

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 19th October, 2000

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Musila) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

PAPERS LAID

The following Papers were laid on the Table:-

Annual Report and Accounts of the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya for the year ended 30th June, 1997 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of the Sisal Board of Kenya for the year ended 30th June, 1999 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

*(By the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and
Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri) on behalf
of the Minister for Agriculture)*

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) for the year ended 30th June, 1998 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

*(By the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and
Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri) on behalf
of the Minister for Health)*

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Wildlife Service for the year ended 30th June, 1999 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

*(By the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and
Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri) on behalf of
the Minister of State, Office of the President)*

Annual Report and Accounts of National Water Conservation for the year ended 30th June, 1999 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

*(By the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and
Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri) on behalf of
the Minister for Water Development)*

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Pipeline Company for the year ended 30th June, 1998 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

*(By the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and
Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri) on behalf
of the Minister for Energy)*

Annual Report and Accounts of the National Museums of Kenya for the year ended 30th June, 1999, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

(By the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri) on behalf of the Minister for Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports)

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Railways Corporation for the year ended 30th June, 1998, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

(By the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri) on behalf of the Minister for Information, Transport and Communications)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.629

ACTION AGAINST CAR DRIVER

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Mr. Obwocha is not here? That Question will be stood over for now. Next Question, Mr. Ojode!

Question No.142

DISMISSAL OF MR. ANDEDO

Mr. Ojode asked the Minister of State, Office of the President why Mr. Ambrose Ochieng Andedo, P/No.360720/7831237 who was working at the Department of Registration of Persons was summarily dismissed from the service.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Anybody from Office of the President? We will leave that Question up to the end.

Next Question, Mr. Munyao!

Question No.192

GOVERNMENT DEBT IN NATIONAL BANK OF KENYA

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Mr. Munyao is not here? We will leave that Question up to the end.

Next Question, Mr. Gatabaki!

Question No.595

EXPENDITURE ON MAIZE IMPORTATION

Mr. Gatabaki asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

- (a) how much money the Government spent on the importation of maize for the last 10 years; and,
- (b) what the Government's position is on maize production.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give the following reply.

(a) In the last 10 years, the Government imported maize only in five years mainly for famine relief. This was during the most crucial periods when there was drought, hence extreme low maize production in the country, leading to severe maize shortage locally. The years affected by drought were 1991, 1992, 1993, 1996 and 1997. The Government then imported a total of 5.9 million bags of 90 kilograms valued at Kshs4.2 billion.

(b) The Government is committed to ensuring that optimal levels in maize production are achieved to satisfy local demand. Maize is Kenya's most important food crop and the area under cultivation has stabilized around 1.4 million hectares with limited potential for further expansion due to variability in weather conditions. Maize production fluctuates considerably, sometimes leading to serious shortfalls. Maize yields average about two tonnes per hectare, but potential exists for increasing yields by more than 50 per cent through increased use of improved seeds beyond the current adoption level of 60 per cent, fertilizer use and good crop husbandry.

Since the liberalisation of the maize industry in 1993, the Government does not import maize for famine relief.

It buys maize for famine relief and for strategic grain reserve, especially when there is good production and facilitates the private sector to import commercial maize when shortages are anticipated.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I dare say this is a very good answer by the Assistant Minister. I must comment the Assistant Minister because this Ministry is known for giving very poor answers. It is not possible that the Government could only have bought maize worth Kshs4.1 billion. The Assistant Minister should tell this House the truth. In 1994 alone, we imported Kshs2.8 billion worth of maize and in 1996, we imported Kshs3.2 billion worth of maize. Where did this Assistant Minister get this answer from? Is he not misleading the House, considering that these figures have been supplied by the NCPB?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that the answers and figures that I have given are correct and I have a schedule for these importations right from 1991 up to the present moment. The figures he has given are absolutely wrong.

Mr. Mboko: Could the Assistant Minister tell us how much money the Government has spent in buying local maize for strategic purposes?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we were dealing with money spent on importation of maize and not for buying local maize. So, I do not have the correct figures for that question. But if the hon. Member wishes to file a Question on that, I will do the research and bring the answer.

Mr. Kimetto: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, why should the Assistant Minister see it fit to import maize worth Kshs4 billion instead of promoting local maize growing in this country?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I clearly stated that we only import maize when there is a shortfall. The figures I have given are those we spent during these shortfall periods.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, even if the answers given by the Assistant Minister were true, can this Government justify that kind of importation of the country's staple food? Can this Government justify why we should be importing maize at all? Who benefits from this importation of maize?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we are working towards enabling our farmers to produce enough maize for local consumption. Our demand for local consumption is 3 million bags and **[Mr. Khaniri]** our farmers produce an average of 2.9 million bags. So, there is need for this importation to cover the shortfall.

Question No.581

OPENING OF KIPSINGE HEALTH CENTRE

Mr. Kimeto asked the Minister for Medical Services:

- (a) why it has taken such a long time to open Kipsinge Health Centre in Sotik Constituency despite the Government's assurance that it would start operating from February, 1998; and,
- (b) when the health centre will be opened.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Wako): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) Kipsinge Health Centre has not been opened because it does not have all the required facilities.
- (b) It will be opened when all the necessary facilities are in place.

Mr. Kimeto: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 1998, the Medical Officer of Health and the District Commissioner, Bomet, visited that facility and certified that everything was complete. Could the Assistant Minister tell us what conditions have not been fulfilled?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Kipsinge Dispensary was proposed the Medical Officer of Health, Bomet, gave four conditions to be fulfilled before the facility could be operational. The community was to partition the building into four rooms, which has already been done. The community also had to put up a water tank, construct a pit latrine, provide basic equipment and to employ subordinate staff but all these things have not been done to date.

Mr. Kimeto: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, where did the Assistant Minister get this information from? All the things he has talked about are there. If I took him there now, he would be surprised to know how wrong his answer is!

Dr. Wako: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we got this information from the District Commissioner and the Medical Officer of Health, Bomet. As far as we are concerned, there is no water tank or pit latrine in that dispensary. Therefore, we are not able to bring in our staff. If the hon. Member can co-ordinate the provision of those two facilities, then we will be in a position to see what we can do.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the hon. Member from the area confirms that these facilities are there, could the Assistant Minister visit that area in order to verify the facility for himself?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we shall ascertain whether this has been done. But as far as we are concerned, we even talked to the DC this morning and he confirmed that these facilities have not been installed.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Dr. Wako, I think we could cut the whole story very short. The question asked by Mr. Gitonga is simple: Could you agree to visit the place with the hon. Member of Parliament?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have accepted to visit the place.

Mr. Kimetto: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when will this visit be?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member comes to my office, we could arrange the date of the visit.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Next Question, Mr. Mboko.

Question No.616

CESS PAYMENT BY CHINA
ROAD/BRIDGE CORPORATION

Mr. Mboko asked the Minister for Local Government:-

(a) whether he is aware that a construction firm by the name China Road and Bridge Corporation has not paid cess to Mtito Andei Town Council from April, 1999, to date; and,

(b) whether he could order the said company to pay in full the amount outstanding as at 30th June, 2000, of Kshs12 million.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kiangoi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I reply to the Question, I wish to state that we got the Question on 9th October, 2000, and efforts that have been made to contact Mtito Andei Town Council on telephone have not been successful.

However, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware

(b) Given the reply in part "a", part "b" does not arise. Further to that, the corporation is a body corporate and the council is also a legal entity. Therefore, any contractual obligations between the two of them can be sorted out through legal machinery in accordance with the contractual obligations they have entered into.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Mr. Mboko, the Assistant Minister has just stated that he has been unable to contact the Local [The Temporary Deputy Speaker] Authority concerned. Would it not be fair to defer the Question rather than accepting a reply before he gets a reply from the council?

Mr. Mboko: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact, that is what I wanted to request.

(Question deferred)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): For the second time, Mr. Obwocha's Question.

Question No. 629

ACTION AGAINST CAR DRIVER

Mr. N. Nyagah: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. May I ask for the indulgence of the Chair to defer this Question because hon. Obwocha is the chairman of the funeral committee of the late Enock Magara and is heavily involved with some work outside. I was with him this morning when he was going to the Lee Funeral Home.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): I think we have no objection to that. Next Question, Mr. Ojode!

(Question deferred)

Question No.142

DISMISSAL OF MR. ANDEDO

Mr. Ojode asked the Minister of State, Office of the President why Mr. Ambrose Ochieng Andedo, P/No.360720/7831237, who was working at the Department of Registration of Persons summarily

dismissed from the service.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Anybody from the Office of the President?

Mr. Ojode: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have the answer with me, so could it be possible for the Leader of Government Business to read out the answer?

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have the answer, but the Question could be deferred, so that the Minister of State, Office of the President, can respond?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have the answer here.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Since you have the answer and you do not have the Minister to reply, I think it is only fair that I stick to the request by the Deputy Leader of Government Business and defer the Question.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mr. Karauri): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member says he has the answer to the Question. Is it, therefore, necessary to defer the Question?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): I think what he means is that he has the written reply. But we need the Minister to answer supplementary questions. So, the Question is deferred.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You noticed that hon. Mudavadi stood to reply when hon. Ojode requested the Leader of Government Business to answer the Question. Could we be told whether there was change this morning that made hon. Mudavadi the Leader of Government Business and the Vice-President of Kenya?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order! Order! Mr. Gatabaki, as far as I know, Mr. Mudavadi stood there as Deputy Leader of Government Business.

Next Question by Mr. Munyao!

Question No.192

GOVERNMENT DEBT IN NATIONAL BANK OF KENYA

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Mr. Munyao is not there? The Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

CAUSE OF ATHI RIVER TRAIN ACCIDENT

(Mr. Kaindi) to ask the Minister for Information, Transport and Communications:-

(a) Could the Minister explain the circumstances that led to the fatal accident at Athi River Railway Station during the month of September, 2000, where 34 lives were lost?

(b) Could he further explain what steps the Ministry has taken to ensure that the victims are promptly compensated?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Mr. Kaindi is not there? The Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

REGISTRATION OF NGORU SCHOOL KCSE CANDIDATES

(Mr. Mutahi) to ask the Minister for Education:-

(a) Is the Minister aware that the following students from Ngoru Orthodox Secondary School, Mukurweini, were not registered for this year's Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education, though they had paid examination fees in full:

T. Moses Mathenge - Index No.202217067;

Micheal N. Muriuki - Index No.202217072;

Ndirangu Irene - Index No.202217021;

Esther G. Waheti- Index No.202217069;

(b) Could the Minister ensure that these students are registered and sit their examinations without fail?

(c) What disciplinary measures has the Minister taken against the management of this school?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Mr. Mutahi is not in? Question dropped!

Next Question by Mr. Kihara.

(Question dropped)

NON-PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO
NAIVASHA DAIRY SCHOOL WORKERS

Mr. Kihara: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Agriculture the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that workers at the Naivasha Dairy Training School have not received their salaries for the last two years?

(b) When will these workers be paid?

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. Khaniri): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that casual workers at Naivasha Dairy Training School have not been receiving their full pay since August 1998 to date. They have been receiving the salaries in piecemeal.

(b) The Ministry has now identified funds to pay, and all their salaries will be paid in full.

(c) The necessary documentation is being processed to the same effect.

Mr. Kihara: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the first time I am hearing of piecemeal payment of salaries. Could the Assistant Minister explain to this House what he means by piecemeal payment of salaries? Is it half salary per month or half salary per what period?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I mean by piecemeal salaries is that, the casual workers have been receiving some portions of their salaries. This has resulted into arrears amounting to Kshs823,404.80. As I said, we have identified funds to pay those casual workers and I would like to promise the hon. Member that in the next three weeks, we will pay them their full salaries including this month of October.

Mr. Kihara: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wonder whether officers in the Ministry of Labour are able to look at private employers straight in the face when they default in paying wages to their employees. Could the Assistant Minister give me a definite date when he is going to pay these people? Otherwise, I will take them to his house so that he can feed them, because they have been going without salaries, for two years.

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have the capacity to feed those casual workers. But I have already given an undertaking to the hon. Member and the entire House that in the next three weeks, those casuals will be paid their salaries in full including the month of October.

Mr. Wamalwa: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, casual or not casual, these workers were entitled to their payment on time. If anybody owed the Government money for two years, they would be charged a lot of interest. In this case, is the Government going to consider paying an element of interest to these casual workers who are actually entitled to their money?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry, we are not in a position to do that. We shall just pay them their dues.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Next Question, Mr. Nyagah.

GARBAGE COLLECTION AT WAKULIMA MARKET

Mr. N. Nyagah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Local Government the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the drainage and toilets in Wakulima Market have been out of order for a very long time rendering the market a health hazard to both the traders and customers?

(b) Is he further aware that garbage has gone uncollected since 1997, resulting in an awful smell in the whole market and neighbouring Muthurwa Estate?

(c) What urgent measures is the Minister putting in place to alleviate this problem?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kiangoi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that the drainage and toilets in Wakulima Market have been out of order for a very long time.

(b) I am also aware that garbage has gone uncollected for some time.

(c) The Nairobi City Council has already taken measures to ensure that the uncollected garbage at the Wakulima Wholesale Market is collected on a daily basis until it is cleared. This action was taken from the time we were made aware of the situation.

Mr. N. Nyagah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you notice that the Assistant Minister deliberately refused to say that it is creating a health hazard. It is not just for some time, but since 1997, no garbage has been collected. Is the Assistant Minister aware that none other than the President and the Vice-President are fed from this market which has got a health hazard that may poison consumers in this country, including me? What are these measures that the Ministry has waited until I bring this Question to this House as I did two years ago, for them to react? Do we not have a shovel in place as was passed in the City Council resolution?

