBUSH

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I do not know under what Standing Order I have stood, but the notice given by the Minister for Planning and National Development seems to appear to be ambushing hon. Members of Parliament. For him to invite us to this important occasion on Friday, which is a day from today, I believe it looks like an ambush. Could I ask the Minister to liaise with hon. Members of Parliament and reschedule the activities accordingly if he would want us to participate? Could I also kindly ask the Minister to schedule a meeting of all hon. Members of Parliament, maybe in Nairobi, a week or two from now so that we prepare for that important occasion?

Mr. Speaker: Just before the Minister responds, I would like to inform the House that the Minister had written to me on this issue and I believe I had instructed that, that information be circulated to all hon. Members. I hope it has been done.

Hon. Members: No!

Mr. Speaker: Sorry, if it has not, then there is a problem somewhere. I think, to be fair to the Minister, it is for me to reveal that aspect, that he had, in fact, written to me much earlier. Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o, taking into account what hon. Members are saying, what is your response?

The Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Anyang'- Nyong'o): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am grateful for Mr. Angwenyi's point of order. My officers met the Parliamentary Departmental Committee on Planning, Trade and Finance about two or three weeks ago, to inform the Committee about this, and we got the full support of the Committee, apart from writing to the Speaker. I do take into account the hon. Member's concern, and that is one of the reasons why we are going to have the Nairobi meeting later, because it will be more convenient for most members to have it in Nairobi rather than in the provinces. But in the meantime, the Ministers who are going to launch the Economic Recovery Strategy Paper in the provinces have been informed. This was to request hon. Members that if they have time and, indeed, if they want communication with their people, it will be good to be present, because the Provincial Administration has been mobilised to that effect. It will be good if hon. Members of Parliament take time and join the Provincial Administration and the people in the launching of the Economic Recovery Strategy Paper in the

provinces.

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! Just for the avoidance of doubt by Mr. Angwenyi, that was a Ministerial Statement.

Mr. Sasura: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I just wanted to hear that, that was a Ministerial Statement. I am also seeking one clarification.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, very sincerely, I would like to urge the Minister for Planning and National Development, that only this year we have done about four or five workshops under this Ministry, and every other day we have been going for workshops at the School of Monetary Studies and Mombasa, and now it is going to be in every province. Could the Minister kindly engage us in other activities where we can utilise these funds, so that we can do other better things than attending workshops every other weekend?

The Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o): Mr. Speaker, Sir, unless I have been multiplying myself like a hydra, I do not think the Ministry has been holding workshops every other weekend. If I remember well, the workshop that we held was in February early this year, then there was another one for all hon. Members of Parliament at the School of Monetary Studies, then the only other meeting I have had in my Ministry is with the Planning, Trade and Finance Committee. Indeed, it is important that people are informed of what we are doing, if they are going to follow up the development of the country. But, obviously, going down to the provinces is not just meeting, but discussing with the people; the real stakeholders who are on the ground. That is important for planning purposes.

Mr. Speaker: I think that is enough now! I think hon. Members do need occasionally to know all these things. The Minister for Planning and National Development may actually have a cost-free audience from hon. Members if he knows how to access them. I think that is what the hon. Member is informing him.

RULING ON MILITARY RECRUITMENT

Mr. Salat: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Last week, you promised to make a ruling on the issue of the military recruitment; whether it was against the Official Secrets Act or not. You were supposed to say whether the Minister should table---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Why do you not let me write the ruling? Please, relax!

Mr. Salat: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: When I do make a ruling, I am the one who is responsible, and I must own it and be able to live with it. It must also remain for a long, long time unturned. I have to study it very carefully, because I have to get a correct ruling before the House. So, do not police me about it. I will do it.

Mr. Salat: For how long?

Mr. Speaker: Order! That is not your business!

PENDING MATATU STRIKE

Mr. Ndolo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am seeking a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Transport and Communications on the impending *matatu* strike. We might have a strike in Nairobi, and it is going to be very difficult for people to get their usual transport.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! Could we hear Mr. Ndolo! Mr. Ndolo, talk a little bit louder.

Mr. Ndolo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am seeking a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Transport and Communications on the pending *matatu* strike in Nairobi, which is going to happen very soon. Could the Minister give us that statement?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Michuki, do you want to give it now?

The Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Michuki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister in my Ministry has a statement on that matter because it had been sought in this House, but it was not possible for him to read it today because of the supplier---

Mr. Speaker: Will you do it tomorrow?

The Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Michuki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will do it tomorrow; either him or me makes no difference. We have consulted with my Assistant Minister and he is going to do it tomorrow. May I add that this morning I spent almost two and a half hours with the Matatu Welfare Association members and we are in agreement about these measures.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

OBSERVANCE OF HOUSE RULES

Mr. Speaker: Order! I think hon. Members must know who has raised what issue in the House. We do not have to hear four Members asking a question on the same issue over and over again. Just be careful! If you ask for a Ministerial Statement, ensure that nobody else had asked for it.

If you were in the House when it was being asked, do not ask about it again. It is against the rules of the House! Could we observe the rules of the House? Very well. Who was on the Floor of the House?

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read
being 19th Allotted Day)*

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW
LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair. My Ministry continues to honour its mandate of exploring, exploiting and developing all forms of energy in the country in an effort to improve economic and social welfare of Kenyans.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

EXPELLED MEMBER MUST LEAVE
PARLIAMENTARY PRECINCTS

Mr. Speaker: Order, Members! Order! Order! Before I allow the Minister to proceed, you recall that a few minutes ago, the hon Mr. John Sambu was sent out of this House by the Chair for gross misconduct. That means that he must be out of the precincts of Parliament for the balance of the day. I now understand that the said hon. Member is refusing to leave the precincts of Parliament. The hon. Member must understand that there are rules in this Parliament which he must obey. I will not act in vain. The Serjeant-at-Arms is under my direction to ensure that my order is followed to the letter and must be followed now.

Proceed!

*(Resumption of Debate in
Committee of Supply)*

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My Ministry continues to honour its mandate of exploiting, exploring and developing all forms of energy in the country in an effort to improve economic and social welfare of Kenyans. Improving access to energy implies finding ways and means by which energy services can be delivered in a reliable, affordable environmentally sound and sustainable manner to both urban and rural areas.

This objective will be realised through:-

- (i) diversifying the sources of supply;
- (ii) improving energy supply and use efficiency;
- (iii) promoting energy substitution; and,
- (iv) participation in cross border regional co-operation.

The dominant sources of energy in Kenya have been and continue to be petroleum, electricity and wood fuel. Biomass energy continues to dominate the rural economy and is the main source of energy for the rural household sector and urban poor. Before I present a breakdown of my 2003/2004 financial year Budget support requirement, I wish to highlight the pertinent issues that characterise the energy sector in this country. Over the years, petroleum has accounted for about 80 per cent of the country's commercial energy requirement. Kenya is a net importer of petroleum which impacts negatively on the country's balance of payment.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the year 2002, the country spent Ksh44 billion on the importation of petroleum products which is an equivalent of 30 per cent of the total domestic earnings. To mitigate against the bad balance of payment effects, the Government began the systematic hydrocarbon exploration in 1954 and so far 33 exploratory wells have been drilled with encouraging geological results, thus giving limited momentum for continued work in the field.

Currently, a survey ship is undertaking the acquisition of about 10,000 km of geophysical data off-shore and to date, seven exploratory blocks have been contracted out to oil prospecting companies. With this enhanced activity, we remain optimistic that some day, Kenya will strike commercial hydrocarbon deposits so that the heavy burden placed on the country's meagre foreign exchange resources through oil imports will be eased. It should be noted, however, that in countries where commercial discoveries have been made, and continue to be made, the drilling density has in some cases been in excess of more than 100 wells per annum. This has not been possible in Kenya because of the vast financial resources needed as it costs up to US\$4 million to drill a single well.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the unscrupulous behaviour by some of our countrymen is a major concern to the Government. The financial and fiscal menace caused by petroleum products adulteration and dumping of export fuel continues to pose a major challenge. There has also been a continued proliferation of substandard fuel retailing stations by some economic operators that are hazardous to the environment, health and safety concerns. My Ministry in liaison with the relevant Government institutions is instituting vigorous measures against this malpractice.

Kenya's consumption level of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is very low, at 1.4 kilograms per capita compared to Africa's average which is 8.3 kilograms per capita, owing to inadequate LPG supply and distribution infrastructure. In recognition of the synergy that exists between increased LPG consumption, and environmental conservation including economic development, my Ministry will pursue your initiatives that will encourage more use of LPG. These will include standardisation of LPG valves, regulators and cylinders to enhance LPG access at an affordable price and promote private-public partnership in the construction of LPG import handling and the storage facilities in Mombasa, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu and Sagana.

Electricity is the second largest form of energy used by commercial and industrial establishments, as well as institutions and households in this country. To date, the installed power capacity in the country is about 1170 megawatts including 30 megawatts imported from Uganda. This capacity compares with the current peak demand of 802 megawatts, thus depicting a surplus of about 370 megawatts.

The power sector is currently challenged by the high cost of electricity due to high independent power producers tariffs and high system losses arising from a weak transmission and a distribution system. Consumers have also been experiencing low quality electricity services as evidenced by frequent voltage fluctuations and 11,000 intermittent power outages per month due to limited investment in system re-enforcements. To address these challenges, my Ministry is currently re-negotiating capacity charge by IPPS with a view to sharply reducing electricity tariffs and undertaking investments in transmission and distribution systems. Some benefits from these activities from these benefits will begin to be realised by the end of this financial year. Mr. Speaker, Sir, electricity access to the rural areas in Kenya is dismally low at 3.8 per cent of rural population due to limited financial injections for network expansion. In view of the importance of this programme to the rural economy, my Ministry is currently engaging various development partners with a view to securing substantial financial resources to augment the Exchequer resources for the programme. These initiatives are expected to improve electricity access to about 40 per cent by the year 2020.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Electric Power Act of 1997, is also being revised to make it possible for private investors and other stakeholders to acquire licences for both generation and distribution of power in locations where the grid is not available and to allow power generators access to consumers directly where it is financially expedient. My Ministry will also continue to undertake further policy reforms as opportunities arise for improvement in the quality of electricity services. Over 80 per cent of Kenya's population depends on wood fuel for domestic energy needs. Wood fuel accounts for about 70 per cent of Kenya's final energy and provides over 95 per cent of rural household energy requirements.

This heavy reliance on wood fuel by urban and rural households continues to threaten not only the agricultural production and hydro-power generation, but also our eco-system through climate change or variability. In order to address this challenge, my Ministry will continue to promote and encourage the development of more efficient supply and demand technologies for wood fuel and other non-conventional energy sources such as solar and wind as alternative sources of energy.

Having made these remarks, I now wish to elaborate on the activities for which I seek your financial support for the fiscal year 2003/2004, for which my Ministry is seeking authority to spend a sum of Kshs6,856,184,790 as follows:-

1. Gross Development Expenditure - Kshs6,577,618,490
2. Gross Recurrent Expenditure - Kshs278,566,300

Under Head 428, which is entitled Headquarters Administrative Services, the gross expenditure is projected at Kshs646 million. Under this Head, my Ministry is seeking gross expenditure of Kshs646 million to support the ongoing energy sector reforms largely covered in the following areas: A study on LPG standardisation on cylinders, valves and regulators has been

completed. I am happy to inform this august House that the study was completed at the beginning of September this year and an Inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up to work out implementation modalities.

