

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 20th March, 2002

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-
THAT, considering the high degeneration of forests, noting that drought persistence has been greatly aggravated by forest destruction, and further noting that the termination of the shamba system in the 1980s has adversely affected afforestation efforts; this House urges the Government to re-introduce the shamba system to assist in the preservation and conservation of our forests.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

KILLING OF MASTER ONGODO BY CROCODILE

Mr. Ayoki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President, the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that on or about 15th February, 2002, near Asat Beach, a crocodile killed Master Charles Otieno Ongodo, a 13-year old pupil at Jonyo Primary School in South West Sewe in Kombewa Division, Kisumu Rural Constituency?

(b) Could he inform the House how many people have been killed by crocodiles in the past three years in the Nyanza Gulf?

(c) What urgent plans are in place to reduce the number of these killer reptiles from the area?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I went through the reply and found that it was not sufficient. I would like the hon. Member to give me time, until Tuesday, when I can bring a proper and detailed answer.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ayoki, what is your reaction?

Mr. Ayoki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not get his statement properly. What did he say?

Mr. Speaker: He said that he does not have a proper answer and, therefore, he wants more time. As you all know, these Questions were approved on Thursday last week. I think it is a fair request.

Mr. Ayoki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, did he say when he will answer the Question?

Mr. Speaker: Would Tuesday, next week, be alright for you, Mr. Nassir?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Would Tuesday, next week, be fine for you, Mr. Ayoki?

Mr. Ayoki: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The Question is deferred to Tuesday next week.

(Question deferred)

VETERINARIES SANS FRONTIERS IN DRUGS BUSINESS

(Dr. Ali) to ask the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that *Veterinaries Sans Frontiers* (VSF) is carrying out veterinary drug business in Wajir?

(b) Is he further aware that the NGO uses Government officers and vehicles for its operations and does not pay for using Government facilities?

(c) What does the organisation do with the money collected as cost recovery from stock owners in respect of animal treatment activities?

Mr. Speaker: Is Dr. Ali not here? The Question is dropped!

(Question dropped)

Next Question!

LACK OF AMBULANCE DRIVERS IN LURAMBI

Dr. Kulundu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Public Health the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the Navakholo, Bukura and Bashiri Health Centres in Lurambi Constituency have working ambulances but no drivers?

(b) What urgent measures is the Ministry taking to rectify this anomaly?

Mr. Speaker: Is there anyone here from the Ministry of Health? Dr. Kulundu, could I defer the Question to tomorrow?

Dr. Kulundu: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Next Order!

MOTIONS

EXEMPTION OF BUSINESS FROM PROVISIONS OF SO 33

The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, this House orders that business appearing on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order No.33, being a Wednesday morning, a day allocated to Private Members' Motions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I bring this Motion to the House because today is a Wednesday morning when we normally discuss Private Members' Motions. Unfortunately, there is not a single Motion which has actually matured for debate because, in any case, the Motions were only received yesterday. In that light, I bring the Motion once again to pave the way for the House to proceed on to the next Motion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

(Mr. Muite stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: Do you want to second the Motion, Mr. Muite?

Mr. Muite: No, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then you should know the rules of the House by now.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah) seconded.

(Mr. Muite stood up in his place again)

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Muite! Obey the laws of gravity!

(Question proposed)

Now, Mr. Muite, what has been burning you?

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the Motion. We are anxious to utilise the remaining time because tomorrow is the last day so that we can get on with the more serious business of the Bills which are pending

before this House.

In supporting the Motion, I would like to ask the Leader of Government Business who is also the Vice-President, to go back and sit in his usual seat. He does not have to shy away. Let him go back and sit where he normally sits!

(Laughter)

The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe the hon. Member knows that, traditionally, the Leader of Government Business has got the freedom to move from place to place, along the Front Bench, in matters of consultation and to set the way forward for discussion.

(Question put and agreed to)

Mr. Speaker: Next Order!

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on Tuesday 12th March, 2002.

(The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs on 13.3.2002)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 19.3.2002)

Mr. Speaker: Any interest? Mr. Sifuna!

Mr. Sifuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion on the Presidential Speech.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since 1978, when the Head of State took over the leadership of the country, we have had so many Ministers for Finance, but up to now we have never been told why this is so. When President Moi took over the Government, the US\$1 was going at Kshs7. Today it is Kshs80 per dollar. We know that economic problems are being experienced in every part of the world and His Excellency the President, Daniel arap Moi and the Minister for Finance, have not told this country the reasons behind this state of affairs. Kenyans expected to be told they are not the only ones who are experiencing economic problems because this is the case all over the world. Now, this Speech clearly shows that there is bad management of the resources of this country. We do not understand why one US dollar, that was trading at Kshs7 sometime back, is now trading at Kshs80 and yet there is no explanation from the Minister for Finance or the Head of State as to how this difference has come about. The poor economic state of affairs are not specifically confined to Kenya but to the whole world. However, how come it is only in Kenya where the US dollar, that was trading at Kshs7, is now trading at Kshs80? Some of us think that this maybe because during the 1992 elections, the Kenya Government printed a lot of Kshs500 notes that really weakened our shilling.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year, the House passed the Sugar Bill which the President assented to. We expected the sugar industries to implement that Act from 1st April. Whereas we are hoping that the sugar industries will try to implement the Act, I am more concerned about Nzoia Sugar Company which today owes the farmers over Kshs500 million. I would ask the Minister for Finance to find an alternative way of raising some money so that he can offset the Kshs500 million debt or let the company borrow some money in order to pay the farmers their outstanding dues. I hope the Minister for Finance will take this request into consideration and provide more funds to bail out Nzoia Sugar Company. We have requested the Government several times to chip in and, at least, bail out the sugar industries particularly Nzoia Sugar Company, but from time to time, the Government has been promising to do so without giving any fruitful assistance. Kenya has enough sugar and we wonder why the Government continues to allow other traders to import sugar when we have plenty of it in this country. Today, the warehouses in all the sugar factories are full of sugar because there is no market for it. We would like the Minister for Agriculture to, at least, one time, to come and explain to this nation why they allow the importation of sugar when our factories are capable of producing enough sugar for local consumption.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, turning to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, from time to time, we have been asking the Government why they have not built Kibabii Teachers Training College. In 1979, when the Government promised to build Kibabii Teachers Training College, they advertised the tender and awarded it to people

they knew. The man who was awarded the tender consumed the money and disappeared. Today, when you ask the Minister for Education to explain why it has been so difficult for the Government to construct Kibabii Teachers Training College, he cannot give a satisfactory answer yet other teacher training colleges have been built since the construction of Kibabii Teachers Training College was proposed. We have so many graduates from various universities and teacher training colleges who are jobless. The Government is not willing to employ them. I am appealing to the Minister for Education together with the Minister for Finance, to provide enough funds so that these graduates from various teacher training colleges are employed. Otherwise, it is pointless to train someone if you cannot utilise him or her after the Government has spent a lot of money and yet various primary and secondary schools lack teachers. So, it is high time the Minister for Education took this issue seriously and ensured that there are enough funds available to employ teachers so that, at least, unemployment can be reduced in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 2000, the Bungoma District Development Committee (DDC) proposed to introduce a rural electrification programme in Bumula Constituency. We were asked to give the details and we did that. Today, it is over two years and electricity has not reached Bumula Divisional Headquarters. So, I am asking the Minister for Energy to ensure that, at least, we have electricity provided at Bumula Divisional Headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Roads and Public Works promised us last year in this House that his Ministry would tarmack the Bungoma-Mumias Road. Today, it is now a year and yet he has not implemented his promise; that his Ministry would tarmack this particular road because it is badly damaged. Now, we keep on asking ourselves: If there is no money, why can they not tell us so and let us vote money in this House so that, at least, we have better roads in our major towns? It is far much better to tell us that they require so much money, but when they come and tell us that money has been set aside to tarmack the roads and a year ends without tarmacking that particular road, that is one way of misleading this House. If a Minister does not develop my area because of personal differences, then that is also another form of corruption. He is using his position to deny the people of Bumula their rightful services whereas we pay taxes like the rest of Kenyans. Therefore, the Minister for Roads and Public Works should try to honour the promise he made in this House; that he would tarmack the Bungoma-Mumias Road. The road is impassable and we keep on wondering what is happening with the Ministry of Roads and Public Works.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me now turn to the Office of the Vice-President, Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports. I think it is high time we, Kenyans, either maintained our culture or we did not. We should change from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports to the Ministry of Civilisation and Social Services. There are certain jobs Kenyan ladies should not venture into and particularly in the Judiciary. Most of these women who are judges are divorcees. Even as parliamentarians, you will find that a Member comes into this House married and, thereafter, she divorces her husband just because she is a Member of Parliament!

Mrs. Sinyo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could I request, through the Chair, that the Member on the Floor withdraws his comments for calling my learned colleagues "women"? They are appointed to those positions because of their professional and educational qualifications. So, through you, could the Member on the Floor respectfully withdraw his comments about the Members of this House who are women and members of the Judiciary who are also women?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I think, Mr. Sifuna, you have been in this House for long and amongst the things you are not allowed to do is to discuss the conduct of any member of the Judiciary without a substantive Motion. But much more important for me, and I think for this House, is that you have no business prying into the private lives of Kenyans who are not here to defend themselves. I think you are lowering the dignity of this House and your own dignity. I have no problem with you lowering your own dignity, but I have problems allowing you to lower the dignity of this House. I consequently order that you do withdraw and apologise for those terrible remarks that you have made against a third party. You must proceed to do that now!

Mr. Sifuna: With due respect to the Chair, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought I was just making my comments, but I withdraw and apologise. I did not mention names.

Mr. Speaker: Very well!

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to make my contribution to this Motion that the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on Tuesday, 12th March, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first, I have heard some colleagues make remarks about the fact that this Speech ought to have contained this and that, and that it was inadequate. I totally disagree with them. In my humble submission, this Statement by His Excellency the President certainly contains matters of public policy and sets out issues of public policy that this House needs to deliberate on. Obviously, in a Speech such as this, you cannot cover everything. It is imperative that key and principal items be spelt out, which is what His Excellency the President did. I, therefore, want to fully support the Speech by His Excellency the President. It is, indeed, a wonderful Speech and it contains matters of

public policy for debate by this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me proceed to note and observe that the Speech did contain aspects of what this country has achieved. It is true we have achieved tremendous progress. In education, one needs to look around and see the number of schools, universities and professionals that have been produced by our education system. This Speech has talked about good neighbourliness. It has also talked about what is contained in the National Anthem and in the end, which Bills are before us for debate. The President ends his Speech by urging hon. Members to take the dignity of this House as high as they can and to conduct the business for which they were elected. I want to appeal to my colleagues that it is shameful that the House should lack quorum. Further, I would propose that we need to look at our Standing Orders such that sitting allowance is paid on the basis of attendance to this House rather than just making a general payment. I would like us to look into those Standing Orders and make sure hon. Members come to this House to debate rather than sit out there.

Mr. Speaker: By the way, Mr. Keah, I think there is already a tribunal put in place by the Chair to receive exactly what you are saying.

The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): I am merely putting emphasis on what you have already done and I commend you for having taken that step. I totally support you as I have always done.

Mr. Speaker: Well, I was suggesting that those sentiments belong to the tribunal and not here. **The Assistant Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I thought I was thanking you. I cannot argue with you.

