

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 22nd June, 2000

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1(A) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA

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

THAT, in view of the prevailing political enmity among different party Members, taking into consideration that the 1992 and 1997 multiparty General Elections were based on tribal and regional interests; this House calls upon the Attorney-General to introduce a Bill for amendment of Section 1(A) of the Constitution in order to abolish all political parties in Kenya, thereby creating a party-less State in an effort to curb tribalism in this country.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I seek your guidance. It is my understanding that the Constitution of Kenya provides that Kenya shall be a multiparty State. Is it in order to allow notice of a Motion which is unconstitutional?

Mr. Speaker: It is out of order to give notice of a Motion that is contrary to the Constitution without calling for the amendment of the Constitution. He is calling for the amendment of the Constitution to allow that to happen. So, he is perfectly in order.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.324

CULTIVATION OF POSITIVE IMAGE FOR KENYA

Dr.Kituyi asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation:-

(a) what specific action the Government is taking to cultivate a more positive international image for Kenya;

(b) if he is aware that the decision to transfer Ms. Rose Asumwa Odera from New York, where she was chairing a special session of the UN to a new station has caused disaffection among the African Group at the UN; and,

(c) what necessitated this transfer at this particular time.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operations (Dr. Godana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) There are numerous activities that Government is always undertaking on a continuous basis to cultivate a positive image for Kenya. This is, indeed, the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation. The Government is actively participating in bilateral as well as multilateral meetings and fora. There is active interaction of the diplomatic community both at home and abroad. There is an effort to promote understanding of Kenya's domestic policies in the foreign media, international institutions and the civil society through the publication of written material, Press releases, interviews *etcetera*. Special editions on Kenya have been featured in such renowned international magazines as the *Times*. In addition, a website has been established on the internet for access by international bourses.

(b) The decision to transfer Ms. Rose Asumwa Odera from New York to Ottawa was purely administrative. Her name was among several others contained in a posting order dated 27th January, 2000 which required them to report to their new stations by 1st April, 2000. It is not unusual to transfer an officer whose tenure of chairmanship of

membership for an international meeting is running. Although Ms. Odera was chairing the Women 2000 Conference, a transfer to Ottawa did not mean the end of that tenure. Ottawa is very close to New York, and, indeed, she continued to attend and chair the few remaining sessions in New York, and this was made clear to her. I am not aware that the transfer caused disaffection. Diplomats understand the nature of their work which invariably involves constant or rather frequent transfers. The African group at the United Nations would understand that the transfer was normal and was dictated by the exigencies of service. Governments do this kind of things or thing all the time. What is very much regrettable is that the matter was blown up in the Press.

(c) The Ministry undertakes reviews of the effectiveness of its officers, and from time to time effects necessary adjustments which may or may not involve a transfer. As a member of the Kenya mission to the United Nations, and as a Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Odera was assigned several other duties in New York. She was replaced by a more senior officer in New York, who is more skilled and has extensive experience in diplomacy.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied that the Minister is very uncomfortable with the kind of answer he has had to read.

Apart from totally waving aside the question of specific measures and delving into generalities about going to dinner with donors and diplomats in the country, he has not set out any specifics of how we have been cultivating a positive image for Kenya. But be that as it may, my first question is in response to your answer to part "a" of the Question. You will agree with me that one of the most important ways of cultivating a positive image for our country is the conduct of Kenyans abroad, and it is international interest that we promote good conduct by those Kenyans abroad and nurture the possibilities of getting jobs abroad.

Since the President of Kenya is the principle foreign policy spokesman of Kenya, when President Mugabe orders Kenyans to be removed from the list of UN observers in Harare elections and the President of Kenya says it serves them right, are you satisfied that, that President is articulating something that is about the positive image of Kenya abroad?

Dr. Godana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know what more specifics Dr. Kituyi wanted me to dwell on. Obviously, it is not feasible really, for me to go in detail of all the specifics he wants. For instance, two years ago, the Ministry started the Foreign Affairs Bulletin which is informative on what the Ministry does and issues of international interest of this country; a document which we have seen, we have noted and is in tremendous demand around the world. Be that as it may, as regards the question which Dr. Kituyi has now raised regarding the statement by His Excellency the President on the Kenyans who went to Zimbabwe to observe elections, Dr. Kituyi must appreciate that as a Government which was not consulted on observers of elections in another friendly country and on the particular individuals who were being sent there, we cannot assume responsibility for their conduct.