A study on economic viability of the Kenya Petroleum Refineries which is expected to be completed by February, 2004, has been undertaken and this is to enable the Government decide on its continued operation, relative to direct importation of all petroleum products including LPG. The expenditure will be met through International Development Association (IDA) revenue of Kshs644 million and Petroleum Development Levy Fund to the tune of Kshs2 million. On Head 429, which is Headquarters Planning Services, the Financial Year 2003/2004 allocation of Kshs16 million from the Petroleum Development Levy will be used to support Policy-oriented studies and activities in the sector, including participation in the East African Community and COMESA regional energy initiatives. Under Head 430, Wood Fuel Resources Development, my Ministry is requesting for Kshs14 million from the Petroleum Development Levy to spearhead the development and dissemination of cost-effective wood fuel technologies which are environmental friendly. Under Head 433, Alternative Energies, My Ministry plans to spend Kshs15 million from the Petroleum Development Levy in the promotion and dissemination of alternative sources of energy and energy efficiency activities.

Under Head 435, National Grid Systems, my Ministry requires Kshs121 million of which Kshs115 million will be from the IDA and Kshs6 million from the Petroleum Development Levy. These funds will facilitate implementation of a demand side management project under the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) under review of design for Arusha-Nairobi power transmission line to improve its cost effectiveness. The Arusha-Nairobi transmission power line is an inter-connector that may eventually lead us to accessing the South African power pool.

Under Head 436, Geothermal Resources Exploration, my Ministry will continue geothermal energy exploration and assessment, with the objective of identifying potential areas for geothermal power development to enhance electricity supply in the country. My Ministry is therefore, requesting a gross expenditure of Kshs2,424,618,490 to be spent on the completion of OI Karia II - 64-megawatt power plant by November, this year and on geothermal exploration in OI Karia IV and Menengai sites. The funds will be raised jointly by the Exchequer and external development partners. Under Head 444 Rural Electrification Programme, my Ministry requires Kshs2,689,000,000 to finance extension of new power lines to rural areas, preferably to market centres and other public institutions consistent with the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation and also to finance operating costs of the existing rural electrification network. The funds will be raised jointly by the Exchequer and, the 5 per cent electricity levy under external development partners.

Under Head 426, National Oil Corporation of Kenya, my Ministry requires Kshs600 million from the Petroleum Development Levy, out of which Kshs100 million will be spent on oil exploration, Kshs100 million on expansion of truck loading facilities in Nairobi to deepen competition and Kshs400 million on construction of Liquefied Petroleum Gas import handling and storage facilities. Under Head 427, Coal Exploration, my Ministry is requesting Kshs52 million from the Petroleum Development Levy to undertake coal exploration in Mui and Tara Basins. To support the foregoing activities, my Ministry requests a gross Recurrent Expenditure of Kshs278,566,380 of which Kshs195,401,000 is Appropriation-in-Aid from the Kenya Oil Storage facility and miscellaneous receipts and the balance of Kshs83,165,300 being direct Exchequer support.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to explain a little. I know that it is the concern of hon. Members to hear more about rural electrification.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government intends to use Kshs145 million in electrifying 52 coffee factories and 1,600 other consumers neighbouring these factories. This is being done towards the completion of Phase One of the European Union grant to Kenya amounting to Kshs375 million. This

is what is commonly called the Stabex Fund. Still, under the Rural Electrification Programme, the Ministry will spend Kshs4 million in monitoring whether the programme is being implemented and whether the connectivity that it is designed to enhance is being achieved. Under the Spanish-funded programme, the Government intends to spend Kshs370 million. This expenditure is intended to be completed by December, 2003. It is an expenditure that has been on-going. It is for the implementation of 32 schemes under Spanish Credit Phase Two; funding that was given to us which amounted to US\$10,255,000. This will cover 50 trading centres and 20 schools. Under the French-funded programme, the Government intends to spend Kshs450 million to cover 49 schemes in Western Kenya under the French Credit. The funding is part of the Euros 9.15 million. It is targeted to achieve connectivity in 90 trading centres, 50 schools and 10 coffee factories.

Under the GoK funding; that is, direct Exchequer funding, the Government intends to spend Kshs920 million. We intend to provide electricity to 90 trading centres. Implementation of the budget scheme will depend on realisation of the budget estimates amounting to Kshs600 million. We also hope to get Kshs100 million from fees for oil storage (KOSF) and Kshs220 million from other sources.

Rural electrification is a loss-making venture in the sense that there is more money expended by the Kenya Power and Lightning Company (KPLC) to maintain and run the lines. So, annually, it makes a loss of nearly Kshs800 million. The Government is also intending to spend Kshs800 million to ensure that the loss made under that scheme does not bring down the KPLC.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, towards the end of December, 2004, my Ministry hopes to have completed the establishment of the Rural Development Agency (RDA). That agency will be charged with responsibility of ensuring fairness in connectivity among the rural people and regional distribution in connectivity. Once we achieve it, very little will be left for the Ministry and politics will not take a front seat when it comes to distribution of electricity.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Ethuro) took the Chair]*

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we intend to have most trading centres in Kenya connected to electricity. In order to achieve this, we have written to all DDCs so that we receive various rankings from the districts. We want to know how the districts rank their market centres so that when we get some little funding, we are able to connect the districts and follow up the ranking given by people who are on the ground.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk very briefly about geothermal energy. The sources of energy that we have in this country, as I had said earlier, are petroleum, hydro-electricity, geothermal, wind, solar and wood fuel. Among major sources of energy whose potential has not been exploited to exhaustion is geothermal. Geothermal is a renewable source of energy that is also friendly to the environment. It is conservatively estimated that this country has geothermal potential of up to 3,000 megawatts. Currently, we are generating or exploiting about 127 megawatts, out of which 118 is being done by KenGen and 12 megawatts by a private sector company. Because we do not have enough hydro-sites or big rivers, and we do not want to depend on rivers, we have decided to first track geothermal resource assessment. We have also decided to develop this resource and when it comes to implementation or translating this resource into energy, we will use KenGen as our public outlet and invite the private sector also to be a partner. If the private sector becomes competitive in generation, then KenGen will sell the steam that is generated to the private sector. The overall objective is to have affordable energy that all Kenyans can afford and also to protect our environment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard time again that the Government, through the Ministry of Energy, promising tariff reduction to the consumers. We are still focused on this and we are optimistic that we will be able to announce a tariff reduction. The strategy that the Government has put in place, through the Ministry of Energy, is to renegotiate the tariffs we have between us and the Independent Power Producers (IPPs). We are not going to accept tariffs to KPLC that are higher than what the KPLC is selling to consumers. We have commenced negotiations with two of the IPPs and the report we have is that there is tremendous reduction and we will have very generous savings out of this.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, currently, we have energy surplus amounting to 370 megawatts. We have talked to the KPLC and it has committed itself to achieving connectivity to new customers of 150,000 annually. When that achievement is done, it will wipe out the excess energy that is being bought from the IPPs, but is not being consumed. This will expand the customer base of the KPLC. Once that is expanded, then the KPLC will be able to talk of tariff reduction.

We have also talked to the World Bank and other donor agencies and from them, we expect funding amounting to slightly above US\$40 million. With this funding, we intend to re-invest in strengthening the distribution and transmission lines. The weak distribution and transmission lines have contributed to intermittent or continuous blackouts. These blackouts have made industries pull away from our economy. They have also made consumption go down.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, once we invest in strengthening transmission and distribution lines, the losses that the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) has been having due to technical and commercial inequities will end. It is estimated that if we are able to save 1 per cent of the losses--- The losses currently stand at about 21 per cent. We intend to save 1.5 per cent each year. That translates to a saving of Kshs300 million annually. If we are able to do that, and we intend to do it, four years down the road, we shall save KPLC about Kshs1.2 billion. With all those cumulative savings, it is possible to talk about tariff reduction. I would like to assure Members of Parliament that, that is realisable. It is not an ambitious project, and these are not political remarks. They are remarks of commitment.

With those many remarks, I beg to move.

The Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Mwakwere): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to second this Motion by the Minister for Energy. The importance of energy is such that it is almost impossible to quantify. No country can develop unless it has a regular source of energy. The demand for energy is always increasing. It is one aspect that never diminishes. It is the nerve-centre of any country's development.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in seconding this Motion, I urge hon. Members to give their full support because as a country, we need more energy supply. There is need for us to find alternative sources of energy and even research more on what we already have; that is geo-thermal and hydro-electric sources of power. We need to do research and exploration on fossil fuel, coal, oil and other areas. As a country, we can generate more energy over and above wood fuel, which is being depleted. However, research should be carried out to find more reliable fuel energy for use by our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it should be realised that Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is very useful. It is a slightly cheaper source of energy for most of our domestic and industrial uses. There is, therefore, need for us to ensure that facilities in Mombasa are expanded to accommodate the importation of more LPG. The facilities in Nairobi should also be expanded for effective distribution. We could use that source to realise benefits in all our sectors of development, including for domestic use. It is important to ensure that we have ample energy in the country to attract investors to come and invest in our country. That way, we shall generate employment and improve our economy.

In my capacity as the Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development, the need for

energy is extremely important, particularly in the rural areas where we hope to generate the bulk of the 500,000 jobs that we are talking about. There is, therefore, need to have a more comprehensive rural electrification programme as expounded by the Minister. Our support to this Motion will ensure that areas which have, hitherto, not been on top of the rural electrification list will definitely benefit. By so doing, we shall stimulate economic development in those areas, and the whole country is bound to benefit from such an initiative. It should also be noted that there are some very crucial areas that touch on the security of this country, and which are yet to receive electricity. I am referring to border posts like Lunga Lunga and Namanga. They are using generators which are not so reliable. It is a shame when one is travelling out of the country to find officers in some of those border posts using candles instead of a reliable power supply from the national grid. Our support to this Motion will definitely go a long way in ensuring that Kenya develops at a pace that we want.

With those few remarks, I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Maore: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. On behalf of the Official Responder, who is on official duties in South Africa, I wish to make a few remarks regarding this Vote.

I am delighted to note the progress made by the Minister. Early in the year, the country watched the Minister, the Assistant and petroleum stakeholders behaving like trade unionists, especially with regard to tariffs. I would like to ask the Minister to focus, re-trace his bearing and take control of the energy sector. The only way is to seize tangible results. We need a schedule in the Energy Bill stipulating when the Minister intends to actually announce the reduction on tariffs. I have stood up in the Eighth Parliament and stated that the energy sector was occupied by economic vampires. I do not want to imagine that the economic vampires have not been shifted by other vampires. In Kiswahili they say: "*Msitu ni ule ule, ni kobe wengine wameingia*". We want some specific, coherent and comprehensive measures put in place to make sure that the KPLC, which is a monopoly, is profitable! The KPLC should not teach the world some new economics, where a monopoly like itself could make losses. It is not imaginable how, as a monopoly, with all the money that we pay at the end of the month-- You know, the KPLC is not like the City Water Department that forgets to ask for water bills for six months or even a year. They are very punctual! How they make losses is a lesson in the new economic discovery.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that the KPLC has been preoccupied with queer procurement processes that allowed uncompetitive supply of goods and services, and the end effect was only to siphon the money. Still on the KPLC, we are aware of the existence of very skewed contracts between the independent power producers and the company, which only works in favour of those companies.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a Member of the Departmental Committee on Energy, Communications and Public Works, I and other hon. Members visited Westmont Power Company in Mombasa. This company has been located next to the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) Headquarters and this is dangerous. We were informed that the company was not established to produce power for the Kenyan consumer but to fleece the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) money. We were also informed that the parent company in Malaysia went under sometime back. Therefore, we do not know who is paid the profits Westmont Power Company makes at the end of the year. These are some of the issues we would like the current Government to streamline, and not to inherit.