Having said that, it is important to note that our education system should be geared towards producing as many professionals as possible. If we produce professionals, in my view, they will be able to create more employment opportunities through setting up various professional firms. If we emphasize on the need to produce more professionals in the system rather than producing people with general degrees, we will be better off in this country than we are at the moment.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do note that we have made achievements in this country, but as the President's Speech also notes, there are still a number of things that could be achieved. Poverty still looms. Diseases cannot be eradicated. Indeed, the HIV/AIDS pandemic is a disaster for this country. Even on education, we do not have adequate schools. In some of the rural areas, we have schools where children still sit on stones or learn under trees. I would like to urge the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, to ensure that every primary school that exists today has a programme that will ensure that it has proper classrooms, desks and that it is adequately equipped. Each primary school or each child should get, at least, the basic primary education. The other day, I attended a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and I was delighted to note that the UK Branch has established a Commonwealth Education Fund with the aim of ensuring that, at least, every child gets basic primary education. Kenya is included and will be a beneficiary of that Fund.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in an effort to eradicate poverty, the Government came up with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. This is now the Poverty Reduction Programme. I look forward to see if those items which were prioritised by the various districts are funded in the Budget for 2002/2003 which is currently being worked on. We held several seminars at the Coast, and within the constituencies, and we identified the factors that continue to cause poverty in our respective constituencies. We enumerated them so that the programme can be funded through the Budget under the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) system of budgeting. This is the time when the Ministry of Finance and Planning staff should be working on the Budget and I look forward to seeing those items included in this year's Budget Speech.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should encourage investors to come to this country. This is because we cannot create jobs and wealth without investors investing in this country. Our emphasis is to create wealth in this country. If we create wealth, we will alleviate or eradicate poverty. Wealth can only be realised if we welcome investors to invest in this country. I would like the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Ministry of Tourism and Information and also the Ministry of Trade and Industry to come up with policies which will encourage private investors to establish businesses in our country. We should make the conditions conducive in order to encourage private investors.

Before I am time-barred, I would like to talk about my favourite subject, which is the revitalisation of the coconut industry in this Republic. I would like to point out that this industry has been ignored. I would like to call upon the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and I will do this again and again until this is achieved, to revitalize that industry. There are more than 100 products that are made from the coconut industry. I hope that the industry is not ignored because it is based at the Coast. I would like to urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to ensure that stakeholders conferences are held and that a task force is formed to change the current law. I would also like to urge the Attorney-General to ensure that nobody is molested by the police under this particular Act.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

The Member for Subukia (Mr. Kuria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Speech which was made by the President---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kuria, could you use the microphone because we cannot hear you properly?

Mr. Katuku: He is too short!

The Member for Subukia (Mr. Kuria): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to say a few things. I would like to congratulate the President for giving this Speech. I know that some hon. Members have criticised this Speech, which has given a "red card" to Kenyans. The Speech has talked about how the economy has continued to decline. The economy has deteriorated because the Government, which is supposed to look into these issues, has not taken them seriously. The Speech says that the Government has trained doctors and teachers. I would like to point out that a tree is recognised by the fruits it bears. When you train doctors, teachers and other professionals, you have to take care of them and employ them. Teachers have been trained and given jobs, but they are poorly paid. The Government signed an agreement with the teachers to increase their salaries. If the Government knew that it had no money to pay the teachers it should not have signed it. When the Government signed the agreement, it knew very well that it was supposed to keep it. Up to date, the Government has not paid the teachers the money it promised them. Why did the Government sign the agreement when it knew very well that it had no money to pay the increased salaries? The teachers have done a good job in this country. The Chair will note that the Government cannot pay the teachers the money because of poor management or running of the country. If you look at the doctors' case, you will find that they have been trained and are poorly paid. I would like to point out that our hospitals have few doctors because they have fled to other countries which offer them better salaries. Why should the Government train doctors and fail to employ them? Why can the Government not pay doctors good salaries in order to retain them in this country?

I do not understand why up to now the Government has not put its house in order. The office of the Attorney-General, which is supposed to advise the Government on legal affairs, is the one which has failed most. If you go to the Attorney-General's Chambers, you will find files scattered all over the floor. I have personally been there and witnessed this. Why is this the case? When you go there and ask for your file, you cannot get it simply because the officers there want you to give out *kitu kidogo*. I would like to ask the Attorney-General, who is the chief legal advisor of this Government, to put his office in order so that he can render his services effectively.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on education, you will find that the Minister for Education has got so many policy papers in his shelves. They are kept in the shelves and nobody dusts them to see what is inside. The other day, the Minister appointed a committee to investigate the cause of strikes in our schools. Up to now, we do not know what is contained in the report, which has been kept in the shelf. It is just the other day that the Minister said that they will look into this problem. If you are keen, you will notice that there have been many changes in the Ministry of Education. I would like to point out that nobody follows what happens there. I think the Ministers have been fighting to retain their positions in the Government and not to alleviate poverty which is afflicting *wananchi*.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since 1990, the President has been saying that the performance of the economy has been very poor, and that it has not taken off. Why has economic growth not taken off? The problem is the management of the economy by the Government. That reminds me of the time when I was in a local authority. We were running a small "government" through the committee system. I realise that Parliament is now being managed through the committee system. I have not sat in any of the committees of Parliament. However, from my experience in the local authority, the committees look at policy papers, deliberate on them and forward them to the Minister for Local Government. I am not sure whether the committees of Parliament are being run like those in local authorities. However, I believe that they look widely at policy issues.

I have realised that Government policy papers are never implemented. Nobody has come forward to tell us exactly what is happening. The Government has ignored all its policies and decided to operate *kienyeji*. Somebody in the Government wakes up one morning and decides that a certain project will be commissioned in a certain constituency, without due consideration of existing economic policies. The Government should, therefore, revert to working in line with existing policies, and in conjunction with officers who are conversant with economic issues, so that it can find out where it went wrong. Indeed, this is not the time for the Government to find out where it went wrong; it is time for the electorate, who is its employer, to hire a new team of managers to run the affairs of this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you realise that Government Ministers are not even interested in addressing the problems of this country. They always talk about eradicating poverty. But, sincerely, if you do not visit the people in the field, how can you come here and say that you want a policy paper on poverty eradication prepared? Poverty eradication begins by helping *wananchi* wherever you are. Are we doing that? We come here and debate policy papers which some Government Ministers are not interested in implementing. The policy paper that was tabled here yesterday has very beautiful colours. It came to the House with the New KANU. What is new? Is it the new party with the same people? If you put on a new suit, should you call yourself by a different name? We are saying that this Government should be

whipped out of Office, so that *wananchi* can employ another management team for this country.

With those few remarks, I beg to oppose.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Ethuro): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Address. I wish to thank His Excellency the President for the public policy Statement he made before this House on 12th March, 2002. In his Address to this House, the President captured the issues that are very important to this nation. As hon. Members of this House, we have a responsibility to debate his policy statements. He has encouraged us to make serious contributions to these particular issues.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the President's Address covered poverty, education, the importance of regional economic blocks and, more importantly, the security of our people. It is absolutely important for the Government to protect the lives and property of Kenyans. In this aspect, the President addressed the issue of banditry, among others. I would like to highlight the issue of banditry. A recent research indicates that about Kshs200 million worth of livestock is stolen in this country's pastoralist areas annually, and that about 5,000 lives are lost. The Government must be serious in addressing this problem. If we put in monetary terms the loss incurred through banditry annually, we will realise the economic loss the affected communities are incurring. Losing property worth more than Kshs200 million within a short period of time is really a very serious business.

The Government must play its role of protecting people together with their property seriously. Law enforcement officers need to do a bit more than just putting up a show for us. It is time we became serious as a country. Banditry has impoverished our people. Where the development pace is already very low, banditry has made it extremely difficult for investors to venture in. Investors who may be interested in venturing in Lodwar, Marsabit and the North Eastern Province find it difficult to reach those places due to the banditry menace. Particularly in the Turkana and Pokot areas, in the last six months, we have recorded about 14 incidents of cattle rustling, out of which ten incidents involved our neighbours. The Government must take responsibility. As leaders of that area, we have decided that we are not going to be pitted against each other. We are not going to treat our neighbours as our enemies. The Government has a responsibility to ensure the security of our people. The area in question does not fall within a no man's land; it is part of the Republic of Kenya. Law enforcement officers must, therefore, act to ensure that security prevails in that area. If the officers are lazy, they should be moved elsewhere or face the sack. It is time we started giving statistics. The problem with information from the Government is that it is devoid of statistics. There is no assessment of the impact being done in a professional manner. But we have done our part in terms of communicating the number of cattle rustling incidents that have taken place within a given period of time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Eight Parliament has done a lot. I would like to encourage everyone to go on with the reform process we started sometime back under your leadership. However, I must state that Parliament is getting into the habit of giving promises that are never fulfilled. At the beginning of the Fifth Session of this Parliament, you assured us that each hon. Member would have an office by September, 2001. At the beginning of this Session, you re-assured us that our offices would be ready in the next two or three months. Parliament and hon. Members should lead by example. If we can demonstrate our ability to meet objectives within a given time-frame---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ethuro, do you ever imagine that I am a contractor, and that I undertake construction work?

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have never imagined that you are contractor. I know that you are the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Mr. Speaker: Very well!

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Ethuro): But I know that you have a job to do; to ensure that the contractors perform their duties within the given time-frame.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I raised this issue so as to make another important point. As you know, this House came up with the Constituency AIDS Control Committee (CACCs) and the District Roads Committees (DRCs), where Members of Parliament were, for once, given a role in the management of public affairs. There have been serious attempts to undermine the CACCs. They have been poorly funded, contrary to the wishes of this House. That is why I was calling for seriousness. So, once we decide to do something, let us do it correctly within the defined time-frame.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the President also encouraged cotton production. This is very good for us. As you know, we come from some of the arid areas where farming is limited. I think our people are willing to farm, but the rest of the infrastructure should be put in place. The starting point could be the Cotton Board. We have a whole parastatal out there that has not performed, and I think the Government should be serious enough and expend resources on the Cotton Board so that cotton production is accelerated.

I think we need to be serious about the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission. The problem in this country is not just ad hoc issues. It is a paralysis of institutions. We need to strengthen institutions so that they are better than the individuals; that, the institutions can still operate whether we have a weaker person or a stronger person heading them. There is no society that can be based on a personality because personalities have a lifespan, but institutions should be strengthened in order to prosper beyond our own lifespan.

We should also be serious about poverty eradication. It is a pity that we can now still talk about the enemies of the country. At Independence, we identified our enemies as poverty, ignorance and disease, and we are still talking about the same enemies in the new millennium. We have even added more enemies; now, we have HIV/AIDS and corruption. The list of enemies that we are fighting is expanding; it is not reducing.

(Applause)

I am saying that we have to be committed to what we are saying. We have to deliver what we are saying. If we want to tackle poverty, let us be realistic, so that when we have a poverty reduction project on a pilot basis, we should not consider Buret to be the second priority, when we know that the Government's statistics puts Marsabit District as the poorest area in the Republic and Turkana District as the second poorest district in the country. Turkana District does not qualify for a poverty eradication project. Does that not tell you something? That we are getting our priorities wrong? Let us be serious. Let us do a good job; let us eradicate poverty, and we should start where the majority of the people are poor. Then, we will eradicate poverty.

I would want to urge the House and the Government to consider the issue of teachers' salaries. Teachers play an important role. The education sector is the backbone of our society. We cannot over-emphasize this fact. I think motivating teachers is extremely crucial. They need to be given decent accommodation and pay. I am, therefore, encouraging this Parliament, in consultation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, to complete the remaining pay package for teachers because we can no longer say that we do not have money when civil servants' pay is being increased and we, as hon. Members, want to increase our pay, as it ought to be. I think it is also important that the salaries for teachers and the police force are increased because we do not want to have a situation where the police get involved in bribery. Traffic police officers are supposed to ensure that all vehicles have insurance stickers and meet other road safety requirements. If you travel on these roads, a police officer would tell you: "If you have put all these stickers on the windscreen; the insurance and everything else, *sisi tutakula wapi?*" I think police officers are not supposed to be "eating" from the roadside and roadblocks. They are supposed to be paid. I think we need to look into their welfare.

Finally, I want to thank the President for his foresight and wisdom. What happened in Kasarani on Monday will ensure that this country is governed better than before; that, we are getting more younger and youthful people into the Government, and NDP and KANU have merged. Now, we have one strong party. I want to thank the NDP leader because he is a man who has been "born" to the Opposition, and has been able to see that this country has to be united--

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Ethuro said that he wanted to thank the "NDP leader," when we do not have any party called NDP. So, there is no NDP leader.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ethuro, are you reneging on what you, as a party, did last Monday?

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. I will put it better; the former NDP leader---

Mrs. Sinyo: I want---(inaudible).

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mrs. Sinyo! Always thank the Speaker!