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, women of Kenya were booed in New York on the removal of Ms. Odera. We were ashamed, because the whole Africa and the World was wondering how Kenya could turn down such an important request which other governments go running and crying for. It is a big recognition which we turned down. Could the Minister tell us what was so urgent to move Ms. Odera, unless it was flimsy personal interest of somebody somewhere to deny Kenya such a big honour? She had to go to another country because we do not value our image out there. Here we are crying---

Mr. Speaker: Very well, Mrs. Mugo.

Dr. Godana: Well, we do not cry, madam! I do not see what the fuss about this matter is. I would like to put the record straight: As far as I am concerned, there was no flimsy ground on which somebody was being punished. The posting was an ordinary administrative posting. As soon as I learnt that the officer was chairing the meeting, I gave the directive that she be allowed to finish the tenure of that meeting. Unfortunately this---

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Yesterday I warned hon. Members about unnecessary points of order. Hon. Members, when you ask questions it is your intention to receive an answer, and every time you ask a Question and before the Minister opens his mouth you are up on a point of order, then you may not be interested in the answer. So, in the benefit of the person who asked this question, let us get from the Minister the reasons. I will give Members a chance to ask questions. Be patient!

Dr. Godana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said I want to put the record straight and if hon. Members genuinely want a correct answer, they had better give me the opportunity to put the record straight. I said this was a normal administrative transfer. This is not the first time an officer who has been posted from one station to another has sought to appeal to the Ministry. Indeed, I can tell this House, appeals have got to me over the last three years. From time to time, on humanitarian, compassionate and other genuine grounds, we have varied such transfers. This officer never requested or appealed formally for a change of transfer. The Ministry learnt of her problem through the media.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! The problem occasionally arises when we ask Questions on policy, because, in ordinary circumstances they are against the Standing Orders. You should not ask questions on policy at Question Time, because naturally we have not time to deal with policy. We deal with facts. But nevertheless, since I allowed it, we will articulate.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the normal conduct of any country's foreign relations is that, if your citizens get into problems, you should sort out the problem and deal with the citizens later. Even if the Kenya Government does not send Kenyans to Harare, if they are besmirched by the President of Zimbabwe, Kenya calls in the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Kenya, since we were not happy with this. The President of Kenya does not disown them and says it serves them right.

Be that as it may, on the specific matter of the lady in New York, the Minister in declining to make a certain record straight is, in fact, confounding the problem. First, the UN 2000 Conference was the preparatory work of the Beijing Five Conference which ended last week in New York. It was the first time a Kenyan man or woman was chairing a preparatory conference at the UN level. It was good for this country because it was an opportunity to prove that Dr. Miriam Were came from a country where women leadership has emerged, as she is a potential African candidate for a senior UN position.

The Minister conveniently left out one sentence in the written reply which he did not read out. And that sentence said this: "Her performance in other duties was found rather wanting, and this necessitated her transfer". Could he confirm or deny to this House, that because of the international accolades that this lady was getting, it evoked the jealousy of Dr. Sally Kosgei who does not like anybody to outshine her? That is the only problem which led to this woman being transferred to Ottawa. Will you defend Dr. Sally Kosgei or you will be man enough to speak the truth?

Dr. Godana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that I did not read that sentence. It was out of compassionate feelings for the officer concerned. If he wants us to make the record public on the Floor of this House, then we will!

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Minister! I do not think it will serve any Kenyan right if we begin opening skeletons here. You may all want to do it, but I think the Chair will not want to do that. I hope we do not get into that, and I hope the Questioner, before he agrees that you open the skeleton, must get written authority from that officer.

Dr. Godana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been on that Chair as your very able deputy. I have always felt that there are times when we have to balance between public interest and the interest of individuals. But be that as it may, one thing which this House must respect is that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, as a responsible Ministry of the Government, must have internal rules and it must operate within certain guidelines. The officer in question was posted to a neighbouring station and it was clear - after instructions from me - that she was going to hold on in New York up to the end of June. Instead, her friends decided to blow the matter up in the Press. At this stage, she was, in fact, recalled. A ticket was sent for her to board the next flight to Nairobi. Two months later--

Mr. Speaker: Order, Dr. Godana! I thought you listened. As I said, no "cupboards" are going to be opened. I will now go on to the next Question.