The promises the NARC Government made in the energy sector during the campaigns are very vague. They were in form of lamentation. NARC complained about what was not being done,

without carefully stating what it intended to do. The Minister has not made reference to a Bill or published a Bill which will regulate the energy sector.

The Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to state in this House that the Government has not specified exactly the proposed action it intends to take on the energy sector, the expected outcome, the implementing agency and the time frame?

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Maore! The Minister is on a point of order, and he has not finished.

Proceed, Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o!

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister does not---

The Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know exactly what I am saying, and the hon. Member should listen.

Is it in order for the hon. Member to insinuate that the Government has not stated what it will do in the energy sector, when he should have read the Economic Recovery Strategy Paper, after reading our manifesto, so as to get the kind of information he needs?

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I read the Economic Recovery Strategy Paper the same day the Minister launched it at the Grand Regency Hotel. I would like to state that there is a difference between lamenting about what is ailing the energy sector and the concrete measures put in place to revive it.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Maore, surely, there is a difference between a manifesto and an economic blue print.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you read the NARC Manifesto and the Economic Recovery Strategy Paper the Minister is holding, you will find that they amount to what I call lamentations.

(Laughter)

The Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to misuse the English language? These are not lamentations, but an Economic Recovery Strategy Paper.

Hon. Members: But he has not used it!

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, ten months down the line, the Minister for Energy should not be telling us what he will do. Instead, he should tell us what he has done and what he is doing now. This is not about misuse of the English language.

The Minister should not tell us what is ailing the energy sector, but instead what he has done to improve the situation.

Let me continue with my contribution because I do not want to be dragged into politics. I had to put that point across because the Minister has been playing politics.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Maore, you need to be fair to all parties.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I plead with the Chair not to take sides on this matter.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): But, Mr. Maore, the Chair has just stated that you need to be fair to all parties, including your party.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to be fair to my friends, whom I was with in the Opposition but are now in the Government. My friends who are now in the

Government should do things the right way. They should not be mesmerised and forget what they were elected to do. That is exactly what I am saying.

The Minister for Energy should come up with measures to lower the level of lead in the fuel we use in this country. If you went through the newspapers last week, you will recall that the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) raised alarm regarding lung diseases, cancer and leukaemia here in Nairobi as a result of the high levels of lead in the fuel we use. We would like the Ministry to come forward and quickly compel the petroleum industry to import purification equipment to lower the level of lead in the petroleum products we use. Industrialised countries have reduced the high level of lead in their petroleum products. We do not want lazy businessmen who want to make high profits by selling some crude oil to unsuspecting consumers.

We would like reforms to be initiated in the energy sector, and such reforms should be geared towards service delivery as opposed to what was the case before. In the past, a parastatal or major company only planned how to make quick money without caring about the quality of service it provided to Kenyans.

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I hate to interrupt my friend, Mr. Maore, but is it in order for him to talk about behaviour in the past without specifying that, that was KANU's behaviour?

(Applause)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): He is completely in order not to specify that it was KANU's behaviour.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Minister addresses the Opposition side next time, I would like him to put a mirror on the Table and he will see that it will not reflect the Opposition side but the Government side. The mirror will show that the Government side has more former KANU Members than the Opposition side does.

We have the Electricity Regulatory Board (ERB). This Board was established to restore order in this subsector as a result of the high tariffs charged for electricity. I remember that when I was in the PIC with the Minister, we struggled to see the terms of reference of the ERB. The problem that was experienced at that time was how allowances would be paid to the members of the Board and how they would make quick money. It was not clear whether it was a viable entity to have in place. Now that Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko is the Minister for Energy, I would like to challenge him to revive the ERB and ensure that it goes about its duties without any problem. If this Board is revived, we will get enhanced services and its members will not struggle to be paid high allowances and retain their jobs.

I remember that there was a struggle between the former Permanent Secretary, Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Public Service and the Attorney-General over which body should recommend the person to be appointed the Secretary to the ERB. I would like to say that the former Permanent Secretary, Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Public Service won, but we do not know what happened thereafter.

I would now like to touch on reliability and cost. We did not hear the Minister for Energy apologising to the country after the debacle at the Kenya International Conference Centre (KICC) when the President was opening the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Africa (ICASA). That hitch required the Minister, in a special bulletin, to apologise to Kenyans and assure them that such a thing will never happen again.

The Assistant Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. Miriti): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to mislead the House by saying that what happened at the KICC was power failure when it was actually a technical fault?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): What was the end result? There were no lights!

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to respond to the point order the Assistant Minister has raised.

I did not hear the Minister touch on biogas when he was moving this Vote. This means that the technocrats in the Ministry have forgotten this form of energy. I would like to point out that wind and solar forms of energy can be tapped. If you look at the developed world, you will find that these forms of energy are very important.

They would be crucial in areas where the national grid does not reach.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would also like the Minister to encourage and bring forward policies which encourage small groups, or communities, to come together and establish plans for wind and solar energy that they can be able to utilise. Talking of the cost we would like the Minister to negotiate with his Treasury counterpart to zero-rate kerosene. Our environment cannot sustain the population of 30 million people the way it used to sustain less than seven million people in 1960. In order to give a break to our forests, the Minister should zero-rate kerosene and make sure that the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) do their work. Year after year, when the Minister for Finance is raising a shilling or two from kerosene, he says that he is not able to stop the people who adulterate petroleum using kerosene from doing so. We always insist that you do not set the store on fire if there are rats. This amounts to setting the store on fire so that you can chase away the rats. If there are rats in the energy sector, they should be caught and skinned on their own. Innocent consumers, the poor rural folk, who do not have any other source of energy but wood fuel, should not be penalised.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister stated that oil prospectators spend an average of US\$4 million on every oil exploration well. The Minister should go to the archives of the Ministry of Energy and dig out literature on exploration that was undertaken in the early 1980s. We understand that many of them discovered fuel but there was no enthusiasm then to do exploration work because donors pulled out of the exercise. They did not want to give the necessary support at that time for obvious reasons. The Minister should, therefore, invite development partners who would be willing to undertake oil exploration. He should also make sure that the ownership of any discovered oil rests entirely with the National Oil Corporation. He should not offer concessions to those companies that may want to come here and develop oil wells. If they develop oil wells, the contract should be very clear that they would be paid according to their input. They should not be allowed to come and steal our resources.

On liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), we have a higher demand than what the infrastructure is able to accommodate. This is one area where, if any private investor is invited and offered certain concessions, he will do what we want. However, we have been relying on a refinery that is purely outdated.

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for my very good friend to mislead the House that the private sector is locked out of LPG production, when the energy sector, particularly LPG production, is liberalised?

Mr. Maore: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a difference between liberalising the LPG sector by having people import directly refined, products and having a person who can produce it. We are saying that the main stakeholders, those who own the refinery in Mombasa, should be told to install modern equipment or get out. It is that simple. When you have a policy of importation of LPG, you should know that there are times when you are not able to import enough for domestic use.

Now, there is this petroleum development levy. There has been a problem with introduction of levies in the past. It is high time the Minister went and re-read the relevant literature on the introduction of levies in the past. When we introduce a development levy, we should ensure it is paid

by stakeholders, who include the oil companies and distributors. It should not be paid by the consumers. For the last 15 years when that levy has been in effect, money has just been collected without being accounted for. We have dealt with these levies in our Public Investments Committee (PIC) proceedings. This petroleum development levy is just money which is stolen. If the stakeholders were the ones managing it, they would ensure that transparent mechanisms to curtail misappropriation of the money exist. We want the Minister to shift the burden of paying this levy from consumers to the stakeholders, or the beneficiaries in the petroleum industry.

Another issue that we need to note is about coal. Coal as a source of energy is not very good. This is because it is a source of dirty energy. The levels of pollution it produces do not make it viable in a modern society, where people are conscious of the need for a clean environment, and where levels of pollution in the air are already unhealthy.

When the Minister talks about trade centres, schools, factories and other customers whom he wants to connect to the national grid, he should remember that there is a deposit that a customer pays to many utility companies. We would like the Minister to make a follow-up of what these companies do with the consumers' money. We would want to be assured of the safety of that money, and also hear that they pay interest on it. If these companies use this money, then they should pay interest on it. If they keep it, we need to be assured of its safety. As you all know, mismanagement is likely to endanger deposits that are paid by customers when they apply to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) for supply of electricity.

The Minister also spoke about rural electrification development agencies that will make it easy for him to run the Ministry. We would like him not to implement his plan in a hurry. You can see what is happening in the *Matatu* sector, where a Minister issued a directive three weeks ago and now everybody is going to him. He may also later realise that it cannot work, and that he has to negotiate and extend deadlines. At the same time, a lot of Kenyans are dying on our roads and we do not know who to support. It is important for Ministers to take time before they implement new measures. There is nothing that is going to expire very soon.

So, the Minister should take time and evaluate every constituency's needs. He should follow the footsteps of other Ministries that are offering services to the public. He should emulate what the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Housing have done. They have created specific funds for roads and bursaries in constituencies and not in districts.

If you want to know how frustrating bureaucracy and red tape, are just go to the District Development Committees (DDCs). We normally meet there, pass resolutions, but we do not know where the minutes disappear to. It is good that the Minister shifts the focus from the DDC's recommendations and resolutions and focuses on the constituencies. After all, there are only 210 constituencies, as of now. If he can focus on the constituencies, and not districts, I am sure, we will light up this country. If we light it up this country, we will have a major boost in matters of industrial growth, civilisation and progress.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. ole Ntimama: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I wish to thank the Minister for presenting his Vote very well and with some degree of professionalism and commitment. I think it is outside the orbit of some of us to start talking about the relationship between KenGen, KPLC, the contracts and other things that are happening in the energy sector. Definitely, some hon. Members would try to get information about those things so that they can point out certain irregularities that are happening in the energy sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about the supply of electricity to the ordinary Kenyans in this country. I imagine there is some strategic planning over this issue. We all know that the provision of water, electricity and good roads supports the social welfare of the ordinary

Kenyan. I do not know why the planning is done. There are some areas in this country which I think are treated as if they are not part of this nation. I can say it frankly and honestly that some areas and communities of this country have been left on the periphery and they have not been considered all the way from the colonial times. This is what we call the historical injustices that have been happening, which, definitely, take into account development.

Development is a human right; for example, a simple thing like electricity coming all the way from Nakuru District and supplied to a small village in Mau Narok, and not crossing over to Narok District, an area of 200,000 square miles of the Mau Escarpment, which is a very high potential area. I wonder what does the Ministry and the Government do when they start planning these things? Do they still think we are not part of this country? No economy of this country will develop without agriculture. The agro-industries are the only things that can lead us to industrialisation. There is no shortcut. If electricity does not go to some of these areas, like the Mau region, for example, where factory vegetables could be compacted and supplied to the whole of this country and even to Uganda and Tanzania, nothing is happening. What is happening is that the influential people in Government and the Ministry take all the rural electrification system into their own areas. Why should we leave areas where, definitely, some development could be done to help this country economically?