Mrs. Sinyo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise with all uncertainty. I do not know whether to congratulate the President the way all the speakers have done. I want to assure you that I am not sure of what I am doing, but for certain, I am responding to his Speech. I am concerned that, in the Presidential Speech, one thing came out very clearly. We know that he is a man of wisdom; he is a leader who has been put to reign by God. If I may refer to the Bible, it says: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and give to the layman what is his." Even there was a story of a woman who kept on knocking at the king's door, when there was a judge who was being unfair and unjust to her until it reached a point when the king said: "I better harken, open my door, and hear this hue and cry of this lady." At the end of the day, she was granted what she wanted from the king.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the position I am taking. I am standing with my constituency behind me. When the President speaks in this House, he is the President of the nation who, for your information, is the Patron for the Fund for Disabled, the Kenya Society for the Blind, the Kenya Society for the Deaf Children and many other institutions of people with disabilities. Yet, in his Speech, there was no reference, even an iota of it--

To me, this is a concern, and it leads me to remark that there is nothing more unequal than the equal treatment of the unequals. I expected the President, in his Speech, knowing the status of people with disabilities, to give specific recognition and cognisance and make reference, first, to the Bill. The Government spent millions of public money on the Task Force to review the lot for the disabled, and the Attorney-General came up with a draft Bill which has been worked upon and it is now in the Vice-President's office. There was no reference to this Bill when the President was giving highlight of the Bills that were to be tabled in this House in this last Session. To me, it appears as if the President has forgotten that the people with disabilities form 10 per cent. In fact, lately it is 15 per cent of the population, according to WHO statistics. Thus, according to the 1999 census, their population is about 4 million. If the President cannot allude to us in a keynote Speech for the nation, like the one he made last week, it is a matter of concern for us the people with disabilities.

That notwithstanding, he made references - and I listened very keenly twice - that this is the year of elections. It is saddening and heart-breaking to learn that since some time last year when the ECK started preparing for elections, Kenyans who want to acquire voters cards have been told to go and collect their IDs. I want to tell this House that the ECK has been very inconsiderate and discriminative. It has double-marginalised and prejudiced the people with disabilities because in this process of preparing for elections, there has not been any focus targeting the people with disabilities. Each day we hear of many IDs that have not been collected. Let me make it clear to this House that many of those IDs belong to people with disability; maybe, a disabled person was taken to a certain registration centre and he or she was registered, but nobody has offered to take him or her back so that he or she can collect the ID card.

I have a real life experience to tell to the House. Somebody told me that she has been denied an ID because she is amputated. The registration officers are insisting that she must sign. When you have no hands to sign with, what will you do? Yet, you need your ID. The registration officers have not been sensitized to the problems of the disabled. They insist that one must sign even if one is blind! It is a pity that they refuse blind people to sign for their identification cards using their thump prints. So, the Registrar of Persons is very insensitive to people with disabilities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President told us that this is an election year. People with disabilities are voters! If organs like the Electoral Commission of Kenya are not sensitive to those of us with disabilities--- This is a pity and something must be done to correct this situation. I want to appeal to the Government to come up with a formula which enables people with disabilities to effectively and efficiently participate in the forthcoming general elections. People with disabilities should go to the polling stations with assistants of their choice. If one is blind, he or she should have an assistant of their own choice. Blind people should be allowed to choose assistants whom they trust, so that they can be shown how to vote. This is a matter of concern to us.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I expected the President to allude to a situation where we have had tycoons grabbing Government land from people with disabilities, particularly the one at Waiyaki Way. This is a serious and grave matter. If the President cannot refer to such a matter and yet he is aware of it as the patron of disabled people, then I do not know where we are heading to. These grabbers are individuals who are backed by corrupt and unscrupulous Government officials. I expect the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports and the office of the Attorney-General to take up this matter very seriously because this land was given to us by the Government. The Ministry of Lands and Settlement has allocated it to tycoons in total disregard of the disabled people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President talked about the problem of HIV/AIDS in the country. I wish to bring to the attention of this House that HIV/AIDS also affects people with disabilities. There has never been any deliberate move to target people with disabilities with regard to HIV/AIDS. As a matter of fact, the HIV/AIDS in its advanced stages, makes the infected person acquire some disability. So, at the end of the day, the population of people with disabilities will increase due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The Government should take up this issue very seriously and when funds are being allocated and task forces put in place to investigate issues related to the HIV/AIDS, people with disabilities should be included. When they are not in these task forces and commissions, it will be very difficult for the Government to know our concerns. In the Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports we want a person with disability to hold a prominent office. We would also like to have a prominent person occupying a higher slot in the Fund for the Disabled. The President is the Patron of that Fund which has been there for the last 20 years, but we have never had a person with disability representing us in the Fund for the Disabled.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like this House to note that there are able-bodied individuals

who are backed by Members of Parliament who have formed organisations purportedly to educate people with disabilities on HIV/AIDS. This in itself, is very unbecoming. In the Bible, the servant of Naaman went and claimed a reward from Prophet Elisha but instead, he got leprosy. So, for able-bodied people who form organisations on the grounds of disabilities, and go to donors to get money to educate people with disabilities on the dangers of HIV/AIDS; and are backed by Members of Parliament, let HIV/AIDS visit them! This amounts to killing the disabled people. How can they "eat" money that is meant to educate disabled people about HIV/AIDS? Those people are cursed, and God, whom the disabled people are committed to serving, is a God of vengeance. He may not visit vengeance on them now, but he may do so to the fourth generations of the families of those people. I want people to take this matter very seriously. If the media people are in this House now, this issue should be blared because those of us with disabilities, the deaf and the blind have suffered a great deal because people have squandered money from donors meant to educate these people on HIV/AIDS. Able-bodied persons have misused that money by organising seminars in big hotels.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President, in his Speech, talked about poverty levels in this country. This is a problem which was with us right from Independence. As the document was being tabled last week---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Mrs. Sinyo, your time is up!

Mrs. Sinyo: With those remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to support this Motion on the Presidential Speech. In his Speech, His Excellency the President did categorically state that the Government was concerned and was going to look into matters touching on the security of the people of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the security problems that we have had as a country have basically increased because of two main problems. The first one is the increase of illegal firearms which have infiltrated the City of Nairobi and some other parts of our Republic. The second problem has been the increase of poverty within the ranks and file of our people. With respect to firearms, the Government has been very tough on possession of illegal guns. We have realised that the major source of these guns is the fallen Republic of Somalia from where many people ran into this City and other parts of the country with those weapons. Due to that fact, we have conducted several operations within the City of Nairobi to try and retrieve those guns. These operations have been very successful and we have been able to get quite a number of illegal firearms and we confiscated them. We shall soon be destroying those guns publicly.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is regrettable that in the past month, certain groups that had initially emerged as religious organisations, seeking protection under our Constitution have, in fact, become criminal organisations that have taken the lives and the properties of Kenyans. Most of them pledge the freedom of worship as guaranteed by our Constitution. Some of them came up as vigilante groups or citizens neighbourhood protection groups with legitimate aims. But these groups have become dangerous groups, trying to replace the Kenya Police in their actions. For this reason, therefore, the Government has taken a step to ban these organisations. As provided in Section 4(1)(ii) of the Societies Act, I have exercised my powers and gazetted the following movements as being dangerous for the good society of Kenya. These are *Mungiki*, *Jeshi la Mzee*, *Jeshi la Embakasi*, *Jeshi la King'ole*, *Bagdad Boys*, *Chinkororo*, *Amachuma*, *Banyamulenge*, *Talibans*, Dallas Muslim Youths, Runyenjes Football Club, *Kayambombo Youth*, *Sakina Youth*, *Charochutu*, *Kuzacha*, *Kamjesh*, *Jeshi la Nassir* and the *Kosovo Boys*. I have, therefore, published these in the Kenya Gazette as societies to which no Kenyan shall say that they belong to legitimately. As a result, the Commissioner of Police has been directed to act appropriately and deal with these organisations as illegal organisations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Kenya Police Force needs to be commended for its work. You will realise that, in the last few months, we have dealt effectively with the issue of bank robberies and they are no longer as prevalent as they used to be. They are, in fact, non-existent now. That is because of the kind of security measures that we have put in place. The Police Force has serious handicaps owing to its members' conditions of living. The most serious problem facing our policemen today is housing. You will find that in many places in Kenya, three or more policemen live in one house even if they are married. The conditions under which they live are extremely serious. We are currently looking at this issue with a view to ensuring that the conditions of service of our policemen are improved. We are particularly looking at the issue of housing here in Nairobi, and outside Nairobi, to ensure that this problem is solved. This will improve the morale of the police force within our country. We are taking keen measures to ensure that Nairobi City is very safe. Very soon, I will again explain to the hon. Members of this House the specific measures that have been taken by the Government, not just within the centre of Nairobi, but also within its estates, so that the presence of the police will be felt within this City. There are still a lot of problems that have to be dealt with by the City Council of Nairobi, the Kenya Police and the Ministry of Transport and Communications. This includes the way in which people drive their vehicles in Nairobi. It is very difficult to drive your vehicle comfortably in Nairobi. There are a number of issues that need to be dealt with, including the attitude of our people on the streets of this City. Poverty

has increased the prevalence of crime. That is why the Kenya Police alone cannot eradicate crime unless there is assistance from the citizens. The fact that people steal in order to provide for themselves has become a very serious issue. I want to urge hon. Members to assist us in ensuring that citizens contribute to security by giving information that would lead to reduction of the prevalence of crime.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President gave the vision of the future Kenya. As hon. Members will realise, this vision has, indeed, been put in practice by KANU, as the ruling party. KANU has just finished holding its elections and, as hon. Members will realise, there are new faces in the KANU National Executive Committee. The President has always said that the future of this country belongs to the young people. I want to congratulate my colleagues within KANU for ensuring that the party was given a young face. It is always very worrying to see the kind of faces we have to counter in future in the Opposition. I would urge the Opposition to "renew its face" so that the future Kenya will have a "young Government" as well as a "young Opposition". It is terribly wrong to have, as our opponents, people who have been there from Independence and who have run out of ideas. The future of Kenya should be the future of the young people.

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Minister has made a very serious allegation. When KANU introduced new faces in the KANU National Executive Committee, it did not change the face of the Chairman.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): What is your point of order?

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the Minister in order to insinuate that the Democratic Party of Kenya has not changed its face when we have people such as Mr. Kiunjuri, who is very young, Mr. Mwenje and Mr. Parpai?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Mr. P.K. Mwangi, you are engaging in an argument.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am quite worried that, in fact, the Secretary-General of the Democratic Party of Kenya is very old.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am sorry that the old guards in KANU are not here to defend themselves. But is the Minister in order to say that older hon. Members have run out of ideas, and that is why they could not get any seats in the KANU National Executive Committee?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, those are the hon. Member's words. I never said that. I said that KANU took a deliberate action to ensure that young people were also included in the leadership of this country. That is why I congratulated all my colleagues who took part in those elections.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Eng. Toro: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. When I rise to contribute to the debate on the Address of His Excellency the President, I am not sure whether I will join my colleagues on the Government side in supporting it because it is full of rhetoric. Every time the President officially opens a new Session of this House, he does not give any specific Government policies which the House should follow. We have seen that after the President officially opens any Session, the policies that are supposed to be articulated in his Address are never brought to this House. This is another Address that after we finish contributing to in the House, we will forget and ignore, and it will be put on the relevant shelves.