Mr. Kiangoi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to answer the question as to whether I am aware the President is fed from the market or not because you will appreciate that, that is outside my jurisdiction in this matter. The sewerage in the market was blocked for some time, but we are taking the necessary measures. Already the garbage is being collected on a daily basis. That is why the issue of it being a health hazard does not arise.

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is answering questions related to Wakulima Market. I am sure he must have noticed heaps of garbage all over the City. This is an indication of inefficiency in some department of his Ministry. What action is the Assistant Minister going to take to make sure that garbage in the whole of Nairobi City is collected?

Mr. Kiangoi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have given directives that this should be done by every Local Authority and not only in Nairobi. We have put the necessary measures in place, particularly in Nairobi, which will ensure that the Council which is unfortunately led by hon. N.M. Nyagah's councillors, functions. In fact, the Deputy Mayor is a councillor from Kamukunji. We have put corrective measures in place which will ensure that this garbage is collected. To be precise, by Monday, 23rd October, 2000, the garbage that Mr. N.M. Nyagah is complaining about will have been cleared completely as per the undertaking of the City Council.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard the Assistant Minister say he is aware of the non-collection of garbage. What reason led to the piling of this garbage he is aware of? What is the reason of not collecting garbage in that market?

Mr. Kiangoi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not understand the question by the hon. Member. But I think the reason why garbage is not collected is because of the inefficiency of Nairobi City Council. That we have admitted before and that is why we have put in place the Oversight Board and the Mbugua Commission which has already submitted a report to the Ministry. We are acting on that report. We have already directed Nairobi City Council to implement that report.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Gatabaki! Please, give the Assistant Minister a chance to reply to your question.

Mr. Kiangoi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for protecting me. I was saying it is because of the inefficiency of Nairobi City Council that garbage has not been collected. We have already put in place the Oversight Board arising out of the Mbugua Report which has already been handed over to Nairobi City Council for implementation. Therefore, the areas of inefficiency will be corrected.

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to insinuate that garbage is not collected due to the inefficiency of Nairobi City Council when he knows very well that it is the manipulation, inefficiency and incompetence of the Minister and the Government that led to the inefficiency in the management of Nairobi City Council?

Mr. Kiangoi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is not in efficient in any way. Councils in this country are run under the Local Government Act. If the hon. Member dares to look into the Local Government Act he will find that councils are legal entities and we only try to guide them. That is why we have detected their inefficiency.

Mr. N. Nyagah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you heard the Assistant Minister say that there is no health hazard in that market. Is he aware that there are no working toilets in that market that caters for over 5,000 people daily? Is that not a health hazard? The only available toilets are outside that market and they are run by a private company which makes Kshs90,000 per month. Is he further aware that this morning we held a meeting with the

DO and the superintendent of that market and there was no garbage collection going on? When will the Ministry put a shovel at that market to clear the big heap of garbage that is at the same level with the walls of the market?

Mr. Kiangoi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not say there is no health hazard. I said garbage is being collected and I have given the dates by which that garbage would have been cleared---

(Applause as Dr. Ochuodho entered the Chamber)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order, hon. Members!

Mr. Kiangoi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not say that there was no health hazard. I said garbage will have been collected by 23rd, October, 2000. Therefore, there will be no health hazard. If the garbage will have been collected by then, what health hazard will be there?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): That is the end of Question Time. I had dropped Question number two by Private Notice, but since Mr. Mutahi is here, and in view of the importance of this Question, I will allow him to ask the Question.

First of all, Mr. Mutahi, apologise to the House for coming late.

REGISTRATION OF NGORU SCHOOL KCSE CANDIDATES

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. First of all, I wish to apologise for coming late. However, I beg to ask the Minister for Education the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the following students from Ngoru Orthodox Secondary School, Mukurweini, were not registered for this year's Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education, though they had paid examination fees in full:

T. Moses Mathenge-Index No.202217067;

Michael N. Muriuki-Index No.202217072;

Ndirangu Irene - Index No.202217021;

Esther G. Waheti - Index No.202217069?

(b) Could the Minister ensure these students are registered and sit their examinations without fail?

(c) What disciplinary measures has the Minister taken against the management of this school?

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

(a) Yes, I am aware. The four students did not pay their examination fees within the deadline, even after the Ministry of Education had extended it from 31st March to 24th June, 2000.

(b) The said students cannot be registered for this year's examination because examinations have already taken off.

(c) My Ministry is not taking any disciplinary measures against the school since the parents of the said students did not pay the registration fees and the students had absented themselves from school for most of the year.

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have got all the facts on this Question. I know when the Assistant Minister is answering this Question his conscience is not very clear because many a times I have discussed with him outside this Chambers. The first fact is that I have the receipts of the payment of the examinations which was paid in the month of March, 2000. Not even after the extension, but they were paid in the month of March, 2000.

The other fact is that the principal of this school had given those students index numbers. According to the Ministry of Education, you cannot be given an index number until you have paid the school fees. The other fact is that there is a letter from the District Education Officer (DEO) to the Permanent Secretary. It says:

"We would be grateful if the following candidates are registered. The principal failed to register them without a good reason."

By a copy of this letter, the DEO is asking the Permanent Secretary to register these students because the reasons that were given by the principal at DEO's office were not sufficient. So, with all those facts, I would like the Assistant Minister to tell this House whether he does not have a sufficient answer to that question? At the same time, if allowed, I will lay both the letter and the receipts I am talking about on the Table, to show that these students paid for the examination fees.

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to look at those receipts because the hon. Member is not being sincere. He talked to me in the month of July and requested me to find a way for these students to pay examination fees. I talked to the Director of Education who asked me to tell the hon. Member to see him with money, so that he could call the Secretary to the Kenya National Examinations Council to receive that [**Mr. Karauri**]

money. The hon. Member did not see the Director with the money or with the students. If he says the money was paid in the month of March, why was he consulting me in July to allow him to pay the money?

(Applause)

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the primary details that I was given by the parents of those students did not accompany these receipts. The receipts were given to me later. Even the education officers in the Ministry did not talk about the payment of Kshs3,000 for registration. They told me that the students were already late for registration and they could not be registered. So, what I am saying is that I did not have the documents to show that the students were registered in the month of March 2000. Now that I have them, what is the Minister going to do about it? I have documents and I will lay them on the Table.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): The Chair can only advise that, here we are dealing with students. It is incumbent upon the Ministry of Education and Mr. Mutahi to sort out this matter as quickly as possible since it affects students rather than exchanging---

Mr. Mutahi: But it is before the House now!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Yes, it is before the House. I would like the Assistant Minister to assure us that he will look into this matter for the benefit of these students.

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not possible to register those students now because the examination has already started and it is going on. The report that we have from the school is that Mr. Ndirangu did not attend school for most of the time, neither did he come to register. We are informed that Mr. Muriuki Michael even got married in February and he did not go back to school after February. If the hon. Member was given wrong information at the beginning, what reason do we have now to believe that he has been given the right information at this hour which he did not have in July?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Would it not suffice if Mr. Mutahi came to your office and you sorted out the matter?

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying the truth; that we cannot register students now because the examination has started and it is going on.

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am wondering how many Governments we are dealing with. I have a letter from the DEO, Nyeri, who admits that the principal failed to register those students without a valid reason. What action will the Assistant Minister take against that principal because we cannot allow students to suffer after having studied for more than four years? That is wastage of money. Let him be frank and tell us what action he will take against that principal.

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have said, I would like to look at the letter and the receipts because there could be something fishy. The DEO is able to follow up that matter without even having to go with the hon. Member.

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am going to lay the documents on the Table. Since the Assistant Minister was not aware about the facts that I am giving him and those students come from very poor families; peasant farmers, they have sold all that they had---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Ask your question, Mr. Mutahi.

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister did not have the facts that I have given him. That is why he has not taken any disciplinary action against that principal. Now that he has the facts, what disciplinary action is going to take? What will he do about those students who have wasted four years paying school fees and studying? Chickens and everything else have been sold at home.

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if he lays the documents on the Table, I have promised to investigate. If it was the fault of the DEO or the headteacher, we will take disciplinary action. But we want to look at the document first. We sympathise with the students, but it is too late to register them.

(Mr. Mutahi laid the documents on the Table)

Mr. Wanjala: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to seek direction from the Chair. The issue raised by the hon. Member is a very serious one. The hon. Member has said clearly that those students come from very poor families.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): What direction are you seeking from the Chair?

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, give me time so that I can seek your direction now. The hon. Member has said that those students come from very poor families. Indeed, they have wasted four years and they

have paid school fees. Now that they have not done the examinations, they will be entitled to continue learning next year. Can you direct the Government to chip in and pay school fees for those students?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order! Mr. Wanjala, you know the Chair cannot give those directions.

Hon. Members, the Chair had inadvertently dropped the Question by Kaindi but we had not done the second round. Therefore, I will now ask Mr. Kaindi to ask his Question.

CAUSE OF ATHI RIVER TRAIN ACCIDENT

Mr. Kaindi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to apologise for coming late. I was held up with very urgent matters in Machakos District Hospital.

I wish to ask the Minister for Information, Transport and Communications, the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Could the Minister explain the circumstances that led to the fatal accident at Athi River Railway Station during the month of September, 2000, where 34 lives were lost?

(b) Could he further explain what steps the Ministry has taken to ensure that the victims are promptly compensated?

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The accident occurred when nine wagons were detached at Marimbeti Station from a goods train which was on its way from Mombasa to Nairobi. The nine wagons rolled back on a steep gradient of 200 metres before Athi River Station. Then, they capsized at a level crossing. Four of the wagons were carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) which ignited and exploded into a fierce fire. As a result, lives and properties were lost. This is highly regretted.

(b) The Kenya Railways Corporation Act, Cap.397, Section 83 of the Laws of Kenya, sets out circumstances and methods for compensation of accident victims. First, negotiations can be held between or on behalf of the victims and the Kenya Railways. Alternatively, submissions can be made on the matter for arbitration process. So far, the Kenya Railways has spent Kshs1,391,330 in transportation and hospital bills for the victims.

Mr. Kaindi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to state that this was one of the worst tragedies that has ever been witnessed in Athi River Station where 34 lives were lost during that accident and many victims even today are still in hospital. We have not seen any concerted efforts from the oil companies that were involved except the Kenya Railways which has met part of the cost that has been cited here. But my question was simple: What were the circumstances that led to the detachment? The Minister concedes nine wagons were detached five kilometres away and they rolled all the way to Athi River Station without anybody raising an alarm to warn the people in Athi River Station that the wagons were rolling down. What were the circumstances that led to the detachment?

Mr. Mudavadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the House that after that accident did occur, my Ministry appointed a board of inquiry to look into the causes and circumstances of the Kenya Railways accident at Athi River Station and also the one that took place along the Kisumu-Butere line. The report has been finalised and I will be laying a copy of that report on the Table of this House. This report gives a detailed account of the causes and the circumstances that led to the accident. But in broad terms, if we talk about the Athi River Station train accident this was clear negligence on the part of the people who were manning Marimbet Station. That is also clearly stated in this report. In the case of the Kisumu-Butere train accident, there was overspeeding. I am laying this report on the Table, so that the details of this particular accident and the recommendations that have been made by the board of inquiry on the corrective measures that can be taken, can also be seen by the House.

(Mr. Mudavadi laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We know that the Minister is very sincere and perhaps in his investigations too. But will he investigate further because the information on the ground at Athi River Station shows that on the material day, two trains were detached? That was not the first time the trains were detached at Marimbeti Station. This has been the practice because there are certain goods which change hands at that station. Will the Minister promise to investigate and perhaps, tell us what action he is likely to take?

Mr. Mudavadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the element of the detachment of trains would be sometimes a practice that would be undertaken from time to time. However, as I said, the details of the Marimbeti Station and the circumstances that led to that accident are in this report. If there is any additional information, as the hon. Member is saying, which perhaps needs to be looked into; I will be very happy to get further details so that, that

can also be investigated.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we now know that trains in Kenya have become a bigger killer. Over the last few years, many people have lost their lives in train accidents. Could the Minister confirm to this House whether trains will be insured comprehensively, so that anybody who gets injured or killed in train accidents is compensated fully?

Mr. Mudavadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that those are very valid points, and that there are many specific recommendations that ought to be implemented by the Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC). We will start working on the implementation programme, so that the safety of all passengers using KRC trains can be safeguarded and insured. On the aspect that relates to insurance and how it can be improved, we will look into it.

Mr. Kaindi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as hon. Munyao has pointed out, the information we got from the ground was that the particular accident resulted from a deliberate action. We were informed that some individuals who wanted to transfer elsewhere some of the fuel being transported decided, deliberately, to disengage the ill-fated wagons from the train and released them five kilometres away from the scene of the accident. Those people did not even bother to warn their colleagues at the Athi River Station.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Could you ask your question, Mr. Kaindi?

Mr. Kaindi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, since this was not the first incident of that kind, could the Minister consider diverting that particular section of the railway line to another location? That section of the line is on a steep gradient.

Mr. Mudavadi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will strictly take into account the sentiments being expressed by the hon. Members and follow the specific technical advice that we have been given by the board of inquiry in the report that its members have submitted to us, which I have now made public.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Hon. Members, we have some important Ministerial Statements to be made, and other business. I said earlier that Mr. Kaindi's Question would bring us to the end of Question Time today. So, let it be so.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF HON. MUSILA AS COMMISSIONER OF PSC

The Vice-President (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, pursuant to Section 45B(1)(e)(i) of the Constitution of Kenya, I wish to inform the House that hon. David Musila, MP, has been appointed a Commissioner to serve in the Parliamentary Service Commission with effect from Thursday, 19th October, 2000. He replaces hon. Osundwa, MP, who has been appointed an Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports.