Mrs. Mugo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Sit down!

Dr. Ochuodho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My understanding is that if anybody was to be penalised, then it must be the Minister. The action you have taken now, amounts to punishing the wrong people. Could you, please, allow one more question on that?

Mr. Speaker: Order, Dr. Ochuodho! You have no supervisory duties over the Chair! Twenty minutes are more than enough for one Question. Next Question! The Question by Dr. Ali will be deferred.

Question No.231

UPGRADING OF BUNA/BUTE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

(Question deferred)

Next, Question, Mr. Kamande!

Question No.276

ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS IN MARAGWA

Mr. Kamande asked the Minister for Energy:-

(a) if he is aware that the DDC, Maragwa, recommended ten electrification projects to be undertaken by the Government during the 1999/2000 Financial Year; and,

(b) what the budgetary allocation for the district for the 1998/1999 Financial Year was.

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

(a) Our records indicate that the Maragwa District Development Committee had recommended five projects to be implemented under the Rural Electrification Programme during the 1999/2000 Financial Year.

(b) During the 1998/99 Financial Year, the budgetary allocation for Maragwa District was K£734,000.

Mr. Kamande: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the Assistant Minister is quite disgusting! In 1998/99 Financial Year, the budgetary allocation for Maragwa District was K£734,000 and the budgetary allocation for 1999/2000 Financial Year was Kshs19,600,000. The budgetary allocation for the next Financial Year is indicated as Kshs11 million. Could the Assistant Minister table the list of the projects which were implemented using this amount of money in Maragwa District?

Mr. Chanzu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot table the list of those projects because they were not implemented due to lack of funds.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister clarify what he means by saying the projects were not implemented due to lack of funds? He has said that in the 1998/99 Financial Year, there was K£734,000 allocated for these projects. What does he mean by saying there were no funds whereas the allocation was already there?

Mr. Chanzu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, allocation is one thing and the availability of money is another.

Mr. Kamande: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting the Assistant Minister to table the list of the projects that will be implemented this year, using the Kshs11 million which has been allocated. There is no need for Members of Parliament to go and sit in the District Development Committee meetings because nothing useful comes out of them. When proposals are sent to the Government, nothing happens on the ground. Could the Assistant Minister table the list of those five projects, and tell us where they are?

Mr. Chanzu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as we are concerned, the Maragwa District Development Committee has sent a priority of five projects to be implemented. This is going to depend on the availability of funds.

Mr. O.K. Mwangi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to me this looks like a joke because the Assistant Minister says that there was a budgetary allocation for these projects. The information I have is that the District Development Committee has recommended the implementation of more than six projects on electrification. Three of those projects are in my constituency and nothing has been happening. Is the Government telling this House that it makes proposals for inclusion in the Budget which are never implemented due to lack of funds? So, the Government has not been telling us the truth. When are these projects going to be implemented?

Mr. Chanzu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, planning is one thing and the availability of funds is another. It does not mean that when the Government makes proposals here, it does not implement any of them. We implement some while others are not implemented because due to lack of funds.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Githiomi!

Question No.289

REPAIR OF ROADS IN KIPIPIRI

Mr. Githiomi asked the Minister for Roads and Public Works:-

(a) if he could inform the House how much money the Government spent on repair of roads in Geta, Wanjohi, Kipipiri, Lereshwa and Malewa; and

(b) if he could give the breakdown from January, 1996 to date.

The Assistant Minister for Roads and Public Works (Eng. Rotich): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek the indulgence of the House that this Question be deferred until Thursday. The reason is that the facts I have are not correct.

Mr. Speaker: Is that okay with you, Mr. Githiomi?

Mr. Githiomi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, given that the answers I have been given are totally misleading, I will accept the request made by the Assistant Minister that this Question be answered on Thursday next week.

(Question deferred)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

SHOOTING OF MR. KIREMA

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Isiolo Branch, Mr. Obadia Kirema was shot dead in cold blood in Isiolo Town by two gunmen on 11th May, 2000 at about 6.30 p.m.?

(b) What circumstances led to his death?

(c) What steps has the Government taken to apprehend the killers so as to bring them to justice?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that Mr. Obadia Kirema was shot dead on 11th May, at about 6.30 p.m. in Isiolo Town.