You can see how serious the Government side is about the President's Address. Most of the time, KANU Benches are empty. If KANU hon. Members actually think that the President gave a very good Address, which will guide the policy of the Government, why are they never here to listen to hon. Members' contributions, so that they can note down our sentiments and decide what action they will take? Their absence indicates that even they themselves have no confidence in the President's Address. During the last Session of Parliament, we did our best to postpone our going on recess so that we could tackle some of the Bills that the President had said in his previous Address that this Session should tackle. The Government side refused us a chance to sit for two more weeks so that we could dispose of the same Bills that have been tabled again in this Session. We were very keen in entrenching the new Bills into the constitutional review process, but the Government side refused. This, therefore, means that the Government has got no faith in the Constitution and the work being done by the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission. That Bill should have been the first to be brought before this House, but it has not been brought here! So, when we talk about making a new Constitution for Kenya, what are we saying? Can we trust the New KANU because they are bigger than they were before? What was the sincerity of KANU merging with the NDP so that the NDP becomes part and parcel of KANU? There is an ill-motive in what happened on Monday at Kasarani!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenyans should not ignore the KANU/NDP merger. This is a move which KANU wants to use to bring Kenyans back to a single-party system and, this should be rejected by all Kenyans. After the election of 1997, KANU formed the Government and they had the mandate to run the Government. Instead of running the Government, the Chairman of KANU and the whole of the KANU fraternity had gone on a crusade of

recruiting other parties to join them. This is not necessary! They should have concentrated on the economic recovery of the country, not to form mergers and coalitions!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to the next general elections, it is very clear that the KANU Government has put in place rigging mechanisms. If we do not address the electoral system in the new Constitution and make sure that a new electoral system is put in place before we go to the polls, it does not matter whether we have a single Opposition presidential candidate or not; rigging mechanisms will be used and we in the Opposition will not win the elections. How does somebody get declared a winner in Kenya, using the present electoral system? The returning officer declares the winner and, whether he won the elections or not, it does not matter. The person who is registered as a winner is the one who is declared the winner by the returning officer, not necessarily the one who wins the elections. That is the weakest position of our present electoral system. Even if the President loses the elections and the Chairman of the Electoral Commission declares him the winner, as per the present electoral system, he becomes the winner, inherits all the powers and he goes ahead and executes all those powers as President. So, what is the loser, in this case, supposed to do? He is told to petition through the electoral court and his issue would be addressed by the electoral court.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we saw what happened after the presidential election results were announced last time. Mr. Kibaki went to court to petition the results of the presidential election results, but the petition was not even allowed to take off. This was because the irregularities were there and they knew very well that, once the case goes to full hearing, the rigging mechanism that was put in place would be exposed. This is one of the issues that the present KANU Government does not want to be introduced in the new Constitution.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about transition in our country and the new Constitution. If we are serious, we need to think about what sort of transition we want in Kenya. How do we come out of the political mess in which we are and enter into a new system? It would be prudent for the new Constitution to be specific about the next term of Parliament. Should we not have a transitional Parliament to put in place the institutions that are going to be entrenched into the Constitution?

There are so many political parties in Kenya! Do we need to have 50 political parties in Kenya? We need a Constitution that would specifically trim down the number of political parties that we have here in Kenya. Most of these political parties have been registered with the help of the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS), just to make them look like tribal political parties. The Constitution should stipulate specifically that, there should be only four political parties in the country. How do we arrive at these four political parties? As we are approaching the general elections, the top four political parties should be made *bona fide* political parties that should exist in Kenya and all the other parties should be dissolved. This is because when the President talks about eradication of tribalism, yet there are political parties formed on tribal basis--- If we are serious, we should have a constitution that regulates the number of political parties in this country. People would have no choice, but to join those four or three specific political parties. Therefore, the rest should not exist.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have an example in Nigeria, where they insisted that only two political parties should exist. We need something of this kind. If we are talking about fighting tribalism, we must fight it, even with the formation of political parties, so that people can subscribe to fewer political parties. If they are three or two, well and good, but we have got to endeavour to do exactly that. We have gone a long way talking about tribalism, but the President has not fought tribalism as he says.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the creation of new districts by the President has been done on tribal lines. At Independence, districts were never created on the basis of tribal lines. But what has happened on the illegal districts that have been created is that, a certain community is given a district created on tribal lines. That is not fighting tribalism but enhancing it. If we want to fight tribalism, let us go back to the 42 districts that we had at Independence and forget about these tribal districts.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am the Vice-Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Health, Housing, Labour and Social Welfare. The Committee met with the Ministers for Labour and Human Resource Development, Education and the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT), with regard to the question of the teachers' salaries. It is a very grave concern; that the Government is not willing to implement the four phases of the teachers' salaries. As a Departmental Committee, we specifically told the Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development that, if teachers went on strike, he has no mechanism of declaring that strike illegal. The agreement is there and top officials of the Government signed that agreement, it was gazetted and, the Ministry has refused to implement it.

The teachers have said that they will go on strike. Let the Ministries of Education, Labour and Human Resource Development know that Members of Parliament would have no alternative, but to support the teachers because it will be a legal and not an illegal strike.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say what the hon. Members who contributed before me

said: Let the Government bring the Supplementary Estimates and the Budgetary allocation to pay the teachers.

Thank you.

Mr. Kirwa: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion on the Presidential Address.

First of all, I do recognize that the President came up with very many issues as pertains to Government management. But there is one sector the President forget in His Address and, it is the agricultural sector. We are all aware that 45 per cent of the total revenue that we collect as a country comes from the agricultural sector. Year in, year out, we hardly take back 10 per cent of our expenses in trying to revitalise this very important sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I speak here now, maize production in areas like Trans Nzoia and the entire North Rift is at risk because the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) that took maize early this year, has decided to delay payments to the farmers, while it is the right time now for farm preparation. Many farmers are not in a position now to prepare their farms because of non-payment of their dues, yet the rains have already set in. This, therefore, means that the maize sector is likely to suffer a devastating blow this year and this would, therefore, make the country a net importer of the commodity that we could produce locally. I am urging the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in consultation with all the other Government sectors, to ensure that something is done about the delayed payments to farmers.

Secondly, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while talking about maize production, there is a major problem that is currently being experienced in this country. This is the problem of the quality of seeds. The Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) carries out research whose results are supposed to be given to various seed companies. However, this research does not seem to have serious linkages on the ground to the extent that the seeds we now plant in many of these high production areas are likely to engender a number of problems. One of those problems is maize rot. That is why this year, many farmers were subjected to something that has never happened in Kenya for the last many years that maize has been planted commercially. They were forced to sort out maize and to look for 3 per cent breakage, maize rot, disease and discolouration. Given this situation, we either choose to be serious people in this country or we totally ignore that particular sector because I do not know where these agricultural experts come from. We know that internationally, with regard to discolouration, disease, maize rot and breakages, the admissible percentage goes up to 8 per cent. But this year, for very strange reasons which I think were political, the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) decided that any breakages in excess of 2 per cent would automatically disqualify farmers from delivering their maize. We know the country may not be having adequate funds to purchase maize from the farmers, but there is no reason why our farmers should be frustrated, while they do not have a serious alternative investment. Why is this so? This is because the milk sector was messed up and this mess was presided over by this same Government. Farmers in Uasin Gishu, for example, do not have an alternative investment apart from milk and cereals production. The Government pretends that they want to resuscitate the economy. Which economy is the Government going to resuscitate when 45 per cent of possible revenue collection is being messed up by imprudent policies by this same Government? Some of those policies border on political frustration.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as research is concerned, there is no country that can take itself seriously when it spends as little as 0.5 per cent of its GDP on research and development. Many countries all over the world, and even in the region, are spending close to 10 per cent and some even up to 14 per cent of their GDP on research and development. This is a situation that is evidently demonstrated by seed varieties like 627 and 628, which are produced by the Kenya Seed Company (KSC). These are varieties that allow for a lot of post-harvesting losses to the farmer. Our research experts have advised the Government, and the KSC, that better varieties are still available, but the main problem is that nobody is willing to take up that particular business.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we talk about milk production, we want the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to be very clear on who is responsible for setting up policies and implementing them. The other day, the Minister responsible for that Ministry was crying foul about importation of powdered milk into the country. He should not be crying foul. Instead, he should be telling us how many people he has apprehended or what he has done to ensure that cheap imported powdered milk does not get into the country. This is a situation that this Government ought to take seriously because we know they are the ones who presided over the demise of KCC in pursuit of narrow and individualistic political ends. Now that the KCC has collapsed, they have started bringing in other conditions. Now, they say that milk deliveries from various farms cannot even be transported to hotels because they want to discourage hawking. Yet, the same Government encouraged hawking in preparation for the destruction of KCC. It is the same Government that licensed so many dairy plants which did not have a capacity equal to that of KCC. They are now fighting the same dairy industry just because they want to pretend that they are reviving KCC since this is an election year.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is good to inform the Government that farmers are slightly more intelligent than you think. They are not like the delegates in Kasarani. They understand what bedevils that particular

sector and they know exactly why the Government is now pretending that it is trying to revive KCC, while it is the same Government that was responsible for the destruction of that particular sector. What we urge the Minister to do is not only to discourage importation of milk in the name of liberalisation, but also to ensure that any milk products that are imported and which can easily be produced locally are heavily taxed. The tax accrued must be ploughed into that particular sector so that we can sustain milk production in this country. Unless we address those two particular sectors; milk and maize production, we are only pretending about resuscitating the agricultural sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as livestock is concerned, the major problem is deterioration of the gene pool over the years. After privatisation of Artificial Insemination (AI) services, the capacity of the companies that are responsible for that is not equal to the demand for AI services. I think the Government had better review that particular policy so as to support the sector for us to improve the livestock quality in our country.

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

Mr. Ayoki: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Speech. It is a pity that the House is almost empty while we are deliberating on a very important Motion on the Presidential Speech which was very inspiring.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to the calendar of events in this country, that Speech was supposed to be the last Speech before His Excellency the President retires and goes home. We expected him at least to tell us some of his achievements during his reign. There are certain achievements of his reign which we can mention. For example, the famous Nyayo Wards which have contributed quite a bit in enhancing the delivery of health services in this country. We can also mention the Nyayo Bus Service Corporation - though it collapsed - which provided services while it lasted. Another milestone of the President's achievements is the establishment of many public universities in this country. These universities have produced the required trained manpower, but because of the deteriorating economic situation in this country, most of the graduates have gone across the borders to look for employment, especially in South Africa and all over the world.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that we cannot reflect far back when we first went to school. Maybe we can remember the first day our children joined school or, probably, how terrified and lost they were that morning. But because of the teachers in those schools, who take care of our children, eventually and later on, the children find their way in the school system and begin to learn. You will agree with me that the learning process is very gradual, and it takes time; so, children need somebody in the name of a teacher who is patient, trained and dedicated to his or her job to be able to bring up the child, both physically and mentally, in order to acquire the knowledge. We should be very grateful for the work the teachers are doing in our schools. I, therefore, recommend that we as Parliamentarians, should stand by our teachers and support their salary demands as promised to them by the Government. We should not let them down because when we look around, everybody is getting a salary increase, while the teachers have been left in the cold despite the promise.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to talk about the HIV/AIDS problem in the country. AIDS is killing our people, especially the trained manpower. You will remember when we went to Mombasa about two or three years ago, when the President declared HIV/AIDS a national disaster. Since that time, we started constituency AIDS programmes, and I know my colleagues will bear me witness that none of those constituency AIDS programmes are functioning. The excuse is that there is no money. When the programme started, we raised people's hopes that, at least, somebody was concerned about the problem, and yet at the moment, there are no funds. The programme was started and abandoned without being concluded, whereas the disease is spreading at an alarming rate, and our people are dying. I am appealing to the Government, through you, that this programme should be revived as soon as possible to help wananchi down there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister in charge of internal security, just a while ago, talked about banning of the mushrooming vigilante groups. When you see such things happening in the country; people trying to defend themselves, it is a sign of some failure by the Government to provide security to its people. That is why security firms are mushrooming. In fact, it is now a very lucrative business because the Government has failed to provide security to its people. I would like to urge the Government to take action so that the rate of insecurity is minimised. It is very unfortunate that as we are sitting here, a colleague of ours is lying in hospital because of the insecurity in the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many things we can talk about which the President did not mention. The unemployment situation in this country is also getting out of hand. There are many high school graduates, like teachers and other professionals, who are tarmacking. Unless something is done about corruption, which is another problem facing this country, we are not going to salvage this country from decay.

With those few remarks, I support.

Mr. Wanjala: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. First of all, I would like to congratulate the four Vice-Chairmen who were recently elected in KANU. It is true that, that is a change in the leadership of this

country. That change might put this country on the right track. I also feel that even in the Constitution, we should put an age limit for people who would want to come to this Parliament. We have experience that some of those old guards, after working and stealing from the Government, come here to protect themselves. You will find that most of those who are above 55 and 60 years have committed ills in the Government and they come to hide here. We do not want this place to be the hiding ground for those people who have caused havoc in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that during the Presidential Speech, the President looked tired! He has done a good thing by showing us the kind of leaders that he will hand over to. Since he is a tired old man, the other older men are also tired. So, it is better for them to go home and leave the leadership to young people.