In some of these areas; the area that I am talking about, particularly, grows wheat, barley and vegetables. Factories could be established there for livestock feeds which are already a problem in this country. We could probably help poultry farmers around Nairobi City and other towns. I understand that most of it is being imported from a country like South Africa. What are we doing? If we cannot use our resources to develop our own economy by using the power, electricity and energy, then we are really doing nothing. For example, even a simple economist will tell you that the livestock products in this country could actually earn foreign exchange that is equal to that of coffee and tea. What are we doing? We should supply electricity to North Eastern Province so that they can start developing their livestock products and their abattoirs, and to make sure that cold storage is available. They can transport their meat products to Nairobi City and other towns. We are just not serious about developing the economy of this country. We are biased. It could even be called bias that is bordering on tribalism, and considering other people to be marginalised and left out as if they are not Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, provision of electricity, good roads and water is so essential, and these go together. Let us see a three-phase electricity going all the way to Moyale District and the pastoralist areas of Narok District and other areas. Let us have Mau Narok developed so that we grow wheat and barley and sell it to other people as agricultural products. If we are thinking about quarrelling about small things, this country will never develop. We really need to develop agro-industry. We will be cheating ourselves to talk about the economy. Although, my friend, Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o called upon us to attend meetings where they will be launching the Economy Recovery Strategy Paper (ERSP)-- We have been going to Safari Park Hotel for the last four years to discuss the economic strategy. Personally, I have not seen much that has really happened on the ground. It is the implementation and not the talking that will help this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me talk about a very nasty little affair happening at Ol Karia where some "big" men hire some young people as watchmen. They bring these young men from outside, leaving the Maasai who are around Ol Karia without employment. Some people think that being a guard and a watchman is our profession. It is not quite our profession. It is just because the authorities in the previous regimes did not educate our people. Why should a tycoon ferry people in lorries from far away to that place? Then the company management says: "This is a registered man. We do not want anybody around here." What do we do with the local people who are surrounding the factory? They are part of it. If you do not consider them for employment, then what do we mean when we talk about creating 500,000 jobs per year? Those are the people who must be employed, because they are hungry. These are people who must be given a little money to look after the tycoons as they

sleep, so that they can feed themselves.

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. ole Ntimama: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want his information. I am winding up my contribution.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to emphasise the fact that planning must be done considering all parts of this country, and not only certain parts of the country. We are one nation. Every time our leaders stand up to speak, they say: "Tunataka umoja." What "umoja" are they talking about if certain areas are not considered in terms of water and electricity provision or road construction? Probably, the call for "umoja" is not genuine.

So, although I support this Vote very much, I think proper planning should be done with a view to incorporating every part of this country in the development programmes, so that we can all develop as a nation, and not as groups or tribes.

Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Energy is endowed with an enormous responsibility since energy is the best for the economy.

Just to begin with the process of energy in this country, as the Minister has spelt out; since time immemorial, there has been over-concentration of exploration of only a few sources of energy, namely, petroleum and hydro energy. The disadvantage of over-concentrating on only one or two sources of energy has been demonstrated by the power shortage that we had a few years ago. Seventy-five per cent of our energy supply comes from hydro-electricity. So, when the rivers dried up, there was no power in this country, and there was a lot of confusion. If Kenyans were not patriotic, there would have been a situation similar to the one experienced in Zimbabwe sometime back, when there was a shortage of bread in that country and it almost caused a revolution in that country. However, because Kenyans are peace loving people, they could do without energy for three days in a week. That is the disadvantage of over-investing in only one or two sources of energy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry has very qualified staff. I am saying so because I was in that Ministry at one time. I would not wish to heap blames on the Minister because whatever he is working on so far is the Budget he has inherited over the last year. What we are going to give him now is what he is going to work with. So, one year down the line from today, we will definitely put him to task to tell us what he will have done with the money we are going to give him. However, I would like to tell him to be cautious, from past experience. The most contentious aspect of the Ministry of Energy is the Rural Electrification Programme (REP). Most of the time, the Minister is blamed for non-implementation, unfairness in connectivity, *et cetera*.

It is not the mistake of the Minister for Energy that the REP has failed. You will realise from your electricity bills that every month, customers are charged a certain percentage of levy to finance the REP, but the money that the Ministry collects at the end of every month, which is in millions of shillings, ends up being paid back to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), which is the collecting agent. It collects the levy on behalf of the Government and uses the same money to monitor and sustain the existing programmes.

These are programmes which had been set up irregularly and without planning. At the end of the day, we have a Ministry which, according to the breakdown by the Ministry, is going to spend about Kshs920 million under GoK funding for this programme, but has a deficit of Kshs800 million to pay in terms of losses incurred by the REP. So, unless there is a change of policy and a complete restructuring of the REP, the Ministry will not make headway in providing electricity to the rural parts of this country. It is worth noting that the Minister intends to set up a rural development agency. Unless the Minister gets a solution to this problem, the levy collected from power consumers--

I actually do not see why the KPLC should collect that levy on behalf of the Ministry. We

must have some other agency to collect this levy. However, programmes were set up haphazardly during that time. For instance, the Head of State would commission an electricity project in a given area, and the Ministry of Energy and the KPLC would be required to maintain and monitor it; a project which had not been planned for. So, unless we revamp this system, it will always be a failure, whether the Minister calls it rural development agency or rural electrification programme.

In this country, historically, we have re-named planning strategies. In the early days, we used to have something called "Rural Development Fund". As I grew up, this one changed to what was called "District Focus for Rural Development", which changed to something called "Social Dimensions of Development Programmes". We then came to what is called "Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper". We are now at a stage where Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o always talks about "Economic Recovery Strategy Paper". The re-naming of strategies in this country is not a solution. Definitely, Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o knows what he is doing. I am not doubting him. So, as long as the agency the Minister is intending to set up is not a replica of the old REP, we will not get anywhere.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other aspect I want to talk about is the donor-funded projects. Looking at the so-called "STABEX funds", which is a European Union grant, we have no quarrel with these funds because they are there to stabilise areas where we have got our export products, namely, coffee and tea, among others. However, the Minister should look into areas which have not benefited from the STABEX funds. For example, if we say that the French Fund is going to be used on 49 schemes in Western Kenya, and the same is undertaken under the STABEX Fund, we will be duplicating these projects. The Minister should be able to spread these funds fairly across the country. When he makes proposals, and he gets funds, he should be able to spread them across the country.

Another big failure recorded by this Ministry is in the area of exploration. The Minister said that we need Kshs100 million for exploration for petroleum in this country. Unless it was just a political gimmick, I remember that, at one time, exploration for oil was done in certain parts of the country. I do not know whether the Minister for Energy then was Mr. M'Mukindia or Mr. Biwott. A sample was taken from a place called "Amicha(?)" and ferried to Marsabit, where it was displayed in the presence of the immediate former President. We were told then that the sample was actually crude oil. Therefore, there is oil in this country. Kenyans were actually shown crude oil.

So, it is either because of the fear occasioned by instability around our borders or the fear of being marginalised by multinational oil companies that we do not undertake sufficient oil exploration. Definitely, there is a question which has not been answered here, and the Minister should be able to answer it. He should either invest properly in oil exploration and tell us that there is no oil in this country, or go into it without any fear and we strike oil. This is going to be a homework for the Minister.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to reiterate that it has been established that in northern Kenya, we have the highest wind speeds in Africa. That has also been documented. We could generate 500 megawatts of electricity if we set up a wind farm in that part of the country. Initially, it is going to be very expensive, but if we are going to inject 500 megawatts into our national grid at the end of the day, it would be good for us. Actually, it would just be free energy. The Minister should not fear to invest in such kind of project.

As we are speaking now, a consortium of local and Dutch companies are planning to move into Marsabit. They are conducting feasibility studies. I am going to avail all that information to the Minister. Let him not look at me as a Member from KANU because, at the end of the day, this country needs energy. I am going to introduce all those companies to him and he should not shy away from them! At the end of the day, everybody, including the Minister for Lands and Settlement, will benefit from that power.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, wind energy is free and available in this country, and that

is all we have. We do not have water; the global environment is changing; there is no rain, and rivers will definitely dry up. But I do not think the wind will change. The drier it becomes, the more the speed of wind increases. This is a Ministry which needs support but the Minister should know that, at the end of the day, we will always want to know how he has spread the supply of electricity in this country.

In the early 80s and 90s, when Kenyans applied for electricity, the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) told them: "Okay! Let us do some estimates for you! You are going to need about Kshs19 million. But what you do is to pay the 10 per cent for the purposes of costing and design." The 10 per cent always went into a bottomless hole and could not be traced. There are those who paid the 10 per cent to the tune of Kshs500,000 or Kshs300,000 and, at the end of the day, they were told that, that money was used for designing and costing and is not there. The Minister should be able to seal that hole. That is a mistake that has happened in the past! I can assure you that I was not party to it myself! But he should be able to stop that exploitation of Kenyans by greedy individuals.

Lastly, let me commend the Minister for his speech. He is slow and sure, and he should maintain that speed.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Minister for the very eloquent and able presentation of this Vote. He has touched on sources of energy, infrastructure of generating and transmitting the energy, the cost of energy and other sources which he thinks may be the way forward. They include geothermal, wind and solar energy. I want to thank him for understanding the entire problem that this nation has with regard to energy, and especially the electric energy. That is what I want to spend some time on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the last Parliament, I remember speaking from where I am speaking today and saying that Suba District, from where I come from, had no single electric pole or a metre of electric wire. I said that the district, like all other districts, had a district hospital which was using candles at night to treat patients and deliver babies.

I said that this was not fair in a country which has been independent for the last 40 years and where one of the sons of this country who fought for Independence came from. He came from Suba District in Rusinga Island. He was the late Thomas Joseph Mboya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, so, I want to thank the Government because in the last Parliament, they heard our cry as a district and installed a line from Homa Bay to Mbita, all the way to Sindo which covers about 70 kilometres, and I think that is a big investment for people of Suba because it is going to open up that area for development with the introduction of small-scale *jua kali* industries and lighting towns, markets, hospitals and schools. However, I want to remind the Minister that although the power runs for 70 kilometres through Mbita and then stops at Sindo; along the entire area of 70 kilometres, I just see a wire passing over, including the Member of Parliament's house who is talking now. The wire passes over my roof, but I have no electricity. I have been talking to the Minister and the Ministry generally, and we as a district have said that we would love the Minister to, at least, drop the power along the way in certain markets, schools and towns which we have indicated.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is something strange about power because if you bring it like that and it passes over us and we do not buy it, then it does not bring revenue to the Government and so it is not very helpful. So, I think the Minister understands that the more he maximises on distributing it, the more he will get revenue from it, which can, at least, pay back a bit of what has been put in.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, basically Kenya is a very expensive energy destination. Anybody who wants to invest in any country will ask you--- If they want any researchers to do anything for them, the first questions they will ask is like this: "What is the cost of energy? What are the means and cost of transportation? Is there availability of water? And what about security?" If you

do not include those answers in your research paper, then you have not helped any investor, and if he comes, he is not likely to be attracted to Kenya because the cost of energy in Kenya is way above the cost of energy in this region.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I heard the Minister talk about a cheaper pool in the southern region of Africa. I think I heard him talk about an interconnector between Arusha and Nairobi, and that this will make power cheaper. I wish we started thinking about it seriously so that we can have reliable and cheap energy, instead of sinking more money on dams which are sometimes silted, dry up and burst and cost us a lot of money. So, we think that if we get cheaper energy from the southern region, then people can now decide whether to invest in Zambia, Congo, South Africa or in Kenya where it is cheaper. This is because if I was an investor and I had some money to the tune of Kshs100 million and I want to invest it; even when I am a Kenyan, most likely, I will think of investing where the energy cost is cheaper and I may go to Congo, although I know there is a lot of insecurity there. However, if my goods eventually become cheaper and competitive, I am making more business sense than investing in my own country. So, if a Kenyan like me who is more patriotic and loves my country can think of investing in Congo, think about a European coming from Australia; most likely he will go to Congo, South Africa or Zambia, instead of coming to Kenya because of the high costs of energy. So, let us think very seriously about this issue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not hear the Minister talk about the Sondu-Miri Hydro-Electric Project. There has been a lot of money wasted there. There is six kilometres of pipe that passes through a tunnel and I hear now it is a home for hyenas, cobras and all sorts of things when water should have been passing through it, and we would have been getting some power from it and thus making it cheaper. It is cheaper because the technology involved is different from that used in construction of a dam. However, I hope he will get an opportunity to tell us what has happened. When I read sometime that he was in Japan, I was excited, but he has not talked about it, and so I am worried about what the Japanese told him. If the Japanese cannot complete it, please, do not keep us with a tunnel. Put some money there and make it work so that we can have enough power in that region.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think we should now start thinking of power as an infrastructure. We should stop thinking of power or even the Electricity Regulatory Board (ERB) as a business. For example, if KenGen generates power and then sells it per unit to KPLC, which in turn distributes it up to Suba, and Suba people do not buy it, consequently, KPLC loses some money.