(b) The circumstances under which victim

was shot are the subject of a court case and, therefore, it is *sub judice*. APC Ibrahim Tuchana Wario and APC Ibrahim Halake Bate were arrested and have been charged with the murder of Mr. Kirema. The matter is also before the Principal Magistrate's Court.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the Minister for that answer, more especially because APC Ibrahim Tuchana Wario and APC Ibrahim Halake Bate have been arrested and charged with murder. Having visited Isiolo we do not think the circumstances under which Mr. Kirema was shot are *sub judice*. Could he give the events leading to the death of Mr. Kirema? We are told that he was shot as he was leaving the church with his wife.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I still think that, that is part of the investigations which are being carried out for purposes of prosecution. I do not think I should answer that one.

Mr. Speaker: What about the general events, without having to go into specifics? Was it an account of drunkenness, love affair or what was it all about?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is still subject to investigation.

Mr. Mwiraria: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since Mr. Kirema was shot dead, at least five other Merus have been shot dead in Isiolo. The next day, Mr. Kibiti was shot in his farm at blank range. Since then, four other people have been shot, three of them, two nights ago. Could the Minister explain whether there is a special phenomenon against the Meru people in Isiolo?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree that we have got security problems in Isiolo and I would rather issue a full Ministerial Statement to cover all those people who are involved.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Minister is offering to issue a Ministerial Statement instead of giving an answer to my Question, I would agree to that. Could he issue that Ministerial Statement now?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer is no.

Mr. Murungi: Now, if the answer is "no," when will he issue the Ministerial Statement?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will issue it on Thursday, next week on the general issue that Mr. Murungi asked, but not on the specific issue.

Mr. Speaker: I agree with you. You can base it on the general issue Mr. Murungi asked.

Very well. Next Question, by Mr. Mwenda.

ABDUCTION OF NTORONI RESIDENTS

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that the following people, namely:- Ikuura Mukembu, Mark Kathare, Njeru Kamwara, Mrs. Jane Njeru and Modesto Njuki, disappeared on 9th January, 2000, after they were abducted by administration police officers from their farms in Ntoroni Location of Tharaka District?

(b) Could the Minister inform the House the whereabouts of the above named people?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just discussed the Question with the hon. Member, and I have not gotten sufficient information in order to answer him. So, I have set up a special team to try and get me more information so that I could be able to answer it fully.

Mr. Mwenda: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that we have discussed that matter with the Minister, but I must say that I am absolutely saddened at the manner in which the Minister is handling it, because this is the third time that the Minister is seeking the indulgence of the House. However, because of the gravity of the matter, I am prepared to indulge. Maybe, he should answer me next week, on Thursday.

Mr. Speaker: Alright. I have deferred that Question to next week.

(Question deferred)

(Mr. Murungi stood in his place)

Mr. Murungi, the Question is no longer before the House. Could you patiently wait, and when it comes up, I will put it at the back of my mind that you are interested to ask a question?

Mr. Murungi: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well.

Next Question, by Mr. Anyona.

IMPLEMENTATION OF FEES GUIDELINES

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

(a) Could the Minister table the fees guidelines in all public schools for the year 2000?

(b) Could the Minister table the list of schools which have not adhered to the fees guidelines?

(c) What disciplinary measures have been taken against the Board of Governors (BOGs) and Head teachers, who have defied the Government order on the guidelines?

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

(a) I beg to table the fees structure for public secondary schools for the year 2000.

(b) I also beg to table a list of schools which have not adhered to the school fees guidelines as per the 31st of May, this year.

(c) My Ministry is carrying out investigations on headteachers who have not adhered to the fees guidelines. All the head teachers concerned in Nairobi Province have already been summoned and warned that failure to adhere to the guidelines will resort to disciplinary action.

All Provincial Directors of Education (PDEs) and District Education Officers (DEOs) have been directed to ensure that head teachers adhere fully and strictly to the guidelines.

(Mr. Karauri laid the two lists on the Table)

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister to tell the House how many schools defied the fees guidelines and their names?

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already tabled the list. There are 35 secondary schools involved, and they are contained in that list that I have tabled. I do not know whether I should read them out.

Mr. Speaker: Once you have tabled the lists, you need not read their names out.

(A number of hon. Members stood in their places)

Who is the Shadow Minister for Education in the Democratic Party of Kenya (DP)?