(Applause)

SURVEILLANCE AGAINST *EBOLA* OUTBREAK

The Minister for Public Health (Prof. Ongeru): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to make the following Ministerial Statement on the status of preparedness in Kenya in the wake of an outbreak of the *Ebola* fever in northern Uganda. I would like to give a very brief background of the virus.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, *Ebola* haemorrhagic fever is one of the most virulent viral diseases known to humankind, causing death in 50 - 90 per cent of all clinically ill cases. The disease has its origin in the equatorial forests of Africa and Asia. Several different forms of the *Ebola* virus have been identified, and may be associated with other clinical presentations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the *Ebola* virus was first identified in the Western Equatorial Province of Sudan and in a nearby region of Zaire in 1976 after significant epidemics in Nyamukubu, northern Zaire and Zara, southern Sudan. Between June and November, 1976, the *Ebola* virus infected 284 people in Sudan, with 117 deaths. In Zaire, there were 318 cases and 280 deaths in September and October. An isolated case occurred in Zaire in 1977, and a second outbreak was reported in Sudan in 1979. A large epidemic occurred in Kikwiti, Zaire, in 1995 with 315 cases, 244 of which had fatal outcome. In Gabon, *Ebola* haemorrhagic fever was first documented in 1994 and recent outbreaks occurred in February and July, 1996. In all, 1,100 cases with 793 deaths have been documented since the

virus was discovered.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, an endemic triangle has been known for *Ebola* transmission between the current Democratic Republic of Congo, southern Sudan and northern Uganda. Transmission of the virus is by direct contact with the blood, body secretions or organs of infected persons. The incubation period of the virus is two to seven days. *Ebola* is often characterised by sudden onset of fever, weakness, muscle pains, headache and sore throats. This is followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, body rash and both internal and external bleeding. No specific treatment or vaccine exists for *Ebola* haemorrhagic fever. Suspected cases should be isolated and handled using protective materials by health workers.

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order! Order! Hon. Members, I think this is a very important Ministerial Statement, and it calls for the undivided attention of this House.

Proceed, Mr. Minister.

The Minister for Public Health (Prof. Ongeru): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the current outbreak of the disease was reported on 8th October, 2000, in Gulu District, in a village 30 kilometres from the nearest border with Sudan. So far, 111 cases have been identified and 41 deaths have been reported. The data is higher than earlier reported because Uganda's Ministry of Health has embarked on a door-to-door surveillance. Uganda's authorities are also reported to have restricted all manner of movement within Gulu District.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya's Ministry of Health was notified of the outbreak of the epidemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 13th October, 2000, and has embarked on the following: An alert was issued to all Provincial Medical Officers of Health (PMOHs) and District Medical Officers of Health (DMOHs) from the respective border districts. A task force chaired by the Permanent Secretary (PS) was constituted with various stakeholders such as the WHO, scientists from Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), senior officials from the Immigration Department, Provincial Administration (PA), amongst others. The objectives of this initiative are to co-ordinate surveillance activities, mobilise resources, particularly to entry points along the border with Tanzania and Uganda, and monitor progress of the epidemic within the region.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker, sir, surveillance across the common border and all local and international entry points has been strengthened. Health facilities that may receive cases are being strengthened, including those in proximity to the following entry points: Lokichogio, Suam, Lwakakaga, Malaba, Busia, Isebania and Namanga. The following international entry points have been identified for close monitoring: Lokichogio Airport, Eldoret International Airport, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Wilson Airport and Kisumu Airport. The Ministry has stationed health officials at entry points to screen all in-coming travellers for purposes of follow-up. They are being equipped to adequately manage suspected cases using approved guidelines.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, no case of *Ebola* has been identified since the alert was issued. I wish to assure the House that the entire Government machinery is doing everything possible to provide adequate surveillance, including prompt isolation and management of suspected cases. I have, today, checked with the health teams on the ground on their state of preparedness. I wish to confirm to this House that all health workers, from doctors down the ladder, are effectively on surveillance duties. Operators of transport vehicles emanating from neighbouring countries are expected to report any illness amongst their passengers to the health personnel at the border points. This will facilitate smooth transit without undue distress to the travellers.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Hon. Members, I will now give Messrs Shill and Katuku half a minute each.

POINTS OF ORDER

OUTCOME OF SOMALIA PEACE INITIATIVE

Mr. Shill: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation on the position of the Kenya Government on the recently concluded Somalia peace initiative in Djibouti under the Chairmanship of President Ismail Omar Gele of the Republic of Djibouti, who is also the present Chairman of Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD). We cannot over-emphasise the fact that it is in the interest of Kenya for Somalia to become peaceful. Since the Somalia civil war started in 1991, we, Kenyans, have been affected seriously, especially on security in the North Eastern Province, Nairobi, and other parts of the country. We have very many Somali refugees, who are sharing with us our scarce resources. Recently, one Somali warlord met with the Government, officially, who was supposed to---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Shill! You have made your point. Look at the

clock; we are running short of time.

Mr. Shill: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I therefore seek that Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation.

POLICY ON RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was on the Floor some time back. I asked for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President in charge of relief food distribution because the area that I come from, and even other areas, have been affected by drought and the residents urgently need seeds for planting. I want to remind the Minister so that he can issue a Ministerial Statement on the policy on relief food distribution, especially on seeds and fertilizers.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Very well. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation should give his Ministerial Statement on Tuesday, next week and the Minister of State, Office of the President, should give his next week.

Next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*(Order for Committee read
being Eighth Allotted Day)*

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 13 - Ministry of Roads and Public Works

*(The Minister for Roads and
Public Works on 18.10.2000)*

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 18.10.2000)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Mr. Karauri was on the Floor.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mr. Karauri): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to this Motion. This is a very crucial Ministry, and we must give our views on what we think can be done to improve its operations.

First, let me say that many Kenyans have lost their lives through road accidents. The engineers in the Ministry, and maybe those from elsewhere, will tell us that our roads are wide enough, but maybe that is because they are trained in precision. Maybe, they can drive a car on a very small path. But most of our drivers find it very difficult to do that, because if you are in a small car and a bus is coming from the opposite direction, that is when you discover that our roads are narrow. You are likely to leave the road to avoid a headon crash with the bus. So, the Ministry should look into the possibility of widening our roads a little, like it has been done when you towards Embu. It is very comfortable driving there, because most of the other roads are so narrow that in order to avoid an accident you need to slow down tremendously.

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

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

Let me now address the question of the Roads 2000 Programme.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a meeting taking place near me, and I cannot even hear myself.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Dr. Godana, Mr. Karauri is complaining that he cannot be heard.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Mr. Karauri): Mr. Temporary Deputy

Speaker, Sir, we were promised that we would get Kshs700 million for the Roads 2000 Programme in Eastern Province. I am happy because part of the road from Meru Town towards my constituency, and that of hon. Mukangu; that is Meru to Kagaene has already been murramed. The strange thing is that the other part of the road which was supposed to be constructed at the same time with the Meru-Kagaene Road has not started. Our people do not understand why construction work on that road has stalled; that is Kagaene-Mikinduri-Maua. They think that, maybe, the Government has a grudge against them, but we tell them that there is not any grudge because one part of the road has been completed; it is D482. It was supposed to have been completed at the same time with the other parts of the roads. I understand that there could have been a mistake made by some officers in the district, and that is why it was not completed, or maybe they defaulted in the manner in which the contract was awarded. But would that warrant punishing people because the rains are about to fall now? In fact, for the last three days, it had rained in Meru, and I do not know how my people, those from hon. Kalweo's and hon. Mukangu's constituencies will move? This is because after the rains fall, people have even to walk to Meru Town, or look for tractors to ferry them. There is road T484 which was even surveyed for tarmacking in 1989 and 1990, but it is impassable. Now that one portion has been constructed and the other portion left out, our people cannot access Meru and Maua towns and Kianjai to get to the tarmacked portion.

We must be saved, and I am calling upon the Minister to do something about it. We were hoping that after we get the funds from the District Roads Board, we will even employ some people to patch the areas that require urgent patching. But because we cannot do that, we want the Ministry to do it. I do not know how it will be done. Before I came to this Parliament, after I lost elections in 1992--- You will be surprised to learn that roads from all directions - where my constituency starts - are bad. When my people use the road from Meru Town to Kagaene, they get stuck because the tractor breaks down, and they have to find its spare parts from Meru Town. The road from the direction of Kianjai reaches the border of my constituency and it stops again. My people cannot understand why it is so, now that they have a Member of Parliament like me. The Roads 200 Programme stops at the boundary again, and people cannot understand why it is so. The Minister should help us on that issue.

Regarding the *El Nino* Emergency Fund, you will be surprised to learn that Meru District which receives the highest amount of rainfall, if not higher than most districts, did not receive funds for the roads damaged by *El Nino* rains. In my own constituency, several bridges were swept away. Two bridges on road D484 were swept away, and the Government spent a lot of money constructing all those bridges. If it rains heavily again, our people cannot communicate with other areas. I am begging the Minister to give us money for the construction of the bridges. I am asking money specifically for two bridges on D484, that is Kitheo bridge and Thangatha bridge.

I do support the formation of the District Roads Committee (DRCs) because I believe that it is composed of people who are elected by the people and who will fear to be blamed by the people, and, so, they will work for them. In fact, as it was recommended one time, if the District Development Committee (DDC) was headed by an elected person, maybe, it would be more effective. Now that the DRCs are headed by elected people, we require to be given direction and to be assisted by Government officials, and the work would be properly done. But when there are DRCs, something might go wrong. Today, we are talking about roads connecting one district headquarters to another. What will happen to those roads which, are not tarmacked and are handed over to the DRC? We do not want the Ministry to relax on this matter. Let them find out what is happening. The road I am talking about should have been tarmacked by now. The Meru Town-Mikinduri-Maua Road is an important road connecting the headquarters of two districts. Even if it will be murramed under the Roads 2000 programme will one day murram it, the Ministry must pursue the issue of tarmacking it. The same applies to Road B482 which connects hon. Imanyara's constituency, from the NCPB Depot, to Chogoria. It is an important road. What is strange is that you will find that we drive on roads, which are very good, in areas that may not have tea or coffee. If we want this country to proceed, and to eradicate poverty, we must also start by constructing roads in areas where there is agricultural production. I am saying this because there are people who live and earn money here in Nairobi, but when it rains they cannot go home. Consequently, they cannot farm in their home areas or even take money home to buy planting seeds for their relatives because most areas are cut off after the rains. If we open up potential areas with roads, this country will be able to feed itself.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister for Roads and Public Works to consider, even if it requires looking for donor funds, constructing a dual carriageways on roads such as the Nairobi-Mombasa Road, Nairobi-Eldoret-Kisumu Road, Nairobi-Meru-Isiolo Road and in North Eastern Province. That is the only way we can reduce road carnage and make the country more accessible.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would, first of all, wish to echo the previous speakers who have spoken, in congratulating the Minister for having been appointed to this important Ministry. I am confident that the Minister, the PS and the Chief Engineer of Roads in that Ministry are all people of wisdom because if you look at them, they all have grey hair which is a sign of wisdom. We are sure that something will be done in the right direction. I have no quarrel with the road within my area in Voi, on the Mombasa-Nairobi Road, but

I would want to highlight a few things. The China Road and Bridge Construction Corporation has done a commendable job on the road between Mtito Andei and Bachuma Gate. It is my sincere hope that, if this company is doing a good job for this country, it will also be given the job between Bachuma Gate and Mombasa. I am a bit disappointed because I use the road between Mombasa and Voi all the time and you will find that the Crescent Construction Company, which is working between Bachuma and Mariakani, is causing more havoc than good. Whenever they scrap a section of the road during the day, they leave it without warning signs, to indicate that they have scraped that section and it is not in good condition. The Crescent Construction Company is not doing a good job. I would recommend that the China Road and Bridge Construction Corporation should be given the road between Bachuma Gate, Mombasa to Lunga Lunga.

Local companies should emulate the China Road and Bridge Construction Corporation. These people work for 24 hours, but our local contractors work during the day only. If those Chinese can do a road, which is very long, within a very short time, why can our local contractors not emulate them and do it within the shortest time so that we can save money and use it on other things? It is high time the Ministry set up a road survey team to inspect roads, so that they know which areas need repairs. If it is something which the Ministry can do by itself, let them do it. If it is something that needs tendering, then let them go for tendering so that we have all weather roads. It is a pity that most of us from Taita Taveta District keep on talking about the Voi-Taveta Road. It is an international an international highway. We are still pressing the Government to look into it. Apart from the Kshs35 million they have given for the rehabilitation and gravelling of the road, funds should be sought so that the Voi-Taveta Road is tarmacked; to connect Kenya to Tanzania. This way, we can alleviate poverty by having tourists crossing from Tanzania to Kenya into Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks.

The colonialists knew what they wanted from the Government. This Ministry should repossess all illegally allocated Government houses so that the few people who are remaining in the service can be housed. Otherwise, that would mean that if you do not house them, you would have to pay them an equivalent market price for their housing subsidies. I would like the Minister to consider seriously repossession of the staff quarters belonging to the Government in all the Ministries. We have a lot of machines lying idle and some of them need minor repairs. I would ask the Minister to move fast and repair all the bulldozers and graders at the district and provincial levels so that we can have equipment running to maintain highways and feeder roads in the localities where people live and farm. I would also wish to ask the Minister to revive the motor vehicle workshop at Industrial Area in Nairobi as it used to help a lot. It would save the Government the expenses it incurs when taking its motor vehicles to third-party dealers who charge exorbitantly for minor repairs.