The President talked about the economy of this country. The President should have looked at the areas that are really making the economy of this country not grow. First of all, agriculture is the backbone of this country. But you will find that this Government is doing nothing to improve the agricultural sector. This country is endowed with so many rivers and huge chunks of land all over the country, but there is no irrigation. The Government should find a way of growing crops through irrigation, because we have plenty of water in this country, but you will find that most irrigation schemes have collapsed. The Bunyala Irrigation Scheme in my constituency is one of them. We have the Ahero Irrigation Scheme, West Kano Irrigation Scheme, Perkera Irrigation Scheme and many others. All those irrigation schemes have collapsed. That has really accelerated poverty in those areas. So, when we talk about poverty eradication, we should look at every constituency. We should ask ourselves what they are supposed to do to improve their lifestyles in those areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to fishing areas, fishermen in this country have never accessed loans since Independence. I am aware that when the Budget of this year is read, they have exempted farm machinery from taxation. But the fishing gear and materials are never exempted from taxation. The fishermen are not enjoying the fruits of this nation. The fishing industry is collapsing because of harassment, especially in Lake Victoria. Ugandans have now taken over the whole lake and Kenyan fishermen are denied access to the lake. I am surprised that Kenya, being the second largest country in East Africa, is supposed to share Lake Victoria. But you will find that Tanzania has got the biggest share because it is the biggest country. Kenya, being the second largest, has the smallest share. Uganda has a bigger share. I do not know what criteria was used by the colonialists to sub-divide the lake when they were sharing it among the three countries. It is an issue that the Government should address now.

All the rivers that flow into Lake Victoria come from the Kenyan side. Even the fish breed on the Kenyan side and we wonder why Kenyans are denied access to the lake. When the fish breed in Kenya and they finally reach the high seas, they are regarded as Uganda's. The people of Kenya are denied access to the lake. That is a matter of concern and the Government should take up that issue with the Government of Uganda, with a view to solving it amicably, so that Kenyan fishermen can access the lake. It is a very serious issue that Kenyans are even losing lives and fishing gear, and they are even imprisoned in Uganda after being arrested by the Uganda Revenue Authority for fishing. The security in the lake is so bad that even the people who stay along the lake have become poorer than they were before.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is also causing animosity in this country, especially in the creation of new boundaries. I will cite one case in Western Province, and that is in Busia District. Busia District originally comprised of four locations. There was Teso, Bunyala, Samia and Nambale. We lived in harmony for all those years. But because of reasons not known to us, the Teso decided to ask for their own district. Indeed, they were given a district and they were asked where they would build their district headquarters. They all agreed that they were going to build it at Amagoro. But later, they decided to take over our district headquarters that we all built together, claiming that it is in Teso District. We wonder, if that district headquarters was in Teso, why did the Teso ask for another district headquarters? It is against the Luhya culture for a son to start his own home and then come back to demand what is left in the original home. So, we wonder why the Teso are trying to create animosity, especially when they are supported by the Government. We wonder how the Provincial Commissioner (PC) would answer a Minister like Mr. Okemo--- We just do not know how the Government works.

When Mr. Okemo complained about his constituency being annexed to Teso District, he was told by the PC to keep off! That is really creating bad blood and that must be averted by the Government. It is the Government which is hiving off the land of the people of Busia to Teso District. As leaders, we are saying in this House that, that must be stopped. If it is not stopped, the lives of Busia people will be at risk because they will definitely go to war! So, those tribal districts must not be allowed in this country!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Mr. Wanjala, might you be referring to Mr. Okemo? You made references to one Mr. Okemo. Might you be referring to Mr. Okemo the Minister? If you were, why do you not accord him that honour by referring to him as an hon. Member.

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. If you were listening carefully, you heard Mr. Wanjala instigating or threatening war. Is it between the people of his place and the Government or between

the neighbours?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this boundary dispute has been brought about by the Government. I was saying that the Government is supposed to protect the lives of all Kenyans. If they do such a thing, they will instigate clashes amongst the people who stay in Busia and Teso. There is tension in Bungoma and Mt. Elgon. This creation of a district out of one location is generating animosity among people who have always lived in harmony.

On poverty reduction, the Government came up with a strategy paper which we thought they would implement. The Government went around soliciting for views from the people. Even we, Members of Parliament, used our own money to move around to implement this Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Chanzu): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to extend my congratulations and gratitude to the President for the Speech he gave during the State Opening of Parliament.

The main purpose of the Speech was to give direction for us leaders in whatever capacity, so that we can ensure that whatever guidelines are given in the Speech are implemented. It is a challenge to us as leaders to ensure that all that was raised is actually implemented. For example, there was stress on unity and peaceful co-existence. It has been noted that sometimes a problem in a given area is usually caused by people from within that area. This happens in spite of there being local leaders like ourselves. This is where we need to take up the responsibility of ensuring that Kenyans remain united and co-exist peacefully wherever they are. This will go a long way towards achieving prosperity for the nation, for the benefit of all Kenyans.

There was also a comment about initiatives which the Government has made in respect of eradicating poverty, ignorance and disease. The problems facing the country are caused by factors which are sometimes outside our sphere of operation. Some of the issues arise from globalisation. An example of internal problems is rapid population growth. The time has come when we should all act with maturity so that we can also educate our people continuously on the aspects of population growth, control and so on. It is better for families to have the number of children they can be able to take care of. It has reached a stage where the Government cannot take responsibility for some of these aspects. So, it is up to us as leaders to ensure that this information gets down to the people we lead.

The Government made efforts a number of years back to ensure that our people on the ground are taken care of. For example, the aim of establishing the District Focus for Rural Development was to take services down to the grassroots level. It is up to us as leaders to ensure that these mechanisms work. Education is the key in every aspect of development, and the Government has also tried to provide it. There is only one aspect that we need to take care of, particularly in secondary education. Last year we discussed in this House a Motion on Boards of Governors (BOGs) and Parents/Teachers Associations (PTAs). It is high time it became official that the PTAs need to be given more roles to play in the running of schools because of the cost-sharing aspect. Parents are now meeting more education costs than the Government. It is now time for us to take this matter seriously and give the PTAs a bigger mandate in running secondary schools in the country.

The Government has also done a lot in the areas of health. We have got District Health Boards in the districts and so on. In order to effectively manage the health sector, these boards should also be strengthened by having qualified and competent people, so that the sector can be more effective than it is at the moment. The aspect of infrastructure, that is roads and so on, requires a lot of stress because we now have District Roads Boards (DRBs) in place. A number of problems are still being encountered, particularly in view of the fact that the officers in the Ministry of Roads and Public Works still do not believe that the creation of the DRBs was intended to improve the services being rendered in the districts. We really need to address this aspect if we are to open up and improve the road network in the country.

The constraints are many. There is rapid population growth, globalisation and, as was stated in the Speech, poor terms of trade for our primary products. There is also the problem of high cost of manufactured imports which was stated in the Speech. If we make concerted efforts to improve on what we produce, we should be able to compete favourably in the world market. We should encourage our people not to give up. They should continuously work hard so that we can achieve the desired high and rapid economic growth.

On industrialisation, we have made endeavours in the energy sector to get cheaper power. One source of electricity which was mentioned here sometime back is that of setting up many hydro-electric power stations. We have got many rivers in this country. If we want to come up with ways of getting cheaper power, the Ministry concerned should explore the possibility of getting cheaper power through the rivers by setting up many hydro-electric power stations. The private sector should also be encouraged, and there should be incentives for it to play a bigger role in employment creation. This is because employment creation can only be achieved through the private sector. Again, we should be able to produce more to be able to compete favourably with the other countries in the world market.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the aspect of security is very important and I think we should not lose sight of this. This is because investors will not come into the country if there is insecurity. Even our own people will not be able to operate freely if there is no adequate security. So, this is an aspect which we, as leaders, should address and ensure that there is enough security in every area for our economy to prosper.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, on the aspect of the constitutional review, we have seen the commissioners moving around and we hope that they will involve the elected leaders in whatever they are doing, so that we can have a constitutional review which takes the interests of all the aspects that need to be taken care off.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion on the Presidential Address from the Chair on Tuesday, 12th March, 2002.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, Kenya is a democratic country and the President said that we should respect democratic systems. If we have to do so, we should start with our own political parties. Some of the things we saw in Kasarani are not really democratic, where people were selected in advance. The children saw on television that people's names were read through a list which could not be altered. There was no fair competition and no secret ballot. If we are going to be telling other people to be democratic, why do we not start with our own political parties? We are telling the church to be democratic. We are telling the parents, when they are selecting their committee members, to be democratic in schools. We are telling Kenyans that we want a democratic culture. If we are going to do so, let us start with our own political parties. I am happy to say that when we had Democratic Party (DP) elections, we had a secret ballot system of voting for people who wanted to compete for positions, and we found it works. We hope that KANU would also do the same in the future.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have the question of teachers' salaries. This issue has bogged us since 1997. The Government consciously and freely signed an agreement with the teachers that it will give them increments in stages. Stage one was appropriately paid, but stages two, three and four have not been honoured. Why have they not been implemented? Is it fair to have an agreement signed and published in the official *Kenya Gazette* by the Government and the same Government negates implementing it? What does the Government show by this? How do we expect the teachers to behave? They are now threatening to go on strike and everybody knows how expensive it will be for this country to have a national strike of 250,000 teachers. It will involve nearly 6 million children because they do not know what to do. Parents will be in problems because they have not budgeted for their children to be at home. It is a serious matter and I am sorry to say that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Minister himself are not taking this matter seriously. There should be discussions and dialogue with the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT), and a meeting should be held to find a solution. We should not wait until we have a national strike of teachers. This is because this Government seems to move only when there is a general strike or a positive action, but the cost to Kenyans will be too much.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we are already suffering from poverty and the teachers' strike will increase poverty, insecurity and unhappiness on the majority of Kenyans, and this is a matter which should be avoided. We all know that poverty has been increasing. In 1978/79 Financial Year, 23 per cent of Kenyans were living below the poverty level. That means they were living on one dollar and below. The last statistics produced by the Government last year indicate that 56 per cent of Kenyans live below the poverty level. I believe this figure is even higher, and in some provinces, this figure goes up to 72 per cent. Where are Kenyans going to? Is this not a very serious matter which requires very serious consideration, particularly the poverty level of Western Kenya; that is, Nyanza and Western provinces, which is worrying according to the statistics? This poverty has increased because this is a sugar-cane growing area and for some reason, the Government has failed to protect the sugar-cane farmers. If the Government protects the sugar-cane farmers in Nyanza and Western provinces, we will be able to generate enough income in those areas to reduce poverty. However, so far, year after year, we come here and talk about unsold sugar in the warehouses and, consequently, the farmers in those areas cannot be paid.

We had cotton which was growing very well there, but it is not grown any more. We had groundnuts and they are completely finished. The only small thing remaining now is fish from Lake Victoria. As we know, a year ago, the European Union (EU) stopped buying fish from Kenya, which is an industry worth Kshs4 billion. Consequently, the price of fish on the lakeside went down drastically and the Government took too long to bring the sanitary requirements to make sure that our fish can be exported to the EU. I hope that it is now taking measures to ensure that there will be no more stoppage. So, it is a very worrying thing that Kenyans should continue remaining poor at the level where they are.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is the question of hawkers. Most of the people who have been retrenched by the Government and private sector have turned to hawking. However, what we have seen in Mombasa is that the kiosks of people who have invested in hawking are being destroyed. Where do you expect them to go? Kiosks are the investments of a retrenchee's savings, and when you destroy them and his goods, then you are increasing

poverty. Here in Nairobi, the City Council *askaris*, the Administration Police and regular police are beating hawkers mercilessly with *runigus* and gun butts. This is not acceptable! In any case, why are the police using violence against their own citizens? Can they not arrest them quietly and take them to court if they have breached any law? Why do they have to beat them up mercilessly as they are doing in the streets of Nairobi? Anybody who sees how these hawkers are being chased by the police will wonder whether we are in a free country or not. It is a matter which needs to be looked into seriously and we should be merciful and sympathetic to the poor people. How do we expect poor people to live? They have no jobs since they have been retrenched. They have constructed kiosks which are being destroyed; their goods are confiscated and they are being beaten by the police whom they are paying to safeguard them. This is a worrying matter which needs urgent action.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been talking about coffee and tea in this House and we passed two very good Bills, which have now become Acts of Parliament to regulate these two subsectors. But we are still dependent on international prices. The Government should do very quick research on value adding of coffee and tea so that we do not sell it as raw materials to go for blending abroad. We should be able to produce our branded tea and coffee from Kenya. Tanzania is producing instant coffee; why are we not doing the same here? Why are we not producing our own branded tea and exporting it to the rest of the world? Sri Lanka is doing so. Why can we not do it in Kenya and have value added? When prices are going down internationally, the companies dealing with those commodities in those other countries in the market are making more profit than ever before, and our people are suffering from very poor prices. So, until we go for value adding and brand our tea and coffee and export them as finished products for the supermarkets for those countries, we will not get the real prices which we should have for our coffee and tea. This is something which needs to be looked into as a matter of urgency.