Hon. Members: Mr. Matu Wamae!

Mr. Speaker: So, he is not interested!

Very well, Mr. Kajwang'

Mr. Kajwang': Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have heard the Minister saying that he has already tabled the list of schools' head teachers who have defied the guidelines. At the same time, he said that he is investigating into the matter. What is he investigating? He gave guidelines, and they have been disobeyed. What action has he taken? We do not want investigations.

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said that, already, we have warned the headteachers who were involved and we are still investigating to find out if there are other headteachers who are defaulting. Most---

Eng. Toro: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is it, Eng. Toro? Be aware of my directions yesterday.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fully aware. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to mislead the House by saying that they are investigating, whereas he knows very well that the BOG members and principals have been to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology headquarters in order to hike schools fees, and they are allowed to do so? Is it in order for him to say that they are investigating, whereas they are approving the hiking of fees?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Eng Toro, what Standing Order has the Assistant Minister breached?

Hon. Members, I will do a very simple thing. By next week, I will circulate to hon. Members considered rulings of the Chair as to what constitutes a point of order.

Eng. Toro, please, that is a point of argument. Next time, if you catch my eye, I will give you the chance to refute what Mr. Karauri has said.

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year, the budgetary allocation for the education sector in this country is increased. My understanding is that the Government will do everything possible to ensure that education in the country is as cheap as possible, and possibly free in some areas. Could the Assistant Minister tell us why, if they cannot offer cheaper education, they never consult with principals and headmasters when they come up with new fees structures?

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we carried out a survey last year between October and November. Headteachers were in that group, and so were the chairmen of several secondary school heads associations and the DEBs in their districts. What has happened, and that is why we want the support of the hon. Members, who are members of the BOGs in their own schools and members of the DEBs--- That problem is only found in Nairobi and Central Province, and we do not understand why some boards of governors or DEBs would want to insist and ask students to pay for items that have nothing to do with quality education; that they have to put grandiose buildings and buy several buses. We refuse those things, and we want hon. Members to support us in those efforts.

An hon. Members: Well done!

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you heard the Assistant Minister saying that they, as a Ministry, have sent warnings to the headteachers and BOGs, who have refused to adhere to their directives. Is he satisfied that a warning is just enough for such a serious issue?

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we discovered that they had over-charged and gone beyond the set guidelines, we called them and warned them. We also want to appeal to the parents not to pay anything extra other than what the Ministry has set out so that the headteachers will comply with what we set as fees.

Mr. Shill: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Assistant Minister has now given us the list of schools which have not adhered to the fees guidelines, and we have so many children who have been sent out of schools, could he tell us who is responsible for them?

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have told heads of schools not to expel students, especially if they are defaulting the guidelines, and we want to know of such cases. That is why I said that we will continue to investigate. We want the parents to report those matters to the DEOs, or the PDES, or the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology or whoever is nearer.

Hon. Members: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Maybe, this will help the House to go into this issue. Mr. Karauri, the Members are telling you, and you agreed, that headmasters have defied you, and as a result, the children are out of school, and you are saying that you have warned them, and now that they are not listening to you; what happens?

(Applause)

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have not refused to listen. I have said that we have called those who we have found to have defaulted, they have apologised and we have warned them. If they repeat, we will take sterner disciplinary action. So, we do not expect them to repeat the mistake.

Mr. Speaker: I think we will have to finish with Mr. Anyona, because I have a few Ministers who want to respond to Members who had asked for ministerial statements, and I have to go to the Procedural Motion before 3.30 p.m., and we must get rid of the Question before 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part of the problem is that the sense of responsibility for education has been lost sight of. In the view of the fact that under Section 35 of the Education Act, paragraph b, the Assistant Minister has the authority of Parliament to make regulations. Could he tell us whether, in fact, he has ever made any regulations? The teachers, maybe, are defying these directions because there is no law. Has the Assistant Minister made any regulation under the Act?

Mr. Karauri: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We have even gone beyond that. Every head teacher has a head teachers' manual which spells out what is required of them by the Education Act. Boards of Governors are appointed by the Ministry to run schools on its behalf. The issue of defying the Minister's directions does not arise because head teachers know that they cannot do that.