I would suggest that in future, for purposes of reducing expenses, the Government should buy materials directly from the manufacturers. If it is bitumen or any other material, it should buy directly rather than passing through third parties. That is where we waste a lot of money. The Government should learn to import materials directly from the source and use them for local consumption so that we do not spend a lot of money paying third-party importers. I know people have to make money but, in one way or another, that should be a way of reducing expenses on the part of the Government. I am more worried about the Weighbridge along the Mombasa-Nairobi Road. It becomes more dangerous at night because experience has shown that the Mariakani Weighbridge only operates at night. If you happen to pass through that road between 7.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m., you will find a very long queue of heavy commercial vehicles, between the Mariakani weigh bridge and Mariakani Town. Why does the Weighbridge at Mariakani operate at night and do the weighing at night? That causes a problem because buses from Mombasa going to Nairobi now have to use the lane for vehicles from Nairobi to Mombasa. This causes a traffic jam, which also poses danger to motorists. So, I would like to urge the Ministry to look into that issue; to ensure that vehicles are weighed only during the day, so that there is a free flow of traffic at night.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are happy about the establishment of the District Roads Committees (DRCs). These committees are good. I know we rushed towards the setting up of the same, but the Ministry should come up now and issue a statement on this matter. This is because the public already know that we hon. Members of Parliament, will be given Kshs5 million to recarpet roads in our constituencies. I know that it will take a year or so, but I think the Ministry should come up and state clearly that we might be unable to service that during this year, but we might do it better thereafter. I know that there is a problem, but the Ministry should come up and explain that matter, because members of the public know that each constituency has been given Kshs5 million, and it will be disbursed this year. This is because, as of now, most of the DRCs, including mine, have not received any funds at all and, yet, people expect the roads to be done, because they know that each hon. Member of Parliament has been given Kshs5 million to repair roads in his constituency.

We should repair the guard rails along the Nairobi-Mombasa Road. This is because most of the guard rails on the bridges are worn out and beyond repair. I would like to say that the Ministry has been reluctant to repair them. I am saying this there because we have lost many lives on Makupa causeway. From Kibarani, on your way to Makupa Police Station roundabout, that causeway has no guard rails. We have lost many lives because the guard rails are not there. I

would like to urge the Ministry to construct the guard rails immediately, so that we can save the lives of Kenyans who drive along that road, including the one at Maji ya Chumvi. Recently, the Minister passed through that place and I am sure that he noticed that the guard rails are not there. The guard rails are very important because they protect motorists from falling off the bridges.

I would like to commend the current team in the Ministry, but the Minister should be very vigilant on what the engineers do on the ground. In most cases, engineers who are seconded to the construction sites get compromised.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister for Mineral Exploration (Mr. Kalweo): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I will be very brief in supporting this Vote. The responsibilities of the Ministry of Roads and Public Works are enormous. It is important that we address the issues as they are on the ground. I would like to say that the Ministry is doing well. The Ministry's personnel are trying to improve the Ministry's image. On that note, we should congratulate them and support them so that they can do better.

First of all, the officials of the Ministry should drop the old habit of sitting idle and waiting to be told what to do. This is a wide Ministry and the Permanent Secretary, the Minister, the Assistant Ministers and the Under Secretaries should tour these roads and see what these contractors do on them. If these people inspect these roads, I think the contractors will do much better than they have done before. Secondly, they should focus on productive areas. They should ask themselves what the Maasais do for their livelihood. Maasais rear livestock and, therefore, they need roads to ferry their animals to the nearest markets. The coffee, tea, cotton, maize and peas farmers need roads to transport their produce to the markets. If the officials of the Ministry focus on the rural areas, where they have given power to the constituencies and districts, then they will do what Napoleon had failed to do. Our crops are transported to the markets on our roads and that is the most important thing. I am saying that, the Ministry should look at the country at large and not certain areas. I would like to say that Meru North District, where I come from, is a rainy area. I would like to say that most of the Ministry's senior staff have visited my area. I think I have the worst roads in the country because my constituency is rocky. You cannot drive the way you want, but the people there try. For example, the road through Chogoria, Central Imenti Constituency, Mikinduri, Maua, Kiengu and Ntonyiri is in a coffee, miraa and cotton growing area. We will be very happy if we are served that way.

The other thing that I would like to mention is about a road which we have really discussed with the Ministry and I do not know what they have done about it. This road is meant to link up the Kamba, Tharaka, Meru, Isiolo, Moyale and the people in Ethiopia. We anticipate the opening of this road. This road is from Kibwezi, Mutomo, Kitui, Mwingi, Usueni, Maua and Kangeta, through Isiolo to Moyale, which is a grazing area. If that road is opened, it will attract the Ethiopian traders to ferry their goods from Mombasa. We have discussed that road with the Ministry and I do not know how far they have gone, but it is a road that we are putting a lot of emphasis on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the road from Meru Town to Maua is tarmacked. The potholes in this road are being filled up and I do not know the amount of money that has been released towards that exercise. An hon. Member said here that if the small cracks we see on our roads remain unattended to, they become potholes. And if the situation persists, the next day they become gullies. The Ministry will spend little money repairing a road than waiting for a crack to develop into a pothole. I do not want to attack the Ministry officials, but I would also like to encourage them to move all over the country, so that they can see which roads they can repair and do better than the officers who were there before them.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to support.

Mr. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to particularly, congratulate the Minister on his appointment to this Ministry, which used to be the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. I am saying "used to be", and I can see hon. Kamotho looking at me, because it is no longer the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. It is now called the "Ministry of Roads and Potholes". That is the new name.

I listened to the Minister, when he was moving the Vote yesterday, and I was convinced that if he is supported by senior members of staff in the provinces and districts, he will definitely do a good job. He has fairly able Assistant Ministers who have also helped him in the Chamber to answer Questions posed by hon. Members. I would like to wish the Minister good luck and urge him to continue with that commitment and definitely there will be success. I would like the Minister for Roads and Public Works to borrow a leaf from us, in the DP, because we had a manifesto which illustrated to those in KANU what we would have done if we took over the Government. We had recommended---

The Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Ekirapa): We have ideas too!

Mr. Munyao: Listen! You do not have ideas! We were determined to build a "private" road from Mombasa to Malaba!

The Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Ekirapa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my friend there is---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Are you rising on a point of order?

The Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Ekirapa): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Secretary-General of the Democratic Party of Kenya, whose Chairman is the Leader of the Official Opposition in this Parliament, to mislead the people that there is a place called "Amakoro"?

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to be allowed one of these days, to teach some of these hon. Members that to begin a statement with "is it in order" does not mean I am out of order. I have not contravened any order at all and I thank the Chair for allowing me to go on.

I was saying that we in DP had decided and recommended that the best thing to do for this country now is to initiate private roads. These roads should be initiated from Nairobi-Narok, Nairobi-Mombasa, Nairobi-Malaba, Nairobi-Marsabit, Nairobi-Garissa among other places. If the Government today borrowed enough money to construct the roads inter-linking these places, anybody, including the Minister, travelling through a decent road, would be willing to pay any amount of money, for example, Kshs500, as toll charge from Nairobi to Mombasa. You cannot pay a toll fee to travel on a road full of potholes. That was why the idea did not work when we had all these road tolls. There was no need of anybody paying that toll fee without getting a good service. I would want the Minister to introduce private roads. If the Government borrows enough money to construct good roads, it can recover this money through toll charges on these roads. These roads can be another Government investment. The Government should invest in good roads.

It is so embarrassing to hear, for example, what happened yesterday at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport; that a plane was taking off when it got a puncture on the run-way. What else would be more shameful than this kind of a thing? Kenyans are confident that the Ministry has got highly qualified personnel. We have got qualified engineers in the Ministry. Most of the road engineers have not only been trained in Kenya, but have been trained abroad. One wonders where all these engineers were trained. If you go to other countries, you see totally different roads. Those roads were designed by engineers. When you come to Kenya and see the kind of road designs we have, you wonder where these engineers were trained. What do we do when a qualified engineer trained in, for example, Europe, United States of America, Switzerland and Australia comes back to Kenya and designs bad roads? Why do we design poor roads for our people? For example, why have we continued to have roundabouts along the Haile Selassie Avenue? Roundabouts make Kenyans move in a vicious circle. We should have some roads like the ones we see in other countries. Somebody driving through Haile Selassie Avenue finds that it is busy all the time and the adjoining Uhuru Highway is equally busy. This business of roundabouts will make our minds continue working in a vicious manner.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should come out of this and design good roads. In fact, even pedestrians crossing these roads obstruct vehicles. This is embarrassing. I would want the Minister to particularly start thinking about how to ease the congestion which is here in Nairobi. He should work with the Minister for Local Government so that he designs roads which will give space to pedestrians.

Earlier speakers have talked about road reserves. If you were here about 20 years ago, you would realise that all the industries that have been built along both sides of the road from JKIA to the City, were not there. Why encroach on roads? The Minister should put his foot down and work with the Minister for Local Government. I know the Minister for Local Government is not an engineer, but even if he is a specialist KANU Secretary-General, he can listen. The Minister for Roads and Public Works should tell the Minister for Local Government that grabbing of road reserves is not helping us. A lot of accidents are caused by lack of road reserves. One cannot even see where he is heading to because of the poor road designs. We want our roads to be designed properly and to match designs of roads in other countries of the world. The Minister ought to even be cruel and order buildings which are being put up on road reserves to be demolished so that they do not interfere with road designs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year we held meetings at the Safari Park Hotel when we were trying to introduce the Kenya Roads Board and the District Roads Committees. During that time, the Minister and his Accounting Officer, who was most of the time the Chairman of sessions at the Safari Park Hotel, assured us that by July, 2000, Kshs5 million would be given to each constituency immediately after this year's Budget. Our constituents are now saying that this money has been given to hon. Members and they have "eaten" it. There is no way you can convince Kenyans that this was not done because at that time, it was said that money was going to be released to constituencies in July, 2000. So, everybody knows that the money has been released. What method will the Minister use to convince Kenyans that this money has not been released? People with malice will continue saying that this money has been "eaten". I know the Minister has clarified the issue but he needs to clarify it further, even if it means by holding regional meetings. Percentages have been discussed. They include the 60 per cent to be retained by the KRB and 24 per cent to be retained by the DRCs. We want 16 per cent to be retained by the constituencies.

Some constituencies have got coffee and coffee cess which goes to road maintenance. Some constituencies have got tea and tea cess goes to the road maintenance kitty while others have sugar-cane cess from cane which also goes to road maintenance. What method will the Minister apply in distributing this money because all constituencies are

not the same? These constituencies with tea, coffee and sugar-cane will have additional money to go into the road maintenance kitty. You will find that eventually, there will be a lot of imbalance. Some constituencies in the tea, coffee or sugar-cane, on top of the Kshs5 million, will have made some extra Kshs20 million or Kshs25 million. What method will the Minister apply? He should sit with his Accounting Officer and engineers and then recommend a method to give more to support some of these areas, for example, Ukambani and other areas. The Minister should be given double this amount of money because I know he performs.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Mkalla: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

First and foremost, I would like to say that roads in my Kinango Constituency are very bad and impassable. The roads from Kinango to Mazeras, Lunga Lunga-Kinango to Mariakani and Kinango-Samburu to Kaloleni are totally impassable and have made life very difficult there. There are some bridges on the Samburu-Kinango Road which broke down more than three years ago. These bridges have not been repaired to date. This means that buses or any other vehicles cannot pass there and people cannot get food and medical supplies from other areas because of lack of transport.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my constituency is a ranching area. Milk cannot reach the cooling plants because of poor communications. I urge the Ministry to repair the roads as soon as possible. Road maintenance should be looked into urgently. When the Ministry does the maintenance, it forgets the drainage system. It gets some tractors to dig up some trenches, but they do not construct a good drainage system to allow water to drain from the roads. That makes the roads impassable within a short time after repair.

In my constituency, there is no single road which has been tarmacked since we got Independence. We have only the Nairobi-Mombasa Highway. It is an international road. But we have never had a single road tarmacked in the constituency. My people have never seen a tarmac road. We wonder why we cannot have a single tarmac road. Could the Ministry make sure that the road from Mariakani to Lunga Lunga is tarmacked, so that we can enjoy the fruits that other Kenyans are enjoying?

We have the Poverty Eradication Programme. For that programme to materialise, there must be good communication systems. Bus companies in my area and Kwale District are withdrawing their services to the people because of poor roads. The Kenya Bus Services (KBS) withdrew their buses from Kwale to Kinango because of impassable roads.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, three years ago, my people in Kinango contributed some money to buy diesel, so that they could be assisted in repairing the roads. The diesel has remained in those remote areas for the last three years. There are some people in a place called Gofu in Mtaa Location with ten drums of diesel. They bought the diesel which is now leaking and going to waste. That has become a big problem. Why can the Ministry not repair the tractors which are in Kwale District, so that they can be used to facilitate the work? It is really a shame to find that people are willing to assist, but the tractors are not repaired! No work is done despite the people's help.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Coast region is basically very good for tourism. Tourism cannot thrive if the rail network is poor. We need the road network in the whole region to be improved so that we can encourage more tourism, which will bring in a lot of foreign exchange to the country.