Security is a worrying situation and most Members of this House have talked about it. Why are we having groups like *Jeshi la Mzee*, *Taliban*, *Mungiki* and others coming up in this country? First, this is because the police have failed to do their duty. Secondly, the Government itself has been using some of these gangs, like *Jeshi la Mzee*, to help them control the movement of wananchi as it happened the other day when Rev. Njoya was beaten outside Parliament Buildings by this group in full view of the policemen. Some of the people supporting *Mungiki* are Ministers in this Government.

An hon. Member: Si wewe unawajua, Bwana!

The Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): On a point of order, Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think not too long ago, the Minister of State, Office of the President in charge of internal security, categorically stated here that such groups are illegal organizations. It is official they are not being supported by the Government.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not a point of order. I said they were supported because we are aware that somebody in the Government did Harambee for them in Laikipia. It is a known fact.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Mr. Wamae has said that some Ministers support some of these groups. Could he be called upon to substantiate that allegation? Which Ministers are supporting some of these groups?

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all know very well that *Jeshi la Mzee* was led by Mr. Gumo. Everybody knows about it in this House. For *Mungiki*, we know that some people have been doing Harambee for them. So, these are known facts; I do not need to substantiate any more.

Finally, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are in the course of reviewing the Constitution. Let us ensure that we give the CRKC adequate resources to complete its work. If we do not do so, then we will lose the money and effort we have already put into developing this system.

With those few remarks, I beg to oppose.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipa fursa hii nichangie Hotuba ya Rais. Kwanza, ni kweli kwamba katika Hotuba yake, Rais hakutaja sera zote Serikali inatarajia kutekeleza kwa ajili ya maendeleo ya taifa hili. Sisi sote tunafahamu kwamba hata kama Rais angetaka kueleza mipango yote Serikali yake inataka kutekeleza, hangeweza kwa sababu ya wakati mfupi aliokuwa nao hapa. Isitoshe, tunajua kwamba Rais na Serikali huwa na nafasi nyingine ambayo anaweza kutumia kuwaeleza wananchi mipango Serikali inayo kwa ajili ya kuinua maisha ya watu wake. Kwa hivyo, si jambo la busara kwa Wabunge kusema kwamba Hotuba ya Rais haikueleza sera zote Serikali inataka kutekeleza. Kutarajia mambo kama hayo, kwa kweli ni kudanganya Bunge hili na wananchi wa Kenya.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa muda, ni kweli kwamba jambo gumu wakati huu ni umaskini. Tunajua kwamba tangu tupate Uhuru, Serikali imefanya kila juhudi kuondoa umaskini, ujinga na mambo mengine ambayo yanadhuru maisha ya wananchi. Pia ni kweli kwamba si nchi hii pekee ambayo inajaribu kupigana na mambo haya. Vile vile, mali ambayo Serikali iko nayo haitoshi kumaliza taabu hizi zinazowakumba watu wetu. Kwa hivyo, kama viongozi, tunahitaji kubuni mbinu mbali mbali ambazo zinaweza kutumiwa na Serikali kusaidia watu wetu badala ya

kuzungumza bila kutoa suluhisho. Nina furaha kwamba katika mpango wa Serikali wa kuondoa umaskini, tayari, tunaangalia maslahi ya vijana kwa kuwatafutia fedha za kuanzisha biashara ndogo ndogo. Jambo hili linaweza kuwasaidia tukijua kwamba wakati huu Serikali haiwezi kuwaajiri vijana hawa ili waweze kujipatia riziki kila mwezi. Tunahitaji kuangalia jambo hili zaidi na kutafuta njia ya kuongeza pesa za miradi kama hiyo. Hii ni shida kubwa kwa wakati huu kwa sababu vijana wanaomaliza shule katika viwango mbali mbali hawana kazi na watajihusisha na mambo maovu. Kwa hivyo, tungependa kuangalia swala hili zaidi.

Pia, tunahitaji kuangalia sekta mbali mbali kama vile *Jua Kali* kwa kuwatafutia masoko ya kuuza bidhaa zao. Ninashukuru Serikali kwa kutafuta masoko ya kuuza bidhaa zao kupitia COMESA na Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki. Ni jukumu letu sisi kama viongozi kuwasaidia na kuwaelimisha vijana hawa watumie fursa hii kujiendeleza kwa sababu nia ya Serikali ni kuwasaidia wananchi wote kwa kutumia masoko hayo. Kwa hivyo, wajibu wetu ni kuwahimiza vijana na wananchi ambao wana uwezo wa kuuza bidhaa zao katika masoko haya watumie nafasi hiyo kujiendeleza. Kwa wakati huu, tuna nafasi katika AGOA ya kuuza pamba na bidhaa zingine, lakini hatuna pamba ya kutosha. Kuna sehemu nyingi ambapo pamba inaweza kupandwa na kukuzwa na wakulima na tunataka kuwahimiza watu wetu wachukue nafasi hii kupanda pamba kwa wingi na kuuza katika AGOA ili tupate mapato zaidi. Pia, ni jukumu letu sisi sote kuwashawishi wageni kuleta rasilimali zao hapa nchini. Lakini tumewaogofya wageni wanaotaka kuingiza rasilimali zao humu nchini ili kuinua uchumi wetu kwa kusema kwamba Kenya si mahali pazuri pa kuleta rasilimali zao. Tunahitaji kuelewa kwamba nchi hii ikianguka, haiwezi kuanguka tu na Rais au Serikali, bali itaanguka na wananchi wa Kenya wote. Kwa hivyo, tukitoa matamshi ya kuogofya na vitisho, inafaa tuelewe kwamba tunaharibia vizazi vijavyo nafasi ya kukaa vizuri katika Jamhuri ya Kenya.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nimefadhaika kusikia waheshimiwa Wabunge wakisema kwamba Serikali inajaribu kuiba uchaguzi ujao kupitia Tume ya Uchaguzi ya Kenya (ECK). Sioni ni kwa sababu gani watu wanalia hapa na ilhali wamepewa nafasi watoe maoni yao kwa Tume ya Kurekebisha Katiba yetu. Tume hii inapokea maoni yote kutoka kwa kila mwananchi. Ni vyema tutoe maoni yetu kwa tume hii na baadaye tuandike Katiba ambayo itatulinda kutokana na mambo yale ambayo yanaweza kutuathiri. Tutasaidiwa namna gani ikiwa tutaongea hapa na tusitoe maoni yetu kwa tume? Ninafahamu kwamba KANU haina nia ya kurudisha mfumo wa chama kimoja katika taifa hili. Sisi sote tumekubali kwamba tuwe na vyama vingi. Ninafahamishwa kwamba vyama 45 vya kisiasa vimesajiliwa sasa hivi. Hebu tujiulize: Hivi vyama 45 vimetusaidia namna gani? Ni heri tuzungumze yale mambo ambayo yatawasaidia watu wetu. Ninasema hivi kwa sababu tunazungumza mambo ambayo hayawasaidii watu wetu.

Mr. Maitha: Hoja ya nidhamu, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Waziri amesema kwamba hakuna chama chochote cha kisiasa ambacho kimetusaidia. Tunataka kufahamu kutoka kwake kama hata chama chake cha KANU ni miongoni mwa vyama ambavyo havijatusaidia?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ningependa kusema kwamba Bw. Maitha anajaribu kuchukua nafasi yangu. Nimesema kwamba tumekuwa na vyama hivi vyote lakini hatujasuluhisha shida zetu zote. Kwa hivyo, ni heri tuwe na vyama viwili au vitatu ambavyo vitawapa watu nafasi ya kuangalia vile watatoa maoni yao. Hata hivyo, Bw. Maitha anafahamu kwamba chama cha KANU kimefanya mambo mengi hata katika eneo lake la uwakilishi Bungeni. Juzi, nilikuwa katika eneo lake la uwakilishi Bungeni, na aliwaambia wananchi wake kwamba Serikali ya KANU imefanya mambo mema. Kwa hivyo, Bw. Maitha anafahamu kwamba chama cha KANU kinajali maslahi ya watu, na ni nia yetu kuchangia wananchi ili tuinue hali yao ya maisha.

Wakati Bi. Sinyo - na ninasikitika kusema hivi kwa sababu sina nia ya kuongea vibaya juu yake - anaposema kwamba ijapokuwa Rais ni patron wa Chama cha Walemavu cha Kenya hakuongea juu ya walemavu katika Hotuba yake, ninaona kwamba walemavu ni jamii yetu kwa jumla. Rais anapoongea juu ya wale watu ambao wamesoma, maskini na watu wengine, pia anaongea juu ya walemavu.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa hayo machache, ninaunga mkono Hoja hii.

Mr. Maitha: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, pia ningependa kuzungumza juu ya Hotuba ya Rais. Hata hivyo, hotuba zote ambazo zinatolewa na viongozi, hasa wale wa nchi za Kiafrika, zinatakikana ziangazie matatizo ya Wafrika. Hii ni kwa sababu ni aibu kubwa kuona viongozi wetu wa Kiafrika hasa Marais wetu, wakipanda ndege na kuenda nchi za nje kuomba misaada. Ningependa kusema kwamba wale Wazungu ambao wanaombwa misaada wametajirika kutokana na nchi za Kiafrika. Tunaposikiliza hotuba za Marais wetu zikilalamika juu ya umaskini ambao uko katika nchi zetu, tunaona kwamba sisi bado ni watumwa wa Wazungu. Pia, tunaona kwamba sisi hatujiwezi. Ni aibu, kama vile tumesoma kwa magezeti leo, kwamba Zimbabwe, ambayo ni nchi moja ya Kiafrika, imepigwa marufuku kuwa mwanachama wa Jumuiya ya Madola kwa mwaka mmoja kwa kuingilia uchaguzi. Iiionekana kwamba kiongozi mmoja Mwafrika alijilazimisha kuwa Rais wa nchi hiyo. Hii inaonyesha kwamba Jumuiya ya Madola inaona kwamba Mwafrika anapenda kuwa uongozini na hajali umaskini wa Mwafrika mwenzake.

Ninasema hivi kwa sababu hapa nchini Kenya tuna utajiri mwingi sana, na kila mwaka tunapitisha makadirio ya pesa ambazo zinaweza kutosha kutimiza mahitaji ya wananchi wetu. Pesa hizi zinatoshwa kujenga barabara na

kuondoa umaskini katika nchi nzima. Hotuba ambayo ilitolewa hapa ingeangazia maendeleo ya wananchi wenyewe. Wananchi kutoka mashinani wangeshukuru kwamba wamefanyiwa mambo mema. Hatuangukii miradi mikubwa ya Serikali ambayo inatoka nchi za nje. Ndugu yangu, Waziri, amesema kwamba juzi alitembelea eneo langu la uwakilishi Bungeni. Alifika huko kukagua mradi uliopewa pesa kutoka Japan. Ningependa kusema kwamba pesa hizi si za Kenya; huu ni mkopo ambao unatumiwa kujenga daraja la Nyali na lile la Mtwapa. Sasa hivi, Serikali zetu za Kiafrika haziwezi kupewa vilembesho wakati wote. Wakati huu, zinatajikana ziwe imara ili Wafrika waseme kwamba wanaweza kujitawala wao wenyewe. Aibu hii inaletwa na viongozi wetu kwa sababu wanapokuwa mamlakani, wanakosa kufahamu kwamba nchi yao, au bara lao la Afrika lina utajiri, kwa mfano madini. Kwa mfano, katika Mkoa wa Pwani tuna titanium. Tumeongea sana juu ya titanium lakini Serikali imekimya. Madini haya yanagharimu pesa nyingi. Wakati huu, wananchi wote wa Mkoa wa Pwani ni maskini.