First of all, it loses it because we do not buy it, and secondly, it loses it because of what the Minister also called weaknesses in distribution and transmission lines. If you say KPLC cannot make losses, then you are not talking economics because they are given power which they must sell, and if they do not sell, it they still lose it. If they propose to sell it and we do not buy it, there is nothing they can do about it. They cannot return it to KenGen. So, that is how the losses come about.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know where we came up with the idea that distribution and transmission of power should be the work of another company, and generation should be the work of another company. Of course, when the World Bank comes to this country, first of all, it says: "Break them down". So, they write a paper and earn money. Then after a while they say: "Now, put them together." They write another paper and earn money. They have done so with the power and telecommunications sectors. In the telecommunications sector, they did the same with Telkom, Posta and all these sectors, because they must earn money from writing some papers. They cheat us that they give us some aid, but they earn it abroad and then they will give us a paper which only causes us a lot of problems. I do not understand why this was done because you can see that the KPLC has ended up losing in this bargain.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, however, when there was a drought and Kenyans were going about their businesses in darkness, some people saw an opportunity to make a kill and they

created some bodies called independent power producers. Of course, for a while, we thought they were doing something good. They said you can bring generators and if you can produce so much and sell it to the national grid, we will buy it at so much. We thought for a while that they were helping us and they even got money from the World Bank. However, if you look at the agreements they entered into with KPLC or KenGen, that can show you that some people saw a means of making money. They tied us with some very---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Your time is up!

Mr. Kajwang: I support.

Mr. Sirma: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute in support of the Vote of the Ministry of Energy. The hon. Minister has moved the Vote. We do not know whether these are the same words which were used last year or the previous years. They are sweet enough to make us think that Kenya is going to change tomorrow.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Minister said that he is going to spend Kshs920 million to provide electricity in the trading centres, he did not indicate which trading centres these were, although he has said that we want prioritisation from the DDCs.

Kenyans are wary of such statements because, formerly, we had two Ministers from Busia, who in the last three or five years, actually decided to take the whole project of rural electrification to Busia. We do not know whether all the trading centres in Rongo will be taken care of first. We are very wary, and I think the hon. Minister will do Kenyans proud by placing Rongo last in his list of priorities, so that we can be able to trust him in his work.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, rural electrification is not a loss-making venture to Kenyans. When we talk of balancing of resources in this country, some economists think about losses. Why do you think about losses when others have nothing in this country? Let us see these projects as positive effects of development in the rural areas. We should not shelve them. Instead, let us have them as part of Kenya. We should not be saying: "No, we will not do that because it is loss-making." Are we going to deny the people of North Eastern Province electricity because we think it is going to be a loss-making venture? We need to give them electricity, just as other Kenyans.

In the past, Kenya Power and Lighting Company KPLC has been doing partly a good job and partly a bad one. My constituency is highly affected by the actions that take place between the Ministry of Energy and KPLC. Kenyans have been depositing their money since 1994 to date, in form of the 10 per cent requirement. We need to prioritise those projects because the Ministry of Energy cannot provide us with electricity. I would like to urge the Minister to be an executive Minister this time round because we have suffered enough.

In the Ministry of Energy, you could be denied access to the District Development Committee (DDC) minutes which we send to the Ministry Headquarters by a one arrogant officer called, Mr. Ng'ang'a. I do not know if he is still there. You could neither see the minutes nor advise the Minister: "Let us have this and that in every sector". If we cannot prioritise and give every Kenyan a chance---

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying this with a lot of bitterness because Arama Health Centre in my constituency, is going to lose donor funding. The donor has already given out his contribution and the health centre has been given the first priority, but the same old civil servants are still doing a bad job. Mr. Ng'ang'a has already said, "No". Where do we go from there? When we want to see the Minister, we are told that we cannot see him. The Permanent Secretary has already been advised and there is nothing he can do. Where do we go to next?

I am talking with a lot of bitterness because my constituents are really suffering.

Mr. Kajembe: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is interesting to hear the hon. Member say that it was difficult for him to see the Minister for Energy because of the attitude of Mr. Ng'ang'a, and yet he was a Minister in the KANU Government which destroyed the whole infrastructure in this country.

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Kajembe knows that he was part of KANU. In the past Government, civil servants were more senior than Ministers. I am sorry to say that.
(*Loud consultations*)

The Assistant Minister for Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services (Mrs. Chelaite):
Are you confirming?

Mr. Sirma: Yes, that is true.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, there are very many idle transformers that were given to individuals, yet they do not even serve them. They are just tourists in their own homes because they visit them once in a while. The local residents who live near these individuals cannot even access electricity from the idle transformers! We need a change. Maximisation of the idle transformers in the rural areas can really assist the local people. We want all those people who have paid a deposit to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) to be provided with power.

Let me turn to power generation. In as much as we say that the KPLC has done a good job, there are many resources which can be used to produce electricity, but because of the enormous mismanagement that exists there, not much is done. Coming to the issue of employment, if a Pokot is denied a job to be a watchman, the only option he remains with is cattle-rustling. So, if we are going to allow cattle-rustling to go on because our people are not given jobs in Turkwell Dam --- In Olkaria Geothermal Power Station, as hon. ole Ntimama said, the Maasai are not given jobs. Where will they go, yet the resource is there?

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish the Minister could listen more and stop interrupting my contribution

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it in order for hon. Sirma to allege that Turkwell or Olkaria Power Stations deny Maasais employment as watchmen or employment in any other position when the correct position is that companies providing those services have been enjoined by regulation to employ only people from that region for such posts?

Mr. Sirma: Those are companies which are not owned by Pokots or Maasais.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about fuel development in this country, we are talking about developing natural resources. The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has not provided the leading role in this country. We need to divert that attention and develop a sector which can participate in the exploration of minerals. They have been much more concerned with the selling of fuel than exploration.

I would also like to talk about liberalization. We are happy that fuel costs have gone down due to liberalization. There is a syndicate by the Ministry to deny private investors the chance of developing storage capacities in Mombasa. We have private developers who would like to develop storage facilities in Mombasa, but we are giving priority to the multinational companies and that is unfair. We want that to stop. I have a letter which I will table in this House to show how a Permanent Secretary changed his position within two weeks, possibly because of inducement by the multinationals. I do not know---

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister should have given me a chance to tell him the truth.

The Minister for Energy (Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it in order for the hon. Member to talk about an officer who is not here to defend himself? The correct

position regarding oil depots is that we actually have private depots in Mombasa. We have one depot by Somken, another one by Afrex, and many other depots. But we must regulate them to curb revenue losses.

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying these things about civil servants so that the Minister---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Sirma! Minister, please let the hon. Members make their contributions freely and then you can respond later.

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has taken a lot of my time which I would have used to tell him many things.

Finally, because my time has been "eaten up" by the hon. Minister, we would like Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) to reduce their tariffs on transportation. The current transportation cost from Mombasa to Nairobi is higher by pipeline than by road. Why do we not have real rationalization on that issue or even give an opportunity to Kenya Railways Corporation to transport goods? I would also like to urge the Minister to give every constituency its own funds.

With these few remarks, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me thank the previous hon. Member for the good contribution he has made. Let me also thank Mr. Sirma for a good contribution.

However, there are just two things that I would like to respond to while supporting the Minister for Energy. One is about Sondu Miriu Power Project that has been raised by Mr. Kajwang. It is true that the Minister for Energy as well as the Minister for Finance went to Japan to talk to the Japanese Government about this issue. It is true that I was also there during the IGAD III meeting. It is also true that we have had very successful discussions with the Japanese Government over this project and plans are at an advanced stage to resume work on Sondu Miriu Power Project. What has not been done is that the Japanese Government has not made the official statement on this project. While the Government is doing its best to revive this project, I would like to dissuade Kenyans from unnecessary speculation and cynicism. I have been seeing writings in the Press to the extent that Sondu Miriu Power Project will not be revived because donors are raising all kinds of issues. I do not know why donors are always being used as a scapegoat in this nation. We, in the NARC Government, are determined to revive Sondu Miriu Power Project. We have had very good discussions with the Japanese Government. We must keep our part of the bargain and we must make sure that this announcement is made at an opportune time. Other cynical attitudes about Sondu Miriu Power Project should be kept at bay and the Government should be allowed to tidy up the bad work that was done before, and to make sure that this project proceeds expeditiously.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Ethuro) left the Chair]*

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Khamasi) took the Chair]*

I do hope that Mr. Kajwang can go back to Suba District and deliver the good message that work is on course. The public should also know that we are following up this issue systematically. We would not like to have any irresponsible speculation over this issue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, secondly, it is important to note that when the hon. Minister talked about oil exploration in the various blocks of North Eastern Province, exploration has been going on in this area for a very long time. I do know that in 1992, as one hon. Member said, it was almost declared by the previous Government that oil had been discovered. However, it was never

that certain. The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has extremely competent officials who have been following up with the various oil companies in this exploration work. In our own Economic Strategy Recovery Paper (ERSP), we take oil exploration as very serious business. We do know that this work is done by oil companies and not donors. So, any speech in this House that says that development partners should help us explore oil, misses the point. Oil is a business. It is done by oil companies who are given concession by the Government to do so. When, indeed, this oil is discovered in commercial quantities, it is in the interest of these companies as well as the Kenya Government, to ensure that it is exploited commercially. This cannot be done as if Father Christmas is giving us a Christmas present. It has to be done economically and commercially. It is, therefore, true that very good progress has been made in terms of oil exploration. It is also true that the Government must put its resources in exploring the oil. It is also true that we must make good contacts with oil companies in terms of exploration. Therefore, on behalf of the Government and, indeed, with great support from the Minister for Energy, I would like to state that we have this on course in the ERSP. Everything that the Minister has done ever since he was appointed has been in line with this commitment.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would also like to state that what the Minister stated has been followed up very systematically. When it comes to the Southern Africa Power Pool (SPP), the Minister was recently in Zambia discussing with authorities there. When it comes to getting power through Arusha, this plan is under way and the Minister for Energy is working strongly on this.