The cost of living is going up because bus companies and other vehicle owners always increase their fares because of the poor road network. I urge the Ministry to do something so that the roads can be improved. I would like to talk about the Mombasa-Nairobi Highway. It really needs to be repaired. From Mombasa, up to somewhere near Samburu, the road has not been repaired properly. We need a contractor to do that section because a lot of goods from Mombasa are transported through the country up to Malaba. If the containers cannot move easily because of the poor state of the road, it means that first, we are losing business and, secondly, the cost of living will be high due to delays in moving goods from point (A) to point (B). The Ministry should repair that section quickly so that business can continue locally, and even with countries that are land-locked.

I would like to comment on some of the Ministry's staff. We have very good staff in the Ministry, who are doing a very good job. But there are some who forget their work. We have a Roads Engineer in Kwale who comes to work at 10 O'clock in the morning while drunk! Why do we have such a person left in the Ministry doing nothing? I request that serious action should be taken against him, so that we do not give a bad name to the Government. If an officer is bad, the Government should not be blamed! Either the officer takes his work seriously, or action is taken against him.

I would also like to comment on the question of constructing a by-pass from Miritini in Mombasa to Likoni in Kwale District. Currently, we use the Likoni Ferry Services to transport people from Mombasa Town to the South Coast. But quite often, the ferries do not work as effectively and efficiently as we expect them to work. As a result, tourists who expect to take their flights from Moi International Airport get delayed. We request the Government to

construct a by-pass as soon as possible. This will not only be good for tourism, but for other businesses in the country. We will have export processing zones within that region, and trade will flourish thus benefiting all of us.

Finally, I would like to say that if those roads are not repaired or tarmacked in the areas that I have mentioned, let us have some good murraming so that we can have a good communications system.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Munyasia: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the chance to contribute to the Ministry's Vote. I also wish to join others in congratulating my friend, hon. Morogo, for being appointed a Minister in the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. That appointment raised my hopes because he has been an upright man and I hope he will listen to what I am going to say, so that he can make a few corrections.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I left Makerere University in 1972, my first posting - out of choice - was to Wajir Secondary School. I did not get a chance to go back there until 1997. I was shocked to find that the roads I used in 1972 were, in fact, worse off than they were at that time. Although I am not usually a supporter of affirmative action, I think the Government has been unfair to the North Eastern Province. I want to ask the Minister to make a change. Let him show us that he is an upright man who would like to share the national cake with the disadvantaged. I think we have ignored North Eastern Province for too long. I just wanted to use this opportunity to add my voice to what my colleagues, like hon. Shill, have been complaining about. If the Minister has not been there yet, he should take an early opportunity to travel around the country and see what North Eastern Province is.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the next place that might require affirmative action is Sirisia Constituency. It does not have any tarmac road. When I go from my home to the border town of Lwakhakha, I have to pass through hon. Ekirapa's Malakisi Constituency. The road from Malakisi, through Chemasiri, Kolosianteti to Lwakhakha does not appear like a road in this country at all!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look around at our roads in this country, you will ask yourself whether we have a Government. Under Head 483, we have Ordinary Roads Maintenance Unit. I do not know what that "Ordinary Roads Maintenance Unit" does. Have they just been watching these roads deteriorate and all the murram and soil get washed away? It is only stones which are now left here and there. A distance of about 20 kilometres takes two hours to drive. I am, therefore, urging the Minister to look around because I have seen roads deteriorate. If you look at the Timboroa-Eldoret Road which was previously a good tarmac road, it is getting corrugated immediately after Timboroa. It is now corrugated and the Ministry of Roads and Public Works is there with its maintenance unit. They are just watching the road deteriorate and nothing is being done. If you go over to the Bungoma-Malaba Road, which is another international tarmac road, you will find that it is getting corrugated and the Ministry of Roads and Public Works is watching. Maybe, they want to wait up to a point where will it have been so much damaged that they will start looking for a World Bank loan in order to start re-constructing the road again. I am urging this Ministry to let its Maintenance Unit be a little bit more sensitive. Many a time, when potholes develop on a tarmac road, the Ministry officials go and bring a little murram to fill in; especially when the President is about to make a tour of the area. After that, it is washed away and we are back to zero. In fact, the roads start getting worse and worse.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Sikata-Khachonge-Kimilili Road, was at one time very well gravelled, but now, no one would like to put his matatu on it. Therefore, the ordinary man cannot travel easily connecting those areas. It is time this Ministry woke up and begun working, especially on those roads which have been ignored for too long and the weak areas; like North Eastern Province and Sirisia Constituency which should be considered.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year and even the year before, I was asking this Ministry about its unit which deals with Road Markings and Signs. The Bungoma-Chwele-Kimilili Road was tarmacked and completed way back in 1986, and up to now there are no road markings and signs. So, when you are travelling on it at night, you just guess where the road might be. What we are saying is that, when a road is being constructed, before it is completed, there must be people marking it. For example, a section of the Kinangop-Naivasha Road is already being marked while it is being built! What has happened to the Kimilili-Chwele-Bungoma Road? Why can the Ministry not mark it? I am happy, at least, that while driving on the Nairobi-Eldoret Road, after a few minutes, I come across some sign-post showing the number of kilometres remaining to such and such a place. This helps travellers but that has not been done on other roads. Why can the Ministry not put those signs in place?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry needs to be a little more alert than it has been. When bridges break down, like the Namang'ofulo Bridge, from Sirisia to Lwakhakha, and you go to report to those people asking them whether they are aware that this bridge has broken down, the officers say, "yes, we are aware!" When you ask them whether they are going to do something about it, they say: "Yes, we are definitely going to do something". But, of course, they will wait and wait and nothing is done. That bridge broke down about five to six months ago and up to now, we cannot travel between Lwakhakha through Namang'ofulo to Sirisia. The Ministry of Roads and Public Works knows about this but nothing is being done. The Minister is asking us to vote money for his Ministry. I am

voting money for this Ministry because the Minister is my friend, but otherwise, I would have said: "No, this Ministry is sleeping and it should not get this money".

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Roads and Public Works has a unit for housing and some experts who can give advice on construction of public buildings. I think that particular department is not doing anything. You often hear that winds have blown off roofs from school building. The roofs are blown off because of poor workmanship. The Ministry does not assist communities to put up public schools. They should know that these are public schools and the Ministry should fulfil its responsibility to assist those schools and make sure that the roofs of buildings constructed will not be easily blown off. But so many times, people are running to us and saying: "Mheshimiwa, the roof has been blown off" and this Ministry does not help them at all. So, we are asking the Ministry of Roads and Public Works to help construct good buildings in schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to road reserves, especially in our rural areas, they have been taken up, not by those people who are putting up buildings, but by those who are planting eucalyptus trees, either for curing tobacco or for other uses. I am sure the District Roads Committees (DRCs) will find problems clearing those areas because the owners of those trees are going to claim that those are their areas and yet people have been planting eucalyptus trees on the road reserve while the Ministry of Roads and Public Works is aware. So, this Ministry should wake up and save those roads.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Ekirapa): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote.

Let me join my colleagues in congratulating the Minister on his appointment to this very difficult Ministry. The Chair has noted that the Minister is having a very hard time because not a single speaker is paying tribute to the efforts made by his officers. So, I sympathise with him and really want to wish him good luck and hope that he will be able to find some methods of making his officers work better in order to deliver services to the expectations of Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me just give a few examples, to demonstrate how very frustrating it is to deal with this Ministry and how difficult it is for us to defend it out there. If I take my local area, as example, there is a long list of things that officers in this Ministry do not just want to do.

If I start with the Busia-Malaba Road, during the previous financial year, we spent Kshs57 million to do what was described as a very good improvement on that road. Just immediately after the financial year, there was a tractor being driven along that road at night from 5.00 a.m. to about 7.00 p.m. At the end of that exercise, I understand millions of shillings were paid to the contractor. Surely, the Minister must find some way of involving the local leaders overseeing how road money is spent and on what. This is because we cannot allow such Ministry officials to determine what is done in the countryside and a lot of money which is not spent throughout the financial year is authorised and paid to some very unscrupulous contractors.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I heard my friend there, hon. Munyasia, who has just finished speaking, talk about the acquisition of road reserves. In Malaba, which is a border town, we have had a case where part of the road reserve was allocated to somebody from a far away province, to construct a petrol station. We objected and Malaba County Council also objected to that allocation. The man turned up with a letter signed by the Chief Engineer, Roads, Ministry of Roads and Public Works, saying they had no objection to the construction taking place. I believe the Chief Engineer of Roads is the protector and the man in charge of those assets on behalf of the public but he is the man who is authorising the construction of petrol station on road reserves. I wrote to the predecessor of the current Minister and said it would not happen, with or without a letter from the Chief Engineer of Roads. This is just an example of how frustrated people are out there with this Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my district, we requested for a grader so that we could grade our roads. The grader arrived but it has been lying there idle because there is no money for repairs. We asked for a bulldozer to enable our roads to be opened up. A bulldozer was brought on a low-loader and I do not know where it came from. It was off-loaded but after being driven for 600 metres, it stalled and it is lying there up to now. The amount of public funds spent to transport that bulldozer on a low-loader from wherever it came from, served no purpose at all, and it was absolutely incredible. I could go on and on. I have a bridge across Malakisi River called "Machakos" where every month, some school child, or traveller on a bicycle, crashes and dies. Money was voted by the Ministry for it and some work started but it was abandoned and people continue to die. These are examples of really what makes this Ministry absolutely--- I do not know how to describe it!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have good engineers and well-trained people but why is it that our engineers have lost their integrity, self-respect and professionalism? There is nothing! I am sure these people are trained like any other engineers. Can we find some method of motivating our people so that they can perform like other engineers? We do not have to re-invent the wheel, but other countries, like America for example, have more money for roads than they spend. The environmentalists are the ones who do not want more roads to be built in that country. Why

can we not also do the same thing? Why can we not also send our people out there, if they are not committed enough, to go and learn how these things are done? The Minister really will have to think of new innovations. That is what we must do to get our roads back to the condition they used to be. Otherwise, we are not going anywhere. We just vote money year in, year out, and it just disappears.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the Kenya Roads Board, let me just put it on record that, personally, I do not agree that what we passed here is correct; that, Members of Parliament should be chairmen of District Roads Committees (DRCs). This is because we are now moving away from legislative work which is our responsibility, to the executive responsibility. We want to implement this thing that we passed. However, let me say that in the interim, before we get the money, a lot of money is changing hands. It comes from your Ministry, Mr. Minister, and it is doing work right out there. We do not know about this work. We do not also know how much it costs and yet, there is some work going on there. We know it is shoddy work and we also know that it costs a lot of money. Let me suggest that, perhaps, the Minister should think of new ways of handling these responsibilities and, maybe, come back to this House and, I am sure, the House will give the Minister that authority.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a border road which we have been talking about for a long time. I am talking about the road from Busia, Malaba to Lwakhakha, and then from Lwakhakha to the main road at Kimaiti. I understand that the Japanese Government was interested in the past in financing this road but up to this time, nothing has happened. Every time we talk about it, we are given some promises but nothing really happens. However, this is a very key and important road for security along the border and also for opening up that area. I hope that the Minister will look at this and really find some money from some place to encourage development in that area and to safeguard security by constructing that road. That will be the only tarmac road in that area. Of course, there is the main international road, through Malaba, and it covers about four kilometres through my district, but that is all we have. Can we have this road at least constructed, since it has been talked about for nearly ten years and nothing is happening on it?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a number of bridges. I have a group of people who live near Amagoro, on the other side of River Malakisi, at a place called Kamolo. They have to travel some 20 kilometres to reach the headquarters. Could the Ministry look into the possibility of constructing a bridge across that river, so that Kamolo people can find it easy to go to Malaba and come to the district headquarters of Amagoro? Could you also open up a road and construct a bridge to connect a place called Otimong and Alupe? Alupe is a very important leprosy centre and it used to be the headquarters of the project for East Africa. Today, the people of Otimong cannot access Alupe because there is no bridge across the river which is very close to them. This bridge would cost little money but there is just no will on the part of the Ministry to do these things. I want to recommend to the Minister that these are very important bridges for the population of those areas and to really ask him if maybe, this or next financial year, something can be done about those bridges.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask about the Kshs22 million which his predecessor said my district received from the Ministry in the year 1997/98. We do not have that money and I would like to find out what happened.

I beg to support.