Ningependa kusema kwamba watu wamekatakazwa kukata mikoko katika wilaya zote sita za Mkoa wa Pwani. Kutoka zamani, majahazi ya kutoka Uarabuni yalikuwa yanabeba mikoko. Hata ilikuwa inatumika kwa ujenzi. Tunaona kwamba hata kanisa la Solomon, ambalo lilikuwa kanisa la kwanza lilijengwa kwa mikoko. Wananchi wa Lamu walikuwa wakila matunda ya Mwenyezi Mungu miaka nenda, miaka rudi. Tunaposoma Biblia, tunaona kwamba wana wa Israel walikuwa wanateseka kule Misri na Mwenyezi Mungu akamwambia Musa awaondoe ili waende katika nchi yao yenye utajiri; yenye asali na maziwa. Tunasema hivyo kwa sababu gani? Misri ilikuwa nchi ya taabu. Ikiwa Wayahudi walikuwa waende Canan ili wanywe maziwa na wale asali, hata sisi, Wakenya, Mwenyezi Mungu ameweka maziwa, asali na kila kitu katika kila wilaya. Kama mnazi unamea katika Mkoa wa Pwani, haumei hapa bara. Mwenyezi Mungu ameleta kahawa na majani chai hapa bara. Hiyo ndio maziwa na asali ambayo Mwenyezi Mungu aliwapatia. Ikiwa utaharibu kahawa na majani chai, Serikali itaharibu mipango yake na hivyo ni kumwuudhi Mwenyezi Mungu.

Kule Pwani hekta 44,000 zimejaa nazi na hali Serikali inaagiza mafuta ya mnazi kutoka Malaysia, na inatumia Kshs7 bilioni. Ndugu zetu ambao wanapanda miwa na kahawa wanalipwa ridhaa; kwa nini sisi hatuwezi kulipwa ridhaa kutoka kwa hizi Kshs7 bilioni? Tukipewa kumi kwa mia, tutajenga shule zetu na tutaondoa umaskini katika Mkoa wa Pwani.

Mwenyezi Mungu alitupatia bahari, lakini mnatukataza hata kuvua samaki wetu baharini. Mnasema kwamba hii ni Serikali ambayo inawahurumia watu wa Mkoa wa Pwani! Watu wa Pwani tumekataza kuvua samaki kutoka Bahari Hindi, hali watu kutoka mataifa mengine wanawavua samaki hao na kuwasafirisha nchini kwao. Samaki huvuliwa na Washelisheli kule Shimoni na kusafirishwa hadi Ushelisheli. Hivyo basi, Washelisheli wanatajirika huku Wakenya tukibaki maskini.

Katika sehemu ya Pwani, ukuzaji korosho umedidimia. Ingawaje mananasi hukuzwa kwa wingi, hakuna mtu anayejali kutusaidia ili tunufaike kutokana na zao hilo. Ndio tunasema ya kwamba viongozi Wafrika watafakari juu ya mali ya asili ambayo Mwenyezi Mungu ameipatia kila nchi ili tunapojadili katika Bunge tuweze kutafakari jinsi tutakavyowasaidia wananchi kutajirika.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, hatuwezi kufananisha siasa na ukweli wa mambo. Utajiri wa watu ni utajiri wao. Mubeberu alipowasili katika nchi hii, aliwaruhusu wananchi watumie mali yao ya asili. Kwa mfano, sisi Wagiriama tuliruhusiwa kuitumia minazi yetu, maembe yetu, na kila kitu chetu. Tulikuwa matajiri. Hatukuwa tukiombaomba. Lakini sasa, ukienda Mombasa siku ya Ijumaa, utawaona maskini wakiomba katika miskiti. Wazazi wameshindwa kuwalipia watoto wao karo shuleni kwa sababu ukuzaji korosho, bixa na maembe umeangamia. Kiwanda cha maziwa kule Mariakani kimefungwa. Shughuli zote za kiuchumi katika sehemu ya Pwani zimeangamia, na sasa tumekataza kuvua samaki baharini.

Watu wa Pwani hatufai kuwa na ukosefu wa chakula. Tukiwa na muhogo na samaki hatuwezi kuomba msaada wa mahindi kutoka kwa Serikali. Siku hizi Serikali hutuletea msaada wa mahindi kwa sababu imetukataza kuvua samaki wetu, na kufuatia kufifia kwa shughuli zote za kiuchumi katika sehemu ile. Sasa inafaa viongozi Wafrika waamke. Viongozi Wafrika wakome kuwanyanyasa wananchi ili kuwachagua viongozi wanaowapenda wenyewe, na ambao huwa wameteuliwa hata kabla ya siku ya uchaguzi. Tusipozingatia maadili halisi ya kidemokrasia, vyama vitaungana mara kwa mara, lakini miungano hiyo haitotusaidia kamwe. Tunapaswa kuzungumzia umaskini uliowalemea wananchi, na kutafakari jinsi ya kuwatajirisha. Hivyo, urembo wa uongozi utawadia na watu kuwa kama wanaocheza lelemama wakijua ya kwamba unga uko nyumbani. Wananchi wakishiba hawawezi kufanya vita kama wanavyofanya.

Kwa mfano, ukimleta mjumbe Nairobi halafu umpe Kshs3,000, hatoweza kujinunulia hata chungwa moja kwa sababu anajua ya kwamba atakaporudi nyumbani, Kshs3,000 ndizo atakazonunulia chakula. Wewe kama Mbunge, unafurahia hizo Kshs3,000 ulizompatia mjumbe. Angeweza kuzitumia pesa hizo namna gani akijua ya kwamba anarudi nyumbani mkono mtupu? Mtoto wa mjumbe huyo hajaenda shule, na sisi hapa tunavisifu vyama vetu vya kisiasa. Ukichaguliwa kuwakilisha sehemu fulani ya Bunge, kwanza, zitambue taabu za watu wako, na utafakari jinsi zinavyoweza kutatuliwa. Si kweli kwamba hatuwezi kujenga barabara kwa kutumia Kshs200 bilioni tunazopitisha

katika Bunge hili kila mwaka.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, si kweli kwamba wanachi hawawezi kujengewa mitambo yote niliyotaja hapa. Si kweli kwamba hatuna wataalamu wa kusimamia shughuli mbali mbali za wananchi. Si kweli kwamba hatuwezi kuwalipa vyema waalimu, madaktari, na wataalamu wengine. Kila tukija hapa, Rais huwasilisha mwongozo ambao hautoshelezi mahitaji ya wananchi. Hio ndio sababu Wazungu hutucheka na kutuondoa katika mataifa wanachama wa Jumuiya ya Madola. Kama nilivyosema, Washelisheli, Wamarikani, na wazungu wengine, ndio wanaoruhusiwa kuvua samaki aina ya "tuna". Samaki wote ambao hutayarishwa na kuhifadhiwa kwenye mikebe huvuliwa kule Shimoni. Wengi wetu hapa hawajui hivyo. Wao huja hapa kuzungumzia mambo yao tu.

Kama tunataka kuwa viongozi halisi na kuwafanya wananchi watushukuru, tuwape utajiri waliotengewa na Mwenyezi Mungu. Kutofanya hivyo ni kumkosea Mwenyezi Mungu. Maulana anataka kila mtu awe tajiri. Waislamu na Wakristo wanaamini ya kwamba Mwenyezi Mungu hakumuumba mwanadamu aje kupata taabu. Ndio maana alimuweka katika Bustani ya Eden na kumpa kila kitu. Binadamu hakuwa akiteseka. Kwa nini sisi viongozi tuwatese waja wa Mwenyezi Mungu? Kwa nini tuwafanye wapate taabu tukiwa viongozi? Turekebishe mienendo yetu ili wananchi watuamini.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa hayo machache, naipinga Hotuba hii kwa sababu haikuangazia matatizo ya wananchi.

Mr. Otula: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Address. I support the Motion.

When Kenya attained her Independence, our founding fathers identified three enemies they vowed to fight to their eradication. In his Address, the President mentioned these enemies. They are disease, ignorance and poverty. When you eradicate disease and ignorance, you will have also dealt with poverty. The Government has really tried to deal with these enemies. The Government, in conjunction with Kenyans, has put up schools. Upon the completion of a school's infrastructure, the Government provides teachers. However, currently, public schools have been dogged by lack of teachers. In particular, in my constituency of Kasipul-Kabondo, we have schools with eight classes which are being manned by five teachers. So, you can see that our schools are understaffed when we talk of lack of employment in this country.

The Government should find the total number of classes all public schools in the country have and recruit an equivalent number of teachers. In education, there should be a teacher for every class. So, the Government should identify the number of classes we have in our public schools and employ an equivalent number of teachers. Some districts have enough teachers. However, senior public officers based at the district headquarters ensure that their teacher-wives are posted to schools within the proximity of their residences for their personal convenience, when other schools go without teachers.

You will also find that where the local people have put up dispensaries, there are not sufficient medical staff. However, if you come to Nairobi and go to other towns, you will find that there are more nurses than are required. There should be equal distribution of manpower at our health institutions, so that people in local areas can also get medical attention, besides getting the education they are supposed to access, in order for us to fight the third enemy, which is poverty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in his Address, the President talked of insecurity. Many hon. Members have spoken about insecurity. I should say that insecurity should not be left to the police alone to tackle. Although the police have sometimes been reluctant to act and combat crime, as wananchi, we should form vigilante groups within our areas of residence and have them officially registered, so that we can assist the police with information. These groups should be officially registered by the Government and, if possible, be assisted by the Government to enable them identify thugs who terrorise the people in various areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on teachers' salaries, it is pathetic that a whole Government reached an agreement with the teachers, but failed to fulfil the promise. It is an agreement which was written and signed. The teachers do a very difficult job while handling our pupils and students. They should be given their rights. Once an agreement has been reached, the Government should look into ways of how to fulfil it.

We are faced with General Elections, but many Kenyans are not going to participate in this particular election. Why? This is because a number of young people are lacking ID cards; a number of them have been given the papers to wait for the ID cards from the headquarters, which is taking a long time. For example, in my own area, Kasipul-Kabondo, about 4,000 people were registered, and the papers were brought to Nairobi, but the ID cards have not been issued. They cannot also be issued with voters' cards because the "waiting" papers are not recognised. The Government should take action; it should make sure that the ID cards are produced and taken to the divisions and chiefs' offices, from where these people can use them to get the voters' cards, in order to participate in the forthcoming General Elections and elect leaders of their choice.

On the constitutional review process, I do not think the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission is serious

about it. Wananchi were told to form committees, and in most areas they are not functional. In most districts, even the co-ordinators are not there. For example, in Rachuonyo District, there was a co-ordinator who moved to the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) and since then, no co-ordinator has been posted to that particular place. Therefore, the people in that particular area have no co-ordinator. There are also no funds. If you listen to the radio, you will hear the Chairman saying that there are enough funds for them, but when you go to the ground, you will find that there are no funds. But you will see the co-ordinators riding along those particular places in big cars. They spend a lot of money, but they cannot pay people who are doing the donkey work on the ground. The Government should take action and make sure that funds are made available for committees in order for them to do their work. What is Kshs45,000 that is given to CBOs in the districts? They cannot use that money for one day. A good amount of money should be identified for them, so that they can do their work better.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on agriculture, I would urge the Government to take serious action. In the past, we used to have extension officers who used to assist the farmers with advisory information. These days, if you want advice, you have to buy it. Lack of personnel in that particular sector should be checked so that our people can be informed very well and productivity becomes higher. In the same sector, fertilizers have become so expensive, a common man cannot manage to buy fertilizer. At the same time, farmers go to shops and find fake seeds. Sometimes they buy fake fertilizers. The Government should make sure that what they are giving is done in the right way.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Githiomi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Speech. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy in Kenya. I think this Government has forgotten our agricultural sector.