I would like to urge hon. Members to lead the Economic Strategy for Employment and Wealth Creation, particularly the implementation matrix, if they want to have a score card of what the Government is doing in the energy sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the Ministry is on course with its score card in what it should be doing. The implementation programme is going on, and when we come to the Investment Conference which will be held here on the 20th and 21st of November, this year, we shall be discussing with domestic stakeholders in this sector as well as others, so that members can know what is to be done in the energy sector so that it can, indeed, be available to consumers as well as the commercial and industrial sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is also true that the cost of energy in Kenya is high. It is higher than in Uganda, Ghana and South Africa. It can be brought lower. But what Mr. Kajwang was saying is extremely important. When we had an energy crisis here in the mid 1990s, the previous Government reached a deal with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) which was completely against the interests of this country and, indeed, counter-productive in bringing the energy costs down. The Kenya Power and Lighting Company has been buying electricity or power from the Independent Power Producers at Kshs14 a unit and selling it to consumers at Kshs7 a unit, thereby losing Kshs7 for every unit that they sell. This is part of the debt we are inheriting from the previous Government. The Ministry of Energy is in the process of restructuring the sector. The Minister will state to you here that when these contracts with Independent Power Producers come for renewal, the NARC Government will not renew them. This is a way of stopping this extremely evil contract that the previous Government signed with Independent Power Producers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Kajwang was right by saying that the arrangement that was made, that KENGEN generates power and KPLC sells it, and also Independent Power Producers sell it to KPLC at enormous cost, has indeed, complicated the process of energy cost in this country. At a recent Cabinet meeting, the Government took the courageous step of taking over the debts of KPLC and KENGEN and beginning the process of restructuring these two organizations. This was after very protracted and detailed discussions and analysis and, indeed, the Government is on course to try and restructure the power sector, to reduce energy costs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reason why we are looking for supply of power from the Southern African Power Pool, is so that we can get cheaper power into our national grid to begin

the process of reducing the cost of energy. It is also true that we must invest effectively in geothermal production, because geothermal will put in our national grid, much cheaper energy and bring down the cost of energy. It is also true that, indeed, it is important to look into wind power and solar power. But you must realise that in those areas where that wind power can be used and, indeed, there are investigations to that effect, we must also take into account the amount of power the wind mills can produce, given the frequency of wind-flow. That is something that the Ministry of Energy is looking into. We are not being dogmatic, but where wind power is economic, it will indeed, be implemented to reduce the cost of energy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at the Economic Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation as well as the Government's investment programme which is derived from the Economic Strategy - the Investment Programme is going to be launched by the President during the Investment Conference on 20th and 21st of November - you will realise that the NARC Government is moving very systematically, and we are very concerned about reducing the energy costs in this country so that Kenya can be a very attractive investment destination, both for our domestic investors and foreign investors.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one previous speaker in the House, drew our attention to the issue of lead content in gasoline. Indeed, that was the only sensible point that Mr. Maore made in the House today. I would like to underline that point, that indeed, it would be important to make sure that in future, we have a policy which compels vehicles not to emit unnecessary gas into the atmosphere that produces pollution. It means, therefore, that there must be standards for the gasoline that we use. There must also be standards for the kind of vehicles that are put on the road so that they are clean emitters of exhaust and not dirty emitters of exhaust. This means, therefore, that the Ministry of Energy as well as the Kenya Bureau of Standards must work very hard to ensure that these standards are kept in future. This strategy is in our Economic Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation, to ensure that our environment is protected from pollution by unnecessary lead content in the gasoline used by cars, lorries and other vehicles that move on our streets.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, all these require investment and wealth production. It is the responsibility of us in this House to ensure that we support the Government fully, in its strategy to produce wealth so that we can have the wherewithal to invest in further productivity in our nation.

We are also very committed to ensure that this development is countrywide. That is why we are laying a lot of emphasis in arid and semi-arid lands. I would like to assure hon. Members that one of the reasons why we are launching the ERS in all the regions, this coming Friday is exactly to make this point: That economic recovery is for the whole of Kenya.

I beg to support.

Mr. H.M. Mohammed: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this very important Motion.

I would like to start by thanking the Minister for eloquently presenting the Vote. There are some services which are basic human rights. These are water, health, electricity and many others. You cannot realise all these basic services without electricity. If you want to supply water to a certain area, be it a city, a town or the rural area, you need electricity to pump that water. If you want to provide health services to hospitals, health centres and dispensaries, you must have electricity. If you do not have electricity, you cannot provide all these important services to human beings.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one time in the year 2000, I was appointed the Minister for Water Resources and Development. There used to be a slogan that by the year 2000, every household would have clean water in this country. I was asked by one journalist when it would be possible to provide clean water to every household in this country. Since I knew how far clean water was from my village, I told him that practically, I think we are behind schedule. Today, if I asked the Minister for Energy when electricity is going to be taken to every home in every village, I think it will

be very difficult for him to give an answer.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country has a policy which states that, this country must industrialise by 2020. I do not know how this is going to be realised, because without electricity, you cannot industrialise this country. Electricity is still very far away from reaching every place of this country. There are countries in the far East and some places in the world, of which 98 per cent of their population has electricity supply, and 99 per cent of the population has clean water supply. This country provides electricity services to less than 30 per cent of the population. Where I come from, people do not know what electricity is.

The whole of that region has about five generators that make so much noise. Garissa Town which is the provincial headquarters of North Eastern Kenya has only two old generators, which I think were bought about the time World War II took place.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, sometimes back, those generators broke down and there was no power in Garissa Town for two weeks. Try and imagine that! The temperatures around this time of the year upto April usually ranges between 40 - 45 degrees. One needs to have water and air conditioners. Besides, we have hospitals to operate. As I speak today, we began a water project which is about to be complete. When the project is completed, the machines which have been installed will not even be operated by the present generators in Garissa Town. Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit and Moyale Towns is where you will find these generators. Apart from those towns, there is no other place you can find electricity services. There is need to connect Garissa Town to the national grid. It is not very far away. We live along the bank of Tana River which generates all power for this country. When it floods, we are swept away by the floods, yet, we do not benefit from the power produced. Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, rural electrification has been going on in this country for many years. There is not even one project that has been set up in northern Kenya. There was the Spanish Programme which had a lot of money, but because we are not in the offices where people plan the supply of electricity, we were not included in the programme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me turn to oil exploration in this country. In the 1950's and the 60's, a lot of oil exploration was done in northern Kenya. We believe that there is oil in this country because Sudan is just across Turkana and there is oil. The Arabian peninsula is across and there is oil.

Drilling has been done in my area and oil was definitely found. The wells were deliberately sealed because in those years there was a conflict between Kenya and Somalia. The Government of Kenya thought that if it declared that there was oil in this country, Somalia would come and invade us and take up that part of the country. I want to tell the Minister now that nobody is taking that part of Northern Kenya. It is part and parcel of Kenya and we want that oil to start being exploited. We know that the well has been dug, sealed and that is why the announcement was delayed.

There is also a conspiracy by our neighbouring oil producing countries. They have bribed the multinationals not to say that there is oil in this country. This is known. When the oil companies discovered the oil, they were told to say there was no oil. The multinationals said that they could supply more oil than what was found here.

Another hon. Member talked about wind power. There is very strong wind in that part of the country. The Minister should find ways and means of tapping wind power and solar energy. This country has plenty of sunlight. We should import better machines so that we can supply electricity to our people. In places where there is electricity in this country, its price is very high.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Mrs. Mwendwa: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to support this Motion. I would like to make a general statement. When we attained our Independence, if we had prioritised water development in our development programme and especially in the countryside, energy and agriculture, we would not be having the problems we have today. Our

people in the countryside would be employed and they would not have to come to Nairobi and stay in Kawangware, Mathare and other slums in Nairobi. The areas in this country where there is energy and water are more developed than where there is none of those commodities.

The Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development should be allocated more funds so that our countryside is more developed. Most of the energy, especially electricity used in this country, comes from the Seven Forks Dams and yet it is around those areas where we have least power. It is taken from there, all the way to Mombasa past Ukambani, without being stepped down. It is just stepped down in one or two places. In places where we have had power development like in Keiyo Valley and other places, the Ministry has been developing and getting involved in projects in those areas. The Ministry is not involved whatsoever, in the development of the areas which produce power for the Seven Forks Dams. I think something is wrong and I would like the Minister at the end of the day, to tell us what he will do about the areas near where electricity is produced.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that we have had some rural electrification done. I urge the Minister to complete the already started projects before starting new ones. We have had this done and they by-passed some schools and markets. We need transformers in some of those places instead of installing new power lines. Let us get the maximum we can from the already installed lines instead of installing new ones. I am sure some of them have been approved by the District Development Committees. Let us go by those instead of starting new ones.

We would like to see more *jua kali* projects being started. These groups are normally started in places where there is power and the ordinary *mwananchi* is able to start a *jua kali* project like welding or whatever else he is able to do. You will find that they meet the needs of the local people and at the same time they are employed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is better to get those people employed in the countryside, instead of having them come to Nairobi or other big towns to look for jobs and they end up living poorer than if they had had power and lived in the countryside.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister informed me that they are planning to import more power. Let us concentrate in constructing big factories and so forth. I am not against big factories, but I support the ordinary school leavers; the Form Fours, Form six leavers and even university students who can start their own self-employment projects and have something to do in the countryside, instead of coming to Nairobi, *wanandaranda*. *Wanakaa* na relatives until the relatives are--

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Mrs. Mwendwa. The Chair will only listen to you in the language you started with. Could you proceed in the language you started with?

Mrs. Mwendwa: I am sorry, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. My Kiswahili is not good anyway. I would also propose that the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Water Resources Management and Development work together. I am saying this because I come from a semi-arid area and we have had some boreholes sunk there. Those boreholes are very difficult to manage because they are run by use of either diesel or petrol. We should sink boreholes in areas where there is availability of power. Another major problem is that power is very expensive. I am sure that in future, the cost of electricity in this country will be at par with that in other countries like our neighbours. If this is the case and we have our boreholes or irrigation schemes run by use of electric power, you will find that it is more efficient and that we can employ more people. As a result, we will be more self-sufficient in food production and we will deal with the problem of poverty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of sunshine in arid and semi-arid areas, but solar energy is not yet developed there at all. Initially, to instal solar is expensive. But once you have done it, you are through. You can use that energy to provide hot water, light and even watch news on

television. This will change the lifestyle of those people. I would encourage the development of solar energy, especially in places with a lot of sunshine throughout the year. In the long-run, it will be quite economical. If studies could be done so that we also use solar energy for cooking, it will save our environment so that we do not have to cut the few trees that are there for firewood. In the end, we will have done more harm than good. So, if we are provided with solar energy, it would be much better.

I would also like to propose that wind energy be developed. This is of great help in running boreholes in the same areas. It is also very cheap. It only needs to be perfected so that it can be used much more because it will take time to develop power in all areas in the country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. M. Kariuki: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to join my other colleagues in supporting this particular Vote for the Ministry of Energy.