Dr. Oburu: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion. I would, first of all, start by commending the PS for Roads and Public Works, being a very experienced civil servant. I want to commend him because since he took over, there has been a lot of improvement in the management of affairs in the Ministry particularly on the road network.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it would have been my wish that he was one of the members of the "Dream Team", earning at least half of what those people are earning. This is because having a few people, who are not experienced in the Civil Service earning so much money, is a demoralising factor for our very hardworking PSs. This is because not all PSs are corrupt. We have a few who are very good. I would like to appeal to the Ministry to consider including Bondo-Kisian and Bondo-Usenge roads in the programme for reconstruction. This is because this is a very important road serving not only my constituency, but Kisumu Rural and Rarieda constituencies and partly Osieko in Budalangi Constituency.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, fish is a very important income earner for our people. Our people do not have crops like coffee and tea, but fish is our tea. This is the road which is used to transport fish from the lake to the processing plant in Kisumu. This road was constructed many years ago and it has many potholes. Some of the potholes are so big that they look like graves where you could bury a small child. We are grateful that some of those potholes have been sealed. But this is only a temporary measure. It is not going to last long and it is very important that this road is reconstructed. When it comes to fish, it is ignored, but it is a very important resource. That is why you find that the Ministry has programmes for construction of roads in tea and coffee growing areas. These are called tea and coffee roads. But there are no fish roads. It is time the Ministry started thinking about constructing a ring-road around Lake Victoria, in order to transport this very important resource which is earning the country a lot of money. We understand

that the European Union, which banned the importation of fish from Lake Victoria, is re-considering that position. When it does, lack of road networks will be a big hindrance to servicing that very important industry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a pity that my constituency which is around Lake Victoria, did not benefit from the *El Nino* funds which were given to almost all districts in Nyanza Province. It was given to many districts around the country. But I do not know the criteria which was used in distributing that money to the *El Nino* affected areas. My constituency was one of the most affected constituencies, but it was never considered. I know this portfolio does not fall under the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. But could the Ministry consider giving us more resources for roads because we, unlike the others who were affected by *El Nino* rains, did not benefit from the *El Nino* funds? We have been told that individual Ministries can take up the matter to assist those districts which did not benefit from the *El Nino* funds.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to mention that the Fuel Levy Fund has not, in the past, been distributed transparently to constituencies and districts. We would like to have a situation where there is a clear formula of distribution of this Fund. We would like to know, for instance, the percentage of funds we will get from this Fund. That formula should be used very strictly and adhered to.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one other thing I want to mention about the Ministry is the practice of the "Big Brother". There are contractors in this country have a holier than thou attitude and who are even bigger than life itself. These are the contractors who never go for tendering, but automatically get projects and share them among themselves. These contractors are paid at the expense of ordinary African contractors. This layer of contractors is killing the small African contractors. That is why we have very few, if any, African construction firms which have come up to the level of category "A" or "B". Most contractors in category "A" and "B" are those who are favoured by the system; not because they are richer, but they are made richer using public funds. They do not queue for payments. They get paid on submission of invoices. They are paid straightaway, while there are people who queue and get killed because of bank interests. Once you have performed a service, it is very important that you are paid in time, particularly if you are a small contractor. There is no way you are going to make ends meet if you performed your work with borrowed money. The banks charge you exorbitant interest rates and when the Ministry eventually pays you, after so many months, you are paid just the exact amounts you are supposed to be paid without considering the fact that you have been paying interest on what you borrowed from the bank. I would like the Ministry to adopt a queue system and implement it strictly and pay contractors on a first come, first served basis. Anybody coming last, should be served last.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to mention something about the Lori-Lwanda-Kotieno Road which is in my district. This road was originally meant to be tarmacked. A contract was awarded for the construction of this road. But we do not know exactly what happened. In the middle, after the contractors had constructed some bridges, they ran away. It is a pity that this road is now being graded. We have been told that it is being graded to an all weather road. What happened to the original plan to tarmack that road? That road is very important. It is an artery which serves the economy; from the Lake to upcountry towns like Kisumu and Nairobi, among other areas. That road should be considered for tarmacking and not grading or murraming.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ministry also has a docket on housing. It is ironic that the Ministry has been disposing of houses meant for civil servants. The Ministry sells houses while senior civil servants are confined to stay in Mathare slums, among other areas. Yet, the Government is substituting the housing schemes with paltry house allowances. When a senior officer is given a house allowance of Kshs5,000, where can he get a decent house in Nairobi? He will be confined to stay in slums. Servants' quarters are going for more than Kshs5,000. It is a very sad story that the Ministry has also been condemning houses which are not condemnable; houses which are in good shape, but the Ministry condemns them and sells them to politically-correct people under the guise that these houses are condemned. These people only repair the houses and sell them at astronomical prices, to become millionaires overnight.

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

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Too): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Kenya roads, railways and airports were built to serve a certain population at the time. While the airports have witnessed expansion over the years, railways and roads have been outstripped by the high demand occasioned by high population. Although there are more vehicles on our roads today than any other time, our road network has not expanded to meet the challenges and needs. Most of our roads are congested and in very bad state and need to be improved. The sorry state of our roads is also a big drain on the already scarce foreign exchange.

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Too to read a statement instead of contributing?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Too): I am contributing, please!

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: You are reading a statement!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Mr. Mwangi! You may refer to your notes but you may not read a statement.

Continue!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Too): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not reading a statement; I am only referring to my notes. I want to say that our roads, at the moment, are in a bad state and the Government should do something through this Ministry. When funds are allocated to the Ministry of Roads and Public Works, contractors who are not qualified are given contracts. You will find some Asians who are shopkeepers one day and the next day, they are murraming the roads in the countryside. This is something which I wanted to mention. At the moment, businessmen in Industrial Area are busy selling shock absorbers because of the potholes in our roads.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is also need for the Ministry to open up the Northern Corridor, which links Ethiopia with Kenya, and also the other corridor linking Sudan, through Suam, to Uganda and also the other one which will link Lokichogio through Kaboita to Juba. At the end of the day, people are moving towards such countries because of rail and road networks. For us to do business in Mombasa, we need those roads. Uganda and Ethiopia are our biggest partners in terms of trade. So, we are urging the Ministry to consider this because everything is based on competition. Without roads, nobody is going to work jointly with us. The roads play a crucial role in joint partnerships and also in terms of trade.

The other thing, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, which I wanted to mention here is about the tea cess. In Nandi District, the multinational companies are always paying tea cess through county councils. But they are taking back the same money for the roads instead of giving the councillors the money to do whatever they want to do because they know the people better than the multinational companies. At the end of the day, the tea cess goes back to these multinational companies.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been losing a lot of lives, either through careless driving or through bad roads, especially on the Nakuru-Eldoret Highway near Salgaa. We have lost most of our prominent people on that road. Whenever there is an accident, the Ministry of Roads and Public Works sends engineers to the site to assess the situation and after one week, there is nothing. When another accident happens, they go there and you will always find them measuring those roads. It is almost ten years now and nothing has been done. We keep losing most prominent Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing which I also wanted to mention and which was raised earlier by one of the speakers, is about contractors. There are many big contractors in this country and they are not given any contracts to build our roads. We have Mowlem Construction Company (EA) Limited, Strabag International (K) Limited, and others. But at the end of the day, as I said earlier, you find that even our own Africans, can do a road for, maybe, five kilometres and the work stops. We are urging the Minister and his Permanent Secretary, to make sure that the roads which have been tendered for a certain amount are completed. If it is Kshs50 million or Kshs500 million, the work should be completed rather than leaving the road unfinished and then going back to the Ministry to seek for more funds.

Lastly, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, some of the hon. Members who are engineers have formed some of the companies and they are collaborating with Asians. They are telling them to tender because they know the contract figures and then get kickbacks. I am urging them to be very careful because we will take action.

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

(Applause)

Mr. Wamae: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for at last giving me an opportunity to contribute to this very important Vote. The Ministry of Roads and Public Works is very important because it helps our people to move from their homes to the market place and vice-versa. We use roads to transport produce from the farms to the markets and therefore, it is very crucial to the development of this country. It creates access. It is therefore, very important that we ensure that the money we have is used properly. I would like to congratulate the current Minister and his team, because they have started inspecting the roads on the spot. We would like to encourage that spirit. The Minister should not be encouraged to sit in the office and only get reports from the field officers. Some of the field officers who are advising the Ministry, the engineers, are corrupt. They have proved themselves to be corrupt and the Ministry will need a lot of time to put them right. They are the ones who have been certifying projects, which are not properly completed, to be paid for.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to tell the Ministry that if they do not recruit and sustain African contractors, we shall consider the Minister as a failure. One of the responsibilities of any Government is to encourage the growth of the indigenous people; the Kenyans, to come up and develop. Therefore, we would like to see

what the Ministry is doing to encourage African contractors. We would like the Minister to give the local contractors even 10 per cent bias, so that they can win many of those contracts and grow up because the money remains here. But when you allow multinational companies to win those contracts, they take the money out of the country.

Secondly, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are about five to six mostly Asian contractors, who are very corrupt and they have been getting most of the contracts, even without tendering, because there are people who are getting kickbacks. We would like the Minister, being a new broom, to assure us that no contract for roads will be given without an open tender. When such tenders are given out, they should be publicised in the newspapers. Thirdly, after awarding the contracts, they should be displayed on the notice board stating the contractor, the consultants, the date of award of the contract and the completion date, so that when the District Roads Committees fail, then we know whom to blame. Let wananchi know when the road is supposed to be completed, so that when they complain, they have the facts. We want to have an open book and not like before. For instance, in the building works, most of the Government jobs have been going to Mugoya Construction and Engineering Ltd. Why do all the construction jobs from the Government go to Mugoya Construction and Engineering Ltd. Why do we not have open tenders so that other contractors can compete? Why only Mugoya Construction and Engineering Ltd? Is it because some individuals in the Government are involved? That is corruption which we are trying to fight in this country and we do not want to see Mugoya Construction and Engineering Ltd getting more contracts directly. Let them compete in an open tender like anybody else and if they win openly, nobody will complain. But for somebody to be given a contract on a silver platter, that is corruption. This Ministry is responsible for making Kenya the third most corrupt country in the world because of roads and building contracts. They have spoiled our name internationally and that is why we cannot go anywhere in the world without being looked at as corrupt people.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Hon. Members, it is now time for the Minister to reply, but I understand that he has given a few minutes of his time to Messrs. Murungi and Karume.

So, proceed, Mr. Murungi!

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the Minister for Roads and Public Works for donating three minutes of his time to me, so that I can make a few comments in support of this Motion.

I think we need to support the Minister and his team, who are doing an excellent job in road construction and maintenance. Those hon. Members who have been in this House since 1992 can clearly see the difference in the policy regarding road making and maintenance in this country. We have come a long way; that is why I said that we should support the Minister and his team.

When we were discussing the national food policy, we said that priority should go to areas with high agricultural potential. This is also stipulated in this country's Development Plan. As a House, we would like this policy to be consistently applied in all parts of this country without discrimination.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have in mind one critical road in Meru Central District, namely, the famous Meru-Githongo-Chogoria Road. That road connects five tea factories and passes through an area which produces the highest quality tea in this country. The people of Meru have cried for the rehabilitation of this road over the years. The President has supported them; *Njuri Ncheke*, religious leaders and, politicians have cried.

I am very happy that, finally, the President, the Leaky Team, the Minister and his Permanent Secretary have agreed to include that road in this year's Budget. We hope that the Kshs20 million that has been allocated to that road for technical design will be utilised as soon as possible, so that the technical design for that road can be ready by the end of this financial year, so that, in the next financial year and, maybe, the year after that, adequate funds can be allocated for the construction of that road.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Karume, you have only two minutes to contribute to this Motion.

Mr. Karume: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninatoa shukrani kwa Waziri kwa kunipatia dakika mbili za muda wake. Hizi dakika mbili zitanitoshia, kwa sababu mengi yamesemwa na Wabunge waliotangulia kuijadili Hoja hii.

Kama tujuavyo, hii ni Wizara ya maana sana. Hii ni Wizara inayoweza kuukuza ama kuuzorotesha uchumi wa nchi hii. Ninasema hivi kwa sababu, kusipokuweco na barabara, hata wakulima wakizalisha bidhaa gani, hazitafika sokoni. Hivyo basi, hii ni Wizara ambayo mipango yake inafaa kuangaliwa kwa makini.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ubaya wa Wizara hii ni yale uliyoyasikia yakizungumziwa na baadhi ya Wabunge waliotangulia kuijadili Hoja hii. Nchi hii imepoteza pesa nyingi sana kupitia wanakandarasi walaghai. Tumesikia kwamba baadhi ya wanakandarasi walilipwa pesa za bure, na kuonyeshwa katika vitabu vya Serikali kwamba barabara fulani zimekarabatiwa hali barabara zile hazikuwa zimekarabatiwa kamwe! Kwa hivyo, ningependa Waziri achunguze shughuli za Wizara hii ili ulaghai kama huo usiendelee.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninaamini kwamba bodi zilizochaguliwa hivi majuzi ili zisimamie maswala ya urekibishaji wa barabara katika wilaya, zitazingatia zaidi urekibishaji wa barabara zinazoelekea mashambani, iwapo

bodi hizo zitapewa pesa za kutosha. Ningependa Waziri pia afikirie jinsi bodi hizo zingehusishwa katika mipango ya kurekebisha barabara kubwa wilayani. Ningependa wanachama wa bodi hizo washirikiane na maofisa wa Wizara katika shughuli za kutoa kandarasi za ukarabati wa barabara. Tukifanya hivyo, uporaji pesa zilizotengewa shughuli kama hizo utakoma. Kwa sababu wanachama wa kamati hizo ni wakaazi wa wilaya, watafahamu zaidi jinsi shughuli za ukarabati wa barabara zitakavyoendelezwa. Kuna ulaghai fulani unaoendelea katika shughuli hizo. Kwa hivyo, ningependa Waziri afikirie jinsi angewashirikisha maafisa wa Wizara yake na wanachama wa kamati za barabara wilayani, katika ukarabati wa barabara.

Ahsante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): It is now time for you to reply, Mr. Minister.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this time to reply to issues raised by hon. Members on my Ministry's Vote.

Let me say, from the onset, that I have been listening to all the comments and concerns raised by hon. Members. Although I may not have the opportunity to reply to each and every hon. Member's sentiments, I would like to point out that we have listened, keenly, to all those who contributed to this debate. We have taken note of those sentiments, and we shall take the necessary steps, to deal with those concerns.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that this Ministry is important in the sense that this country's economy revolves around what we do in the Ministry. The more we provide roads, and the better the quality of roads we can give, the more we will help the economy to thrive. So, I would like to thank all the hon. Members who have taken their time to contribute to this debate. I have listened to all the comments that have been made, including criticism. I wish to assure hon. Members that we take criticism seriously. We understand that without criticism, we cannot grow; criticism helps us to take major measures on issues that affect the country. So, let me say that we will do our best.