We have a problem in the field of pyrethrum. It has been neglected and pyrethrum farmers are suffering. The other day, the pyrethrum farmers were paid a bonus of Kshs3.80, instead of Kshs40. One wonders where all the other money went to. Pyrethrum farmers have been working very hard, and they have been assisting this economy. Pyrethrum has a big market, and it is paid for well in the international market. But farmers are only getting Kshs3.80, instead of Kshs40. I think it is time this Government took agriculture seriously. It is time this Government took the pyrethrum farmers seriously. We cannot have a situation where pyrethrum farmers are being robbed of their money and the Government is shamelessly in office without thinking of how to address the question of pyrethrum farmers.

You will realise that in Kenya pyrethrum farming is deteriorating because the Government is not interested in compensating pyrethrum farmers. I wonder what business the Government has to do with appointing the board of directors for the sector. Even the coffee industry has already been privatised and coffee farmers have been given the leeway of electing their directors and the board of directors. We wonder what is happening with pyrethrum farming. We expect the Government is going to take this matter seriously. Pyrethrum farming should be privatised. Pyrethrum farmers should be given the mandate to elect their own people. The Government should have its hands off in pyrethrum farming, just like it has done with tea and coffee farming. The Government does not appoint the board of directors for coffee farmers. Neither does it appoint the board of directors for tea farmers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, time has come when pyrethrum farmers should be given a free hand. Last time, the pyrethrum farmers lost over Kshs400 million, and that is why they were paid a bonus of Kshs3.80, instead of Kshs40. Could the Government come out clean and say where this money has gone to? Could the Government be trying to use this money for the coming elections? That is what we think. The Government should not get money from the farmers to finance elections because this House approves some money for elections. Farmers' money should go to farmers because farmers labour to work on their farms, but they are paid Kshs3.80 instead of Kshs40. The Government should take the matter seriously. The Government should be ashamed because these farmers do not enjoy any incentives to do better farming. That is why we have a decline of pyrethrum farming in Kenya.

As pyrethrum farmers, because I come from a pyrethrum farming area, we are saying that the Government should refund that money. They should pay the bonus of Kshs40 and not Kshs3.80. Those farmers are not fools. They know that their money is being stolen, and they need it. They are in farming because they want to educate their children. How can we talk about poverty eradication if this money is not going to the farmers? This money is being used to finance activities that are not related to farming at all! The Government should take up this matter seriously. Pyrethrum farmers should be paid their dues. The Government should not wait until pressure is applied on them, like was applied by coffee and tea farmers. They should do something about this. They should not reap where they did not sow.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government agreed to pay teachers their salaries in three phases. The first phase was paid, but the subsequent ones were not. We have heard that the Government does not have money to implement the other two phases. This is inconceivable! Before, the Government agreed that they were going to honour the other two phases, they should have known where the money was going to come from! The Government collects up to Kshs200 billion from taxes per year, although Government officers steal a similar amount of money! So,

we are talking about an economy that has an income of about Kshs400 to Kshs500 billion per year. Where does this money go to? We call upon the Government to take the citizens of this country seriously. If they committed themselves that they were going to award teachers salary increments, then they should do that. They should implement the remaining two phases. Those teachers are not fools! We cannot understand how the entire Cabinet could agree that the salary increments awarded to teachers were justified, and then turn around and claim that there are no funds to meet such an expenditure. We know that the Government collects a lot of money from the citizens of this country. If that money is not misused, it can finance all the development activities of this country. That money can be used to construct roads, provide electricity and pay teachers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the salary award to teachers is about to haunt this Government again in the education sector. One cannot understand why this Government cannot honour its promise to pay teachers their salary increments as agreed. Why did they have to approve that increment in the first place, if they did not know where to get the money from? The delay in implementing the remaining phases of the salary increments to teachers has had direct bearing on staffing levels in schools. The Government has not been able to attract teachers into schools. Parents are now employing their own teachers. The Government should be serious for once, and honour their promises. If they cannot honour their promises, then they must resign. If the Government cannot honour its promises to teachers, then one wonders what type of Government is in place in Kenya! We are saying that teachers' salaries should be increased and the package should be agreed upon between the teachers' representatives and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to touch on insecurity. Time is coming when Kenyans will perceive that they have no Government. Security in this country has deteriorated to the extent that even a Deputy Commissioner of Police was killed by thugs. Thugs have taken over and the Kenya Police is no longer in control. We even wonder why we have the Kenya Police in place. People are being killed every other day. For example, the Government watched while *Mungiki* followers killed over 20 people and did nothing. The *Mungiki* must be a Government-owned organisation. The Government must be the mastermind of *Mungiki*; otherwise, if it wanted to crack down on the *Mungiki* followers, it would have done that.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Sudi): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the debate on the President's Address during the official opening of this Session.

Security is paramount and without it, we cannot develop. That is one of the issues that were discussed in this House by His Excellency the President, when he officially opened this Session of this Parliament. The Government is serious in putting security measures in place so that we can continue to develop.

The other issue which is so much bothering us is the stability of the economy of this nation. The economy is going down daily because we are not serious in so many fields. We know that the backbone of our economy is agriculture, but we are not serious in improving the marketing strategies of the farmers' produce. If you go to the market, you will find that there are imported eggs on the shelves, yet we can produce eggs in our country. You will find that these imported eggs are sold at a cheaper price than the price of our locally-produced eggs.

QUORUM

Mr. Kitonga: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is very evident that hon. Members of Parliament from both sides of the House find the President's Address not useful. So, there is no need of contributing to it. I also want to bring to your attention the fact that there is no quorum in the House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): It is true that we do not have a quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Order, hon. Members! We have a quorum now.

Proceed, Mr. Sudi!

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Sudi): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I can now proceed because we have a quorum.

As I was saying, the agricultural sector contributes about 45 per cent to the Kenyan economy. The sector employs over 75 per cent of Kenyans. With the current economic trends, our farmers, whom we represent in this august House, are in great pains when they sell their farm produce. In Marakwet, the area where I come from, farmers cannot sell their farm produce because the markets are flooded with the same products, and yet the National Cereals

and Produce Board (NCPB) cannot buy maize from farmers. Farmers depend on farm produce to educate their children and many of them cannot go to school because their parents cannot afford to pay school fees, yet they have worked hard to produce maize which is rotting in their stores.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should address this issue of lack of market for maize produce and make sure that NCPB branches are opened in the maize-growing areas so that they can buy maize from farmers, to enable them continue educating their children, and be able to buy farm inputs, especially during the current planting season of March-April, 2002. Equally, production of fruits such as oranges and water melons can do well if there is a ready market. We should strengthen the marketing department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development so that it can market our agricultural produce in the neighbouring countries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know the tourism industry is a major foreign exchange earner for this country. It significantly contributes to the growth of our economy. It can only be compared to the agricultural sector. However, the Government needs to improve the agricultural sector in order to revive our economy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the major problems in this country is the bad state of our roads. They are full of potholes which make our vehicles break down. We incur a lot of expenses repairing our vehicles. Let us make our roads passable so that we reduce road carnage and unnecessary expenses. The Government needs to address this problem in order to resuscitate our economy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government will implement all the issues contained in the Presidential Speech. The Government is serious and it will address all these issues contained in the Speech. We, in the Government, will make sure that everything that has gone wrong is corrected, so that our economy can grow.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to the issue of the teachers' salary increment, I would like to bring to the attention of this House a statement made by Mr. Nyachae when he was the Minister for Finance. He alleged that the economy of Kenya was in the ICU. That statement has brought a big problem in the implementation of the second and third phases of the teachers' salary increment.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You heard the Assistant Minister refer to Mr. Nyachae's statement sometime back. Is he in order to quote Mr. Nyachae as an authority? Is he telling this House that the economy of this country is still in the ICU? Is he owning Mr. Nyachae's statement?

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Sudi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not need to reply to the hon. Member because that is a fact which he knows. Having been a teacher before, I think he just wanted to exercise his art of talking. That is a very serious fact with regard to the teachers' salary increments that we need to address.

Mr. Kamolleh: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister has not really cleared the air over what Mr. Munyasia has asked. He has just babbled around the issue. Is he in order to take Mr. Nyachae's statement as an authority from the Government that the economy is in ICU?

The Assistant Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Sudi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently, Mr. Nyachae was quoted in the newspapers as saying that the teachers' salary increments should be implemented. I agree with him. But considering what he said at one time when he was the Minister for Finance, that the economy of this country was in the ICU, was he in order?

Mr. Shidiye: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this important Motion. The exposition of the Presidential Speech was timely. This country faces enormous problems which can be solved by Kenyans themselves. It is time leaders of this country asked themselves what they have done for this country. Kenyans must think of how to create wealth. The level of poverty is so nauseating. People are living below the poverty line. For example, in Northern Kenya, life expectancy has gone down from 42 years to 32 years. This is an indication that poverty is a major problem in this country. In the rural areas, people have no jobs and are living squalor lives. At the moment in Kenya, those living are envying the dead because they do not deserve this kind of treatment.

How do we revitalise the economy or change this country? Change can only come if Kenyans stopped political brinkmanship and united the way it happened at Kasarani. The KANU/NDP merger is a revolution by itself. It is a revolution because people have left their tribal and ethnic thinking, and united as one. The Opposition, and especially the Democratic Party, never thought that NDP could merge with KANU. It was historic. If Mr. Kibaki can drop all the cronies in his party and get new ones, it would be a revolution. However, the DP is a tired party and we know it. It is so tired that it cannot do anything. There cannot be a shakeup. You can even see it written on their faces.

Eng. Toro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Deputy Chief Whip to say that DP is a tired party, when he knows very well that KANU has refused to hold elections in the grassroots? What they are doing is cosmetic changes at the top. You do not hold elections at the top. You start from the grassroots!

Mr. Shidiye: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have never seen DP coming up with any policy. They

are known to react to what people say. KANU is very dynamic, progressive, accepts ideas and it is the party of the future.

Mr. Kamande: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Deputy Chief Whip in order to state that DP is a tired party, when he knows very well that KANU borrowed a leaf of distributing seats from the DP elections which were held last year?

Mr. Shidiye: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not need to respond to that! What is happening in this country is that when we have progressive parties--- The NDP was progressive and merged with KANU. Today, we are stronger! Mr. Raila has followers; not only his supporters, but other people also accept him as a leader. He is a leader of substance. That is why he is the Secretary-General of KANU today. I said in this House that if there was an Opposition leader before, it was Mr. Raila Odinga because he could read the signs of the times. He is a leader of his people. His people accept him and he is like a prophet. That is a true thing. Our President has changed the entire political landscape. Look at it; that was the biggest revolution that has ever happened at Kasarani. We saw it! The DP is joining the NPK which is non-existent. The SDP are stuck there. They have no party.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is Mr. Shidiye in order to discuss the character of Mr. Raila Odinga without a substantive Motion? That is because if you are praising him, we would like to criticise him. But he is not the subject of debate now. Is he in order?

Mr. Shidiye: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, unfortunately, that is another Member from a "morbid" party! I do not need to answer him. The Chairman is already bankrupt and very soon, we will not have any FORD(K)! What will he do? I am seeing a situation where---

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard what the Deputy Chief Whip of the New KANU has said against my party. He has called it "morbid" and he has brought other issues that are very annoying! Would I be in order to ask him to withdraw those unkind and unparliamentary terms that he has used against us?

Mr. Shidiye: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot withdraw that! Everybody in this country is reading what is happening. Very soon, there will be nobody in the Opposition. We have seen what has happened in Tanzania. They do not even have an official Opposition because they do not have policies.

Eng. Toro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is there a quorum in the House?

An hon. Member: There is quorum!

Mr. Shidiye: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I clearly said that, that party is dead! The DP does not exist and you can see it! The best they can give---

Eng. Toro: There is no quorum!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): There is quorum now!

Proceed, Mr. Shidiye!

Mr. Shidiye: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will only take guys from the other side seriously---

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Muturi): Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until this afternoon, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.30 p.m.