Before I make my substantive contribution, I wish to underscore two issues. One is the issue of the transformers. Transformers have been one of the major impediments to the development of power both in urban and rural areas. The policy of the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) with regard to the transformers has been that the person who applies for power, initially, is the one who meets all the over-head costs of installation of that transformer. The other consumers who follow much later do not make any refund to that particular person who made the initial payment for the cost of the transformer. This has been a major impediment to the development of power. We should borrow from our sister country, Uganda.

In Uganda, the policy is quite different. If you apply to have power, a feasibility study is carried out within that area to establish the potential of the consumers. Then the cost of the transformer is distributed among the potential consumers. But the initial person who applies for power then pays such a proportion that is only enough to meet for his cost. In Kenya, it is the other way round. You initiate the development, you are never rewarded and you never get a refund for the initial cost. I think this is something that we have to address.

(Applause)

The second point is about the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) which has been raised here. I do not see why the Government feels its hands are tied. If you enter into an agreement where you have to buy at a higher cost of Kshs14 per unit and sell it for only Kshs7, which is a loss of Kshs7; I think that particular agreement, by any definition, is unconscionable. Then it is a good ground to say, we are backing out of this agreement because it is not beneficial to us as a party. I think the NARC Government has no excuse to continue to sustain these agreements with the IPPs. It is time they called it a day and terminated these particular agreements.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was listening very carefully to the Minister for Energy when he talked about alternative sources of energy. I realised that he is one of our youngest Ministers and I had a lot of hope in him that, perhaps, this is one of the Ministers who should begin to "think out of the box". We are familiar with the traditional sources of energy, but we are living in a modern age of modern technology; an era where, for example, nuclear reactors are the norm. We should start to invest in research. I did not hear anything about a research fund. We should start investing in research and also consider such modern technology like nuclear reactors as a source of power for the future. It is very unfortunate that we are in a treadmill. We think about wind mills, biogas, petroleum fuel, charcoal and wood fuel. These are traditional sources. We should be able to think out of those traditional sources and begin to be innovative and move forward to being a giant in the future among other giant nations of today. So, I feel that the Minister should think along this line, to invest in research and begin to "think out of the box"; to invest in future technology for our country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to address one issue which keep crossing my mind

as we discuss this particular Vote. This regards the corporations that relates to the distribution of power, particularly the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC), and the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC). The modern concept of development, and this is accepted internationally, is that all corporations must have a corporate-social responsibility. Wherever they are operating, they must be able to relate with the local people. They must participate in the development and the projects of the local people where they are located.

If you look at the KPC, they have a depot in Nakuru. They have brought water about six kilometres away to the depot with huge pipes which are six inches wide. The people who live around that particular area do not have water. The KPC could not allow them to draw water from their pipe. They are lucky that they came into existence before the Environmental Management Act came into force in 1999. They would be required to make an environmental audit. They are already a health hazard and a potential danger to the people. If those tanks exploded tomorrow, all the people in those areas would die. They have not put any fire-fighting strategy in place. This is a social and corporate responsibility they have abdicated. I would call upon the Minister to ensure that the KPC depot in Nakuru gives my people water and ensures that they have put a strategy in place to ensure that they have fire fighting equipment in the event of fire breaking out.

We will also call upon them to show that they are part of us by, at least, building a school there or any other social project. But what is the point of having the KPC depot in my constituency which is of no use to my people? I think they have to rise up to the occasion and discharge their corporate responsibility.

The same applies to the KPLC. They take a line six kilometres away to some individual house. They go through people's shambas and the poor peasants have to sign authority for them to pass through there. They never think that these poor peasants also require power. This is totally irresponsible of these corporations. I hope that in the fullness of time, the Minister will impress upon these corporations the need to observe corporate-social responsibility. It is the only way they can become acceptable to the people and become friends of the people where they operate.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about the importance of power. I would like to emphasize that, as far as security today is concerned in our towns and rural areas, in areas where there is no power, the rate of crime is very high. I recall that early this year, my constituents were killed by the *Mungiki*. In the estate where these people were killed there were no street lights. So, those killers were able to get away. They killed people for 45 minutes and by the time the police arrived, they had taken off. It is a very important component of our security to have security lighting in all our towns.

In the rural areas, it is equally important, and I am impressed that the Minister has a project to ensure that all rural trading centres are going to get power. This is a very positive development.

In terms of improving our security, it is important that we spread power all over the country, especially in the rural areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about power blackouts. We thought that the blackouts went away with KANU. Unfortunately, we still get blackouts even in this Chamber! I really wonder whether we have not got more water this year than any other year. I wonder why the inefficiency, that was there in the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) has not been removed. The Minister needs to conduct a serious purge among his staff. The people who created the inefficiency are still there. What we are seeing in the NARC Government is really a white wash. You have a new chief executive at the top and say you have effected changes. But the middle-level managers, who are critical in terms of efficiency and improvement, remain inside. There is need to ensure that, if the KPLC is going to improve its services to the public and have no more blackouts, we need to have new personnel who have some commitment and devotion to their duties. I am told that, that corporation suffered incredible losses. It is all because of looting. One hon. Member

said that there were no procurement procedures. It was a matter of who was closer to the boss to get a favour to provide services. I hope that the Minister will put in place mechanisms to ensure that the procurement procedures are observed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me also say that many groups, in towns and in rural areas, have been making contributions to get power for their various projects. In Nakuru, I have got several groups and their money has been lying with the KPLC. They are told: "Can you, please, deposit 10 per cent? We will make arrangements for you to get power". That money, which has been there for many years, is not attracting any interest. I would like to urge the Minister that, if the KPLC is not in a position to provide power immediately, that money should be put in a fixed deposit account, where it could attract a reasonable amount of interest. That way, when the Government is ready to carry out the projects, those people will benefit from the interests on their deposits.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Salat: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important Vote. It is important in the sense that, for a country like Kenya to actually advance, it has to address the issue of energy vigorously.

First and foremost, as the Member of Parliament for Bomet, mine is to request the Ministry to find ways and means of actually assisting the independent power generating stations like the one we have in my constituency, at Tenwek Mission Hospital. I have talked to that mission hospital on how we could work together as a community and actually expand that power plant to benefit the local people at home. I urge the Ministry to work together with such power stations, instead of relying on imported power which is more expensive for the users.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about Kenya being industrialised by the year 2020 - at least that was KANU's hope - we have to look for ways of getting there. The best way to do that is to harness the resources that we have in the country to benefit the local *mwananchi*.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the use of electric power for industrialisation can only be achieved if we exhaust all the available resources in the country towards its development. As my colleagues have said, we should harness wind form of energy, which has not been utilised in this country. This form of energy should be harnessed in this country because it is cheap. I urge the Ministry of Energy officials to visit Mai-Mahiu, which experiences strong winds so that they can exploit that form of energy. The electricity we import from Uganda is very expensive. This is the case, and yet most of the rivers that feed Lake Victoria with water are in this Republic. What have we done to exploit these water resources? The river I talked about, which passes through Tenwek, is one of the rivers which feed Lake Victoria with water. We will not be industrialised by the year 2020, as predicted earlier on, if we continue to import expensive power from our neighbouring countries. Maybe, we will be industrialised after the year 2020.

I support the Government's effort to avail electricity to Kenyans at an affordable cost. I urge the Minister to invest a lot of money in research. Our public universities produce highly qualified engineers who are employed in other countries. This is the case, and yet the Government spends a lot of money to train students pursuing engineering courses at our public universities. The Government should look into ways of promoting research in this country. I am saying this because if the Government fails to promote research in the energy sector, it will find it difficult to compete with countries whose energy sectors have advanced.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another issue of major concern, and which has been raised in this House now and then, is about hydro-power projects in this country, for example Turkwel. The locals in that area do not benefit from that hydro-power project. Since it is an African belief that charity begins at home, I urge the Government to supply the communities, which live around Turkwel Hydro-Power Project, for example the Turkanas and Pokot, with electricity. I am saying this because these communities see power lines passing over their *shambas*, but do not have

electricity in their homes.

I would also like to touch on rural electrification. There is a lot of mystery surrounding this programme. This programme should be demystified since we passed a law in this House to the effect that every constituency will benefit from the national Budget. I would like to know from the Minister for Energy the amount of money each constituency, for example Bomet, was allocated for the Rural Electrification Programme this year. If we set aside some money for this programme in every constituency, with the help of our District Development Committees (DDCs), we will supply electricity to those areas which deserve it the most.

Let me now touch on oil exploration in this country. When KANU was in power, it did a lot to develop oil exploration in this country. Recently, we heard that there is a ship on the shores of the Indian Ocean exploring for oil in this country.

The Government should channel all its resources towards exploration of oil to see if we have some oil deposits in this country. I am saying this because it is in the interests of this country to cut down expenditure on the crude oil we import. If oil is discovered in this country we will not spend a lot of money to import it from oil-producing countries. We will also not spend a lot of money to import electricity from Zimbabwe, which is very far away from us. I urge the Ministry to find ways and means of working with the independent power generating companies, for example the one in Bomet District, to "demystify" the Rural Electrification Programme so that Kenyans can access electricity at a low cost.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those remarks, I beg to support this Vote. **The Minister for Lands and Settlement** (Mr. Kimunya): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Motion. In supporting this Motion, I would like to remind the House of the experience we had in Kipipiri Constituency sometime back. To us, power means a lot. The House may recall that sometime in 1995 electricity poles were taken to that constituency during a by-election campaign, but when KANU lost that parliamentary seat to the Opposition, the poles were taken away the following day. We know the person who was in power in 1995.

I am glad to announce here that the people of Kipipiri Constituency have electricity now. I have been assured by the Minister for Energy that even the remaining market centres will be supplied with electricity very soon.

I would like to cite another experience to highlight the importance of supplying electricity to rural areas. A lot of economic activities have taken place in the nine months period that Kipipiri Constituency has enjoyed electricity services. I do believe that we will create the many job opportunities we need and discourage many people from migrating to towns in search of jobs and good life if the rest of Kenya is supplied with electricity. Schools which have not been supplied with electricity have had difficulties in offering computer lessons to their students. Those ones which have attempted to offer these lessons using diesel generators and alternative power have encountered a lot of problems. I hope that the Government will look into this and supply electricity to all the schools in this country. As we "enrich" brains through the free primary school education programme, we should also supply electricity to rural schools so that they can compete effectively with those in towns.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from an area that is next to the Aberdares Ranges, and we have witnessed the depletion of forests as people search for alternative sources of energy. I am glad that the Minister has allocated upwards of Kshs14 million for research into wood fuel alternatives. We have negotiated with the Minister and part of that Kshs14 million will go towards support for the fast developing tree plantations, especially in the areas that border the forest. I wish to remind him that Kipipiri is one such area.

I also want to agree with all those hon. Members who have asked for research into alternative sources of energy. For a long time, we have been looking at the traditional sources, but we should not shy away from nuclear and other forms of energy. I believe that we will be getting somewhere pretty

soon.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the private sector and social responsibility, I totally agree with Mr. M. Kariuki. Social responsibility is not only for Kenya Power and Lighting Company and Kenya Pipeline Corporation (KPC), but is for all the private sector oil companies. It is time they put much more into afforestation and other programmes that will help in saving the environment from the detriment caused by the use of the fuels which they produce. They should set aside part of their profit so that we can all save the environment for the future.