If hon. Members took time to look around, they should have noticed that all the Ministry's officials who matter are here to listen to what hon. Members have had to say about this Ministry. We, at the Ministry, have resolved to improve the services we render to the public. We have resolved to change the past image of the Ministry. We are all here, so that we can take note of the concerns raised by hon. Members, which we know are the concerns of the people out there.

Something was mentioned about "errand engineers" - engineers who do not operate within the profession's ethics. Following consultations with the Engineers Registration Board, we agreed to look into Cap. 530, with a view to dealing with engineers who do not stick to professional ethics. We also have the road camps which have, in the past, been left idle to die out. During some of my tours to inspect roads under construction, and on my familiarisation tours, I had the opportunity to see some of the camps that have been neglected and those which have been rehabilitated, and I wish to assure hon. Members that this is one of the areas that we are addressing very seriously, for we understand that when those camps become functional, we will be able to deal with the problem of potholes and repair of roads before too much damage is occasioned on them. So, these are genuine observations by hon. Members, and we are taking the necessary steps.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, some hon. Members rightly talked about the potholes that have dotted roads throughout the country. If hon. Members have been observant, they should have noted that we have taken a deliberate step to clear all the potholes on roads throughout the country. Hon. Members who travel upcountry may have noticed that work is going on, on almost all roads. We hope that in time we shall clear all the loopholes and address the issues of recarpeting and resealing of our roads.

(Messrs. Gumo and ole Ntimama consulted loudly)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Messrs. Gumo and ole Ntimama! Whatever business you are transacting, please, do it in a way that does not interrupt the Minister who is speaking.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the concerns raised by the hon. Members is about the question of funds allocated to constituencies and districts. As I said earlier on, when I was moving this Vote, we have made budgetary allocations, so that all constituencies will receive the Kshs5 million. I hope that hon. Members will understand that the Kshs5 million will not come in wholesome; it will come in tranches as we receive it from the Kenya Revenue Authority, of course, through the Treasury. As soon as we receive it, we will forward it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I explained to hon. Members yesterday that the requirement of the Act is such that, we receive the work plans by the various constituencies and districts, so that we remit the funds based on those work plans. I wish to state categorically that we have not sent a single cent because I do realise that hon. Members

have been criticised by the members of the public who think that the money has left the Ministry and, therefore, it may not have been used correctly. It is true that the funds are still with us, and we will sort out the necessary amendments, as I said yesterday. Upon the receipt of the work plans, we shall immediately dispatch the amounts to the constituencies and the districts.

Let me now touch on another point that---

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. With due respect to the Minister on what he has said on that particular issue, is he now deviating from the original promise? Is he in order to deviate from the original promise, that the money would be received by July? Now he is telling us that---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! He has heard you.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need to get that clarification from him.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have just said that we are not deviating, and we have not spent any money that is due to the constituencies. All I am saying is that we are waiting for the necessary amendments to create the necessary legal framework for the funds to reach the constituencies and be utilised.

I was impressed to hear from Capt. Ntwiga about what he did in his constituency. During one of my visits around the country, I did see the steps he had taken by organising his constituents to construct few roads, and, particularly, bridges in his constituency. That is a very good step which my Ministry supports. We cannot be there all the time, but we will try within the funds available to be there. However, if hon. Members can also initiate some activities like that one, I can assure them that, as a Ministry, we will chip in and support those initiatives.

An hon. Member talked about the roundabouts in the City. Some of them, of course, are within the jurisdiction of the Local Government, but my Ministry cannot just stay idle we have to chip in. Let me inform the hon. Members that there is a study which is looking into the creation of the bypasses through those roundabouts so that there can be faster traffic along the City. In the future, if we get funds, we will revive that particular activity so that we can also be in touch with the rest of the world.

There are on-going contracts in various constituencies. Some of those contracts are touching on what will eventually be managed by the District Roads Committee (DRCs). Let me just inform the hon. Members that my Ministry is now clearing those contracts which had been signed before. I want to assure the hon. Members that my Ministry will not interfere with anything else after the expiry of those particular contracts because we do respect the wishes of the hon. Members and the law as well. There has been a concern as to whether the road classifications.

Mr. Mbela: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it possible for the Minister to assure this House that the on-going contracts will not in anyway reduce allocations that are supposed to be going to the districts?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W. C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have just informed hon. Members that we will send money where contracts had previously been signed, prior to the formation of the Kenya Roads Board. After that, we will simply stick to the Act.

There was concern by hon. Members as to whether Road Classes "A, B and C" which will be managed by the Roads Department of the Ministry. The Roads Department, as hon. Members may be aware, is simply one of the agencies of the Kenya Roads Board. It will just act as an agency, so that hon. Members will be free to look at the activities that the Roads Department of the Ministry is doing in various parts of the country. Indeed, we encourage participation of the members of the public and the hon. Members so that they can be advising and looking after what had been put in place on various roads throughout the country. We have had cases of vandalism, for instance, where the Government has spent colossal amounts of money and structures have been vandalised, thus creating safety problems and another budgetary problem. So, we do encourage hon. Members and members of the public to participate, and we will involve leaders in certain areas and seek their opinion over whatever roads, be it under Class "A, B or C," so that what comes out can be collectively owned by all.

Regarding the housing policy, hon. Members may be aware that we have already formulated a revised housing policy which we have distributed to the Departmental Committee on Energy, Communications and Public Works and we are seeking their input so that we can revise that policy in order to come out with a modern one that will assist our people in establishing structures that will be cost-effective and good.

Hon. Munyasia raised the point that we should be advising schools on the sort of structures and buildings that they should put up. It is true that my Ministry is willing to do this. The only problem is that we do not know what is going on everywhere. If the boards of governors of various schools take time to seek our advice when they are pulling up new buildings, I can assure the hon. Members that we shall be more than willing to give the necessary advice so that they can put up buildings that will last and cost them less and also so that they will not be manoeuvred by some of the contractors whom we know as being money hungry.

We are seriously looking into the issue of allocation of Government quarters with a view to repossessing those

which were illegally acquired. My key words here are "illegally acquired" because if something was done legally it would be difficult to go round it. We are equally concerned as a Ministry about the structures that are coming up by the road sides. We have more than often talked to those concerned and we intend to move in and remove some of the structures which we think are obstacles on the road.

It is true that we have had problems with some of our machines, but most of this has to do with the budgetary provisions that we have. Our intention is to put them in working order, but the question of limited resources is what will hamper us from achieving our goal. As I said when I was moving this particular Vote, we intend to ensure that all these machines function so that we can hire them out to our DRCs, the Roads Department and others. This will enable all of us to participate in the management of these equipment so that they can be used properly.

We have also been criticised. As I said we take criticism positively. Let me also say that within the Ministry of Roads and Public Works we have very committed officers. We have dedicated professionals. It is also good to note that there are within us people of that nature who should be complimented and required to motivate them. Otherwise, we tend to blame and demoralise them all the time. We will take very serious steps on those who do not take their work seriously.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the hon. Members and let them know that we are open to criticisms. This is not the end of discussions. They can pay a visit and share ideas with us because all we want is to deliver service to the best of our ability and the satisfaction of our citizens. We will take those issues that have been raised very seriously and I hope the interaction which we will also have from time to time with the Committee of the House will help to enrich us and disseminate some of the ideas we might also have as a Ministry so that together with the hon. Members we can share this and come up with a product that we will all be happy with.

With those remarks, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

(Question put and agreed to)

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

IN THE COMMITTEE

*[The Temporary Deputy Chairman,
(Mr. Musila) took the Chair]*

Vote 13 - Ministry of Roads and Public Works

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT a sum not exceeding Kshs2,467,657,470 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2001, in respect of:-

Vote 13 - Ministry of Roads and Public Works

(Question proposed)

VOTE R13 - RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 130 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Head 380 - Headquarters Administration Services

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 567, Head 380, Item 060, can the Minister inform us which other allowances are these? Under the same Head 380, Item 068 is on Training Expenses while Item 194 is also on Training Expenses. Can he explain the difference between those training expenses?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, these other allowances include acting and hardship allowances. Item 068 on training, used be an item under Operations and Maintenance, but it has now been shifted to Training under Personnel Expenditure. You will find that throughout it will appear to have been moved under Item 068. It will not appear again under Item 194.

Head 381 - Provincial Administration Services

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 567, Head 381, you will find that Item 093 - Refund of Medical Expenses the Item on Ex-Gratia is missing. I would like the Minister to say why it is missing. It is also missing on the subsequent Sub-Vote and various items.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if this particular item is missing, it is being taken care of under the Head Office. This is where officers spend beyond their allocations on the medical expenses and it is only fair that we refund them.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that is not a satisfactory answer, because if you look at Head 419 - Supplies Branch on page 569, you will find that Items 092 and 093 are missing. Are they also being taken care of elsewhere and why? This is because the Supplies Branch might not get access to ex-gratia and refund of medical expenses. How are in-patients taken care of elsewhere?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): I thought the Minister said that the ex-gratia funds are held at the Headquarters. Well, Mr. Minister, would you like to clarify further?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, indeed, that is what I said. Since this is something that is claimed after expenditure, we do refund from the Head Office allocation.

*(Heads 380, 381, 382, 419
and 600 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 130 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 132 - BUILDINGS AND WORKS

(Heads 400, 401, 402, 409 and 413 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 132 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 133 - OTHER SERVICES

Head 418 - Government Housing Section

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if you look at Head 418 - Government Housing Section, Item 181 - Payment of Rents and Rates - Residential on page 574, you will find that the payment of rates is going up. Last year, it was Kshs740 million and this year it is over Kshs1 billion and it keeps on rising and yet, we know that the Government has disposed of most of its residential houses. Can the Minister explain that?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this item has gone up this year because there was a pending bill of Kshs225 million which we want to clear this financial year.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, could the Minister explain Head 505, Item 185 - Computer Expenses on page 575, because they are too high?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is to do with the software for the computers. We have now tried to computerise most of our areas and the software is expensive.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same page - Head 505, Item 221 - Purchase of Spare Parts, this amount of money appears very unreasonable if you take into account what the Minister said that they will revitalise the machinery and maintenance camps, where he requires many machines. Is this money enough to buy spare parts for all the machines in Kenya? This amount of money is on the lower side. I would like the Minister to comment on that.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, indeed, this amount of money is on the lower side and we wished, as a Ministry, that we could get more. We have a problem in getting adequate budgetary provisions from the Treasury.

(Heads 399, 418, 505, 506)

and 507 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 133 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 134 - HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

(Heads 411, 416 and 423 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 134 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 136 - ROADS

Head 384 - Major Roads

Mr. Achola: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. Could the Minister explain to the House how the money indicated on Head 384, Item 288 - Road Maintenance Programme on page 579 will be utilised because there is no schedule indicating where the money will go?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is the Kenya Roads Board Levy Fund. We had distributed a schedule to the House showing how we will spend some of the money, including the allocation to constituencies, districts and on-going contracts.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, can we have that document laid on the Table, so that we can discuss it together with the Estimates?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Achola, are you asking for the schedule?

Mr. Achola: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. Otherwise, we will give him a blank cheque although we do not know where he will spend the money. You know he could take all the money to Baringo!

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is a small booklet which we have distributed to all hon. Members and it contains the breakdown of the funds that we have. I believe that hon. Members have already got it.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a bit suspicious. If such an important document which contains the details of how Kshs6.4 billion will be spent is not available and yet he is asking this House to give him this money, it does not sound serious, does it?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I can lay this document on the Table for the benefit of hon. Members, but we had already distributed some copies.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the issue that hon. Achola has touched on, could the Minister explain whether this is the allocation from the Kenya Roads Board to the Roads Department, or does it include the money for the District Roads Committees? This is because according to the Act, the Kenya Roads Board is supposed to remit money to the agency. Is this the money meant for the Roads Department? The Minister has said that it includes money sent to the District Roads Committee and I thought that the Ministry has no business distributing money to the District Roads Committee, because it is the work of the Kenya Roads Board. So, could he clarify that issue?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if the hon. Member would care to look at that particular Item, he will see that it simply shows the total amount of money which will be received through the levy, and the apportionments per the districts as indicated in other documents that I have just read out.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 391, Item 322, on Grants to Municipalities, Nairobi, will get only Kshs2.8 million. I was just wondering, since Nairobi raises most of the Roads Maintenance Levy Fund, how will Nairobi repair its roads with only Kshs2.8 million? The bulk of the money which is collected through the Roads Maintenance Levy Fund is going elsewhere. The Roads Maintenance Levy Fund collected in Nairobi is more than Kshs2.8 million.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this amount of money is just our contribution to the local authorities to maintain the classified roads within their area of jurisdiction.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want this explanation to be made so that hon. Members are clear on it. Most of the money collected through the Roads Maintenance Levy Fund is collected in Nairobi. It is a lot of money and I can bet that the money collected in Nairobi constitutes the biggest part out of this Kshs6.4 billion. How does Nairobi Province benefit from this money?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, what we have indicated here is what we get as the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. The other components will appear under the Ministry of Local Government Vote.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 580, there is Head 386 on Road Markings and Signs. Could the Minister comment on this? Road markings and signs form a very important aspect, but it appears that the money allocated here is not enough to do proper road markings and signs. You will find that most of the accidents these days happen because there are bumps, bends and sharp corners without road signs to indicate these things. This money is too little to do road markings and signs.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. But this particular amount of money will cover those contracts minus the road markings. Now in any contract, we have included the amount for road markings so that that contract contains all that amount of money.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 381, Head 393, Item 100 Transport Operating Expenses. Yesterday when I was contributing, I said that this particular Item is not being properly handled. I am just wondering why the Minister is only allocating Kshs1.2 million for Transport Operating Expenses. Perhaps, this explains why there is no proper inspection on road works. Could the Minister explain why he has not provided enough money for his people to go and inspect the road?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, if you look at all our operations, you will see that we do not have enough funds to fund all our activities adequately. But we are just making the best of what we can get from the Treasury.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, my question is with regard to page 582, Head 483 under Items 281 Road Maintenance and Repair and 282 - Maintenance and Betterment of Road Camps. Could the Minister explain what these two Items are for and where the money indicated is used?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, these are funds which we keep for emergencies. We, as a Ministry, have complained very much because we know that this money cannot do much. But again, as I said, since we cannot get more, we have just to do with what we get.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, my question is with regard to Head 482 on page 581. Could the Minister explain why he has clustered provincial and district administration together? Why has he not put them as separate Items? This is because we have many districts and fewer provinces and somehow we get lost in trying to know what expenses go to the provinces and what go to the districts.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this Item has something to do with the emoluments and activities of our Provincial Roads Engineers and the Districts Roads Engineers. Again, you will find most of these matters explained in the district allocations, which we have given out.