The Motion speaks for itself and I do not want to add to it or start repeating what other hon. Members have said.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Prof. Olweny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to give my support to the Vote of the Ministry of Energy. During our campaigns last year, NARC pledged to steer development in this country and create employment. One way of doing this, I believe, is by supporting the Ministry for Energy to provide adequate electricity to rural areas, where most of our unemployed people live. In these areas, where electrification is supposed to be done properly, you will find that people are stuck with what they want to do. They cannot do what they intend to do because they do not have electricity.

Small agro-based industries could be boosted by simply providing electricity to the rural areas. Diesel-powered posho mills are more expensive to run than electricity-powered ones. We will boost development in the rural areas and support communities by providing electricity. In my constituency, many secondary schools do not have electricity and many health centres do not provide adequate services to *wananchi* simply because they lack electricity.

The fish industry around Lake Victoria would also be boosted if sufficient electricity was supplied to the beaches. Today, our fishermen sell their fish cheaply because they cannot store it until the time when it can fetch the right prices. Power supply would enable a few people to install cold rooms along the beaches. If we install coldrooms along the beaches we would boost fish production around the lake. That would steer development and, of course, create some of the 500,000 jobs we promised Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard my colleagues here talk of alternative sources of energy. In this country the wind is actually blowing off our roofs instead of us tapping it to generate energy. We know that in many European countries, United States of America (USA) and other parts of the world, wind power is a major source of energy. Why do we leave ours to go untapped? We should give support to this Ministry and our brilliant Minister so that those kinds of alternative sources of energy are used.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on solar technology, we should facilitate the communities in the rural areas so that they use solar energy. If the hydro energy source that is provided is too expensive, we could facilitate the rural areas to tap the solar energy. We could provide our people with inverters so that the Direct Current (DC) is converted into Alternating Current (AC) for their use and to facilitate industrialisation to a small extent and, at least, provide energy for the micro-industries in the rural areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the sugar industry in other countries is used to provide energy. If you go to Muhoroni Sugar Factory today, you will find a whole heap of bagasse there. In other sugar producing countries bagasse is used to generate electricity. Why can we not use this material to generate electricity to help industrialise further our country, especially in the rural areas where these factories are located? We would provided electricity from such facilities. This Ministry should allow these factories, if they are willing, to make use of that material to generate electricity. I know there is one factory which is already doing that. However, to provide such energy to the communities, they may need permission from the Ministry. Bagasse could still be used to make

charcoal. There is one factory which is already doing it on a small scale, but there is a lot of it that could produce enough charcoal to save our trees. So, let the sugar industry liaise with the Ministry, so that we use that excess material that they are not using to generate energy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few comments, I beg to support.

Mr. Wario: Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa fursa hii. Ama kwa hakika, Wizara ya Kawi ni muhimu sana katika Serikali. Hii ni kwa sababu Wizara hii ndio huenda hatua kubwa kuboresha hali ya viwanda na biashara katika nchi hii.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, tukiboresha viwanda na biashara hapa nchini, basi tutabuni nafasi nyingi za kazi. Najua kwamba katika harakati za kampeini, Serikali ya NARC ilitoa ahadi ya kubuni nafasi laki tano za kazi kwa Wakenya. Sijui kama imebuni nafasi 20,000 kufikia sasa. Hata hivyo, iwapo tutaboresha biashara na viwanda katika nchi yetu, tutaweza kubuni nafasi nyingi za kazi kwa vijana. Hii ni sehemu muhimu. Kwa hivyo, ni wajibu wangu kuiunga mkono Bajeti ya Wizara ya Kawi ili kuiwezesha kutekeleza wajibu wake kwa Wakenya.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, Wizara hii ni muhimu sana. Utafiti na teknolojia vinategemea nguvu za umeme. Taifa lisilofanya utafiti ipasavyo litakuwa na pengo kubwa kimaendeleo. Upashaji elimu bora na kuendeleza vyuo vya kiufundi kunategemea nguzu za umeme. Katika sehemu ambako hakuna umeme viwango vya elimu viko duni, na hakuna vyuo vya kiufundi. Maisha katika sehemu hizo ni magumu, na umaskini umetanda. Kwa hivyo, ili kupunguza umaskini, ni lazima kuwepo na umeme kote nchini.

Ijapokuwa nimesimama hapa kuiunga mkono Bajeti ya Wizara hii, nikielezea yale yaliyotukumba katika Wilaya ya Tana River ni masikitiko matupu. Itakumbukwa kwamba gavana wa kwanza wa serikali ya mkoloni katika nchi hii, Sir Charles, alisema kwamba hakuna maana kuweka--

*(Mr. Shaaban stood between the
Chair and Mr. Wario)*

Mr. Poghisi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for Mr. Shaaban to directly stand between you and the hon. Member on the Floor?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): You are right, Mr. Poghisi. Mr. Shaaban, obey the Standing Orders. You should not stand between the Chair and an hon. Member who is on the Floor.

Proceed, Mr. Wario.

Mr. Wario: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, gavana wa kwanza wa serikali ya mkoloni katika nchi hii alisema kwamba hakukuwa na haja ya kuweka chochote cha maendeleo katika sehemu kame, kwa sababu hakukuwa na chochote cha manufaa kilichotoka katika sehemu hizo. Ni sera hiyo hiyo ya mkoloni iliyotekelezwa na Serikali ya hayati Kenyatta na ile ya rais mstaafu Daniel arap Moi na nina hofu kwamba Serikali ya NARC huenda ikaiendeleza sera hiyo. Huu ni mwaka wa 40 tangu nchi hii ipate Uhuru. Huku Wakenya wakisherehekea miaka 40 ya Uhuru, katika Wilaya ya Tana River, hakuna hata jenereta. Watoto kutoka wilaya hiyo watakapoona taa za umeme, watauliza: "Hii ni nini?" Kwa hivyo, unaweza kufikiria tuko nyuma kiasi gani wakazi wa Tana River.

Ukosefu wa umeme ndio unaosababisha watoto wa Tana River "kuongoza" katika mitihani ya kitaifa kutoka mwisho wa orodha. Ninafuraha kusimama mbele ya Waziri wa Kawi. Ningependa Waziri aitembelee Wilaya ya Tana River ili ashuhudie tabu inayowakumba wakazi wa wilaya hiyo. Asili mia 72 ya wakazi wa Wilaya ya Tana River ni maskini. Hawawezi kufanya biashara kwa sababu hakuna umeme. Biashara wanazofanya ni zile za kubahatisha. Hakuna utafiti wowote unaoendelea katika sehemu hiyo. Hakuna "maisha" katika Wilaya ya Tana River.

Kwa hivyo, ninamwomba Waziri aitembelea wilaya hiyo ili ajionee hali ilivyo. Itakuwa historia kubwa kwa nchi hii kwa Waziri wa Kawi kwenda kuona "giza" lililotanda kwa miaka 40 katika wilaya

hiyo. Utawala wa sasa umechukua uongozi kutoka kwa utawala uliopita, lakini "giza" katika wilaya hiyo limeendelea kutanda. Mkoloni alirudi Ulaya zamani, lakini "giza" bado liko katika wilaya hiyo. Serikali ya hayati Kenyatta na ile ya rais mstaafu, Daniel arap Moi, zimeenda, lakini "giza" katika Wilaya ya Tana River bado liko.

Ninamwomba Waziri aende Tana River kuona hilo "giza", na aone jinsi atakavyotusaidia.

[**Mr. Wario**]

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kuna ajabu kubwa katika Wilaya ya Tana River. Kuna lokesheni moja peke yake - Madogo - ambayo "ina mwanga". Laini ya umeme imepitia lokesheni hiyo kutoka mjini Garissa kuelekea kituo cha kurushia matangazo cha shirika la utangazaji nchini, KBC, kilichoko umbali wa kilomita 20. Laini hiyo ya umeme inapitia katikati mwa lokesheni hiyo, lakini hakuna mwananchi hata mmoja aliyebahatika kufaidika na umeme huo. Umeme huo umepelekwa kwa kituo cha kurushia matangazo cha KBC huku wakazi wa Tana River wakiachwa katika hali ya kawaida ya ukosefu wa umeme.

Kwa hivyo, ningependa kumwomba Waziri hivi: Kama ni vigumu kupeleka umeme katika Wilaya yote ya Tana River, basi atuwekee umeme katika Lokesheni ya Madogo, ambamo tayari laini ya umeme kuelekea kituo cha kurushia matangazo cha KBC imepitia. Ningependa awahurumie wakazi wa Madogo na kuwawekea umeme ili iwe mfano mzuri kwa Wilaya ya Tana River. Tayari kuna sera ya kupeleka umeme katika sehemu za mashambani. Nimeshaleza shida ambazo zimekuwa zikitukumba kwa miaka 40 sasa. Kwa hivyo, chini ya sera hii, ningependa Waziri atuhurumie na kutuwekea umeme katika Wilaya ya Tana River.

Nikitamatisha mchango wangu, ningependa kusema kwamba nchi hii inategemea kwa kiasi kikubwa mafuta ya petroli kwa mahitaji yake ya kawi. Petroli ni tisho kwa mazingira yetu. Ningependa kuiomba Serikali na washikadau wengine wanaoshughulikia sera hii waketi chini waone ni mafuta aina gani yaliyo bora kwa mazingira yetu ili tuweze kuyatumia.

Kwa hayo machache, ninaiunga mkono Hoja hii.

The Assistant Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife (Prof. Maathai): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Vote. I want to commend the Minister for the effort he is currently making in ensuring the implementation of the rural electrification programme, and especially prioritising the electrification of shopping centres in those areas.

I know that many young people hang around shopping centres not knowing what to do with themselves. While the NARC Government is trying very hard to create jobs, there can be no better way of creating jobs than providing electricity to shopping centres in rural areas. Once there is electricity, young people will find many ways in which to engage themselves in productive activities, stay away from trouble and improve their quality of life. So, I want to commend the Minister for the effort he is making.

I also want to make a very strong observation on the use of charcoal as a source of energy and remind the Minister that over 85 per cent of our people use wood as a source of energy. Many of them, especially in urban centres, use charcoal. This means massive deforestation. This problem is particularly serious in catchment areas. We know that Mount Kenya and Aberdares Forests provide the water that flows down River Tana. This is the water that is used to generate electricity along that river, yet the Ministry, to my knowledge, hardly invests anything upstream. I think it is very important for the Ministry of Energy to appreciate that without forests there will be no water. As a matter of fact, the water levels of the many rivers that flow from the Aberdares and Mount Kenya Forests as well as from the Mau Escarpment have reduced significantly. So, unless we halt the deforestation of these major catchment areas, in the very near future, we may not be able to generate any electricity from these rivers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to draw the Minister's attention to the fact

that very little attention is being given to vegetation along the river banks. I have said this before in this House and I want to repeat it, because it seems to have completely gone unheeded. This aspect is not completely under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and Wildlife. I guess it is closer to the Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources Management and Development, but I think the Ministry of Energy must take an interest in the protection of the river banks and prevent people from cultivating literally along the river banks. As of now, water from the rivers literally sweep their crops. This encroachment of the river banks by farmers, especially in the highlands, contributes to soil erosion, which is responsible for silting of dams. This was clear several years ago, especially during the dry spell, when siltation collected in the dams and interfered with the turbines. So, the capacity of the dams to produce electricity was greatly reduced.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order! Order! Prof. Maathai, when debate on this Vote resumes, you will speak for a further seven minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Hon. Members, we have come to the end of our business this evening. Therefore, the House is now adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 23rd October, 2003, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.