*(Heads 384, 386, 387, 391, 392, 393,
482 and 483 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 136 agreed to)

(Vote R13 agreed to)

VOTE D13 - DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 132 - BUILDINGS AND WORKS

(Heads 400, 402 and 413 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 132 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 133 - OTHER SERVICES

Head 404 - Planning and Research

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, my question is with regard to page 524, Head 404 on Planning and Research under Item 305 on Slum Rehabilitation, Mathare. I would like the Minister to tell us what the

role of the Ministry is in this Mathare Rehabilitation Programme.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Ministry is charged with the responsibility of providing shelter. This Ministry negotiated with the donors to assist us in coming up with better shelter in places such as Mathare and this is part of our contribution or the component of the Kenya Government.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, could the Minister tell this House who is the most senior authority or partner? Is it the Ministry, the donor or the executing agency, who is the Roman Catholic Church?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Muchiri, I think that falls under a different area. It would, perhaps, suffice if it was an Ordinary Question put to the Minister. Could you specifically question the expenditure that we are dealing with Item by Item? If you want to raise that issue, you should question only the figures on it, but not the way you have put it. Do you understand my point? The issue you have raised can be raised in a better way if you put a substantive Question to the Minister during Question Time. You are still free to reframe your question if you wish. Otherwise, I will disallow your question and give Eng. Toro another chance.

Head 506 - Materials Branch

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same page, Items 223 and 224 are on Field Laboratory Equipment, Documentation and Training, Low Cost Pavement Research and Monitoring. You find that this year and next year, there are no allocations under those items. Yet, the work of the Materials Branch in the improvement of roads cannot be over-emphasised. Why are there no allocations in both years? Is the Materials Branch supposed to stay and watch when things are going wrong?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is simply a question of inadequacy of funds. We wish we had money. It is a very important component which we would like to fund. But we have targeted the little money that we have on the Kenya Government contribution to funds that are donated to us by our friends. If you can allow me, let me put something right. On the question raised by Eng. Toro on page 524, Head 404, Item 325, I mentioned that Kshs1,500,000 was donor funds. The amount is misappropriations-in-aid. I am sorry I misled the House.

Mr. Nguni: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to pursue Eng. Toro's question on the Materials Branch. The Branch tests the viability of materials. For inadequacy, we cannot do without the Materials Branch because it runs side by side with development. What will we do in the coming years if we will not have any materials tested?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): We are trying very hard to get an allocation under that particular Item. It is very important. It is just that we could not help because we did not have funds.

(Heads 399, 404, 410, 505, 506 and 507 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 133 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 136 - ROADS

Head 384 - Major Roads

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like the Minister to explain Head 384 on page 525. On all the major roads, what criteria was used to decide which road will be done? We can see that the Minister will spend Kshs2.8 billion out of the development funds. What criteria did he use to pick on those specific roads and not others?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry has identified the roads that it intends to develop. We forward all the roads for donor funding. Some donors pick on certain roads. Those are the ones that have been given donor assistance.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, you have heard the explanation! Does he submit all the roads in the Republic to the donors to pick whichever they want? Is the Minister not aware that, that type of behaviour could result in lop-sided development in this country? If the donors were to decide to pick all the roads from Baringo, the rest of the country will be left without roads. What specific criteria is used in picking those roads? I do not think we can continue like that!

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, if certain roads have been done, we seek for funds for the remaining ones. We will not let development go to one part of the country.

Eng. Toro: On Item 500 on the same Head - that is Sultan Hamud-Mtito-A-Ndei Road Study - it seems to be taking a lot of money! Could the Minister explain whether the study will include designs? This year, it is allocated Kshs300 million! Will there be another expenditure for designs?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a major event. That section of the road is a major highway. There have been accidents and the Ministry was considering some alignment of the road. That is why this particular item looks expensive!

Head 385 - Other Roads

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 526, Head 385, Item 451 on Kisii-Chemosit Road C21, there have been so many Questions on that road. Could the Minister assure this House that, this time round, the road will be completed? Some of the KANU rebels have rebelled because of that road! Will the road be completed?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I cannot say that the road will be completed during this financial year. What we are doing is to bring down the cost of the road. Then, we will embark on the work. Personally, I have particular interest because I have been asked to look into the road. I am taking great concern on the road.

Head 386 - Road Markings and Signs

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 326, the concern is on road markings and signs under Items 431, 432, 433 and 434 - Trunk, Primary, Secondary and Minor roads. You can see that there is no money allocated for road markings and signs this year. What is happening?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Chairman, as I explained earlier, the road markings have now been in-built into the contract. So, once the contract is awarded, it will include the component of markings.

Eng. Toro: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. The Minister has talked of new roads. What about the existing roads where road signs do not exist? There is no provision for road signs that have already been stolen or uprooted by people to build houses! Markings also wear out due to rains. We are talking about a serious issue here!

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, what he has talked about is covered under the Recurrent Expenditure.

Head 489 - Miscellaneous (R.A.R.P and G.B.C.)

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on page 527, Head 489, Item 448 is on Roads 2000 Programme (SIDA). Similarly, Item 522 is on the same Roads 2000 Programme, but without a specific donor. My question is: What criteria was used to decide where the Roads 2000 Programme will be implemented?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, again it was a question of looking at the whole exercise of Roads 2000 Programme. The idea of having Roads 2000 Programme is simply to look at the road network throughout the country and to remove the bottlenecks hindering the usage of the roads and this funding is supposed to take care of that. So, it is a question of looking at which road is more deserving than the other. Of course, all cases are deserving, but given what is available, we will just have to take that decision.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am not quite happy with that one. I am not trying to find fault with the Minister. I am just trying to find out if there is equitable distribution of resources in this country. For example, on Roads 2000 Programme, he said that it is just a programme to see which road could be constructed. However, we are going to spend almost Kshs1 billion constructing the roads. So, could the Minister tell us the criteria he used to decide how to repair these roads?

Secondly, on Item 094 - Contribution to Minor Roads Programme, which are these roads? About Kshs17.1 million is going to be spent, but we do not know where and what criteria will be used to identify the roads to be constructed.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, could the hon. Member repeat his question, please?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Achola, would you, please, repeat your question?

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me start with the easier one. On Head 489, Item 094, Contribution to Minor Roads Programme there is an allocation of Kshs17.1 million. What is that? Just at the top of, page 527.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Yes, it is on page 527, Head 489, Items 094 and 048. Is that where we are hon. Achola?

Mr. Achola: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is an amount which has been set aside to maintain minor roads.

Mr. Ngure: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am not really satisfied with the answer given by the Minister. Our interest is that when we are approving these funds, we want to know which minor roads will benefit from the funds. This is because this tendency of walking to the Minister every time and begging for work to be done on given roads should stop!

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as I said earlier, all these details will again appear in that Budget pamphlet covering all the districts which we have distributed to hon. Members.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same Head 489, Item 522, Northern Corridor Rehabilitation, you can see that there is a lot of money allocated to the Northern Corridor Rehabilitation. Which roads are these? Does it include the Nairobi-Mombasa Road, or which are these roads?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is the Mombasa-Nairobi Road, all the way to the Northern part of the country. This is the road that connects us to the neighbouring countries and it is indicated who funds it in the Budget pamphlet circulated to hon. Members.

Head 384 - Major Roads

Eng. Toro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on the same, is it not a duplication because if you look at major roads, Head 384, on page 525, Item 151; it is talking about the Nairobi-Mombasa Road Rehabilitation Project. That is why I was asking whether it is a different allocation and whether it is also covered under the Northern Corridor Rehabilitation.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first one is sponsored by the World Bank; that is from Mombasa to Nairobi and the amount of Kshs1.4 million or so, is the other section of the Road.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 489, Items 448 and 523, on Roads 2000 Programme, I am still not sure that this will not result into a lopsided development of the country. So, could I request the Minister to table the documents showing which districts are going to benefit from Roads 2000 Programme, because I do not think that he can answer it all at once?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as I said, we have given the details of what will go to various districts throughout the country in the document which has been circulated to hon. Members. We did this purposely to make it easy for hon. Members to understand and see what they are going to benefit from these funds. So, the document has already been laid on the Table.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am sure the Chair is not convinced that what the Minister is saying is correct. What is in that list is about the Maintenance Levy Fund, not on the Development Vote.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): The document was tabled and it deals with district by district.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we had already distributed this particular document, but I will now table this one also for the benefit of hon. Members.

(Mr. W.C. Morogo laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Achola: Is that a different one, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Well, it has been tabled and the one I am holding now is on District Allocation Budget, the Roads for the Government of Kenya for the year ending June, 2001.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, just to make me happy, I am saying "Aye", so that we all

say "Aye" to pass this Vote--- Could the Minister tell the House whether the Roads 2000 Programme is included in that document? I will be quite happy with a yes or no answer.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Mr. Achola, give the Minister a few minutes for consultation, if he wishes to.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W.C. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, everything that goes to the district has been tabulated in this Budget pamphlet. So, I will encourage the hon. Member to go through it and he will find the details.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Indeed, we even dealt with other Ministries in the same manner. We must make progress on this one. We had district allocations even for other Ministries and we all accepted that these documents have been circulated. When we say that they have been circulated, they are supposed to be in Room 8 and we would like to encourage hon. Members to go and pick up these documents from Room 8. Personally, I have seen heaps and heaps of this document in that room.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have been looking for that document and I cannot get it because it is not in Room 8. Could the Minister assure us that we are going to get it now?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): In that case, then you should have access to this document in the House. So, it is there. It is not that the Chair is holding the document. So, you have access to it. If you wish, you can pick it.

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do not think it is with the Minister.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Munyao! You are out of order!

(Heads 384, 385, 386, 488, 489 and 530 agreed to)

(Sub-vote 136 agreed to)

(Vote D13 agreed to)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Resolution to be reported without amendment)

(The House resumed)

[The Temporary Deputy Speaker

(Mr. Imanyara) in the Chair]

REPORT

Vote 13 - Ministry of Roads and Public Works

Mr. Musila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am directed to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Resolution that a sum not exceeding Kshs2,476,657,470 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2001, in respect of Vote 13 - Ministry of Roads and Public Works, and has approved the same without amendment.

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. W. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

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

(Question proposed)

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on a quick note, I want to congratulate the Minister now that he has the order of Vote. However, the Minister has got eight months to prove that next year we will not call him the Minister for Roads, Public Works and Potholes. We want him to be the real Minister for Roads and Public Works. You have seen that the Minister today managed to jump the frying pan because he is new. However, next year, you will be old enough and we will "fry" you very well. This is a beautiful day at least, when we speak with the full Front Bench of the KANU side present. Surely, this must be a great day. What has happened today? We have never seen you here after 6.00 p.m. You usually go by 3.00 p.m.

With those few remarks, I do congratulate the Minister.

The Assistant Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in congratulating the Minister, I want to make one appeal. This is an appeal to the Ministry professionals to uphold high standards of workmanship and the professionalism in the implementation of the Vote we have approved. Whatever little there is, I am appealing that the strictest professionalism be exercised. Roads that have no drainage and, particularly, on the rural roads, should be a thing of the past. So, I want to appeal to the Ministry staff to ensure that every road has got appropriate drainage, particularly for the rural roads.

Thank you.

Eng. Toro: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think this afternoon, the Minister for Roads and Public Works is very happy and you can see that the threat that we might block his Vote has made everybody come to the House on that side. All we want the Minister to do, is to make good the work and his promise to this House that where hon. Eng. Kiptoon left, he is going to go on and make sure that the Ministry which is very important in this Republic, is accountable to the public for the funds that the public pays to the Government. The Minister and the team of the senior Ministry personnel who are here today, have heard what the Members of Parliament have said. The challenge is not more so to the Minister, but to the PS and the engineers who are running the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. This is because the Minister might be there today, but tomorrow he might not be there, but the senior officers will remain and it is up to them to make sure that money is utilised to the best of their ability.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Several hon. Members stood up)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): You know this is not a debate that you should go into detail. So, I will give the final one to Mr. Ojode.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir it is common knowledge that it is not time for debate. However, I would request the Minister that now he has been given the money, there are those roads which are badly off. There is this road called Rodi-Kopany-Karungu which the Minister referred to---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! I gave you an opportunity to contribute on this and not go back to debate.

I will now put the Question.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Hon. Members, we have no applications today for Zero-Hour. The only one we had was a request for a Ministerial Statement.

An hon. Member: Then adjourn the House!

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House, is, therefore, adjourned until Tuesday, 24th, October at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.17 p.m.