ROADS IMPROVEMENT IN BUNGOMA COUNTY COUNCIL

(Mr. Munyasia) to ask the Minister for Local Government:-

(a) How much money from the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) has been set aside for road

improvement in Bungoma County Council?

(b) Is the Minister aware that this money has been paid directly into the elected councillors' personal accounts?

(c) What urgent steps is the Minister taking to ensure that this money is properly accounted for?

Mr. Speaker: If Mr. Munyasia is not in, his question will be deferred.

An hon. Member: Oh, no!

(Question deferred)

Mr. Speaker: Order! I have three Ministerial Statements to go through in quick succession. The Ministers must be advised that they must finish ten minutes before 3.30 p.m., or earlier. I will begin with Dr. Anangwe, who was the first to see me.

Mr. Ojode: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. My Question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Which one?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is Question No.5 by Private Notice.

Mr. Speaker: Sorry, I apologise.

Mr. Ojode: Can I ask it now?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, you can go ahead and do so.

Mr. Ojode: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I ask this Question, I have an answer which is signed by a Back-bencher. I wonder whether it will be admissible in the House.

Mr. Speaker: What are you saying?

Mr. Ojode: I am saying that I am wondering whether this answer that I have been given will be admissible in the House or whether it is valid. This is because it was signed by a Back-bencher. It was signed by somebody who was once a Minister and now he is a Back-bencher.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ojode, I am told that a Back-bencher or a Front-bencher does not sign documents. It is only the occupiers of those positions who do sign. So, it is not possible that the Answer to your Question was signed by a Back-bencher. But be that as it may, assuming you meant that the answer was signed by a Front-bencher who is now a Back-bencher, I can advise you, and hon. Muite will be my witness, that equity does not look at the form, but looks at the substance. So, can we go to the substance?

RECONSTRUCTION OF MTITO-ANDEI
-SULTAN HAMUD ROAD

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Roads and Public Works the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the road between Mtito-Andei and Sultan Hamud needs reconstruction?

(b) What caused the delay in awarding the tenders for the construction work to start?

The Assistant Minister for Roads and Public Work (Eng. Rotich): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that the road between Mtito-Andei and Sultan Hamud needs reconstruction.

(b) There is nothing that has caused the delay in awarding the tender since procurement is in progress.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this road is impassable as I am talking to you. The tendering has already been done. I would like the Assistant Minister to tell us why the award has not been effected. It is being said that somebody somewhere is not interested in the lowest bid and he wants the fifth lowest bidder to get the tender. Could the Assistant Minister confirm or deny this?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is not correct.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I challenged the Assistant Minister to confirm or deny that the lowest bidder will not be awarded this tender because somebody somewhere is interested in the fifth lowest bid. Could he confirm or deny this? That is why the tender has not been awarded to the lowest bidder.

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I deny it. That is not true.

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, of course, this road is very important. It has even affected the development of many areas because some of the trucks cannot pass through this road when carrying heavy loads. Could the Assistant Minister tell us when the reconstruction of this road will start? How much money has been allocated to the contract?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the contract has not been awarded. So, I cannot say how much it has been awarded for. There is a consultant working on it and in a month's time, we shall award the contract.

Mr. Sambu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell the House how many tenders have been received? Who are these contractors by name? If it is possible, what are the amounts of money quoted by each of the contractors who tendered?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have their names, but I can peruse the Tender Board's documents and see what happened. Only seven tenders were submitted to the Ministry.

Mr. Sambu: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. If the Assistant Minister received seven tenders out of 30, they were not anonymous. They must have had some names on them. So, could the Assistant Minister read out the names of the contractors?

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Sambu! That is not a point of order. It is a question.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister confirm or deny that one of the reasons why the former Minister for Roads and Public Works was sacked was because he refused to award this tender to the politically-correct contractors?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no knowledge of that.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell the Assistant Minister that this tender that he is talking about has already been cancelled. It has been cancelled because somebody was interested in Strabag International Construction Company and they did want to give the tender to the lowest bidder because he did not want to part with some money. The Assistant Minister has said that the tender will be awarded in a month's time, and we should wait in this House and see whether that will happen. When exactly will the tender be awarded?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot confirm the exact date when the contract will be awarded. But within a month, something will happen.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF AT NAIROBI HOSPITAL

The Minister for Medical Services (Dr. Anangwe): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a Ministerial Statement over a matter raised by hon. Dr. Chem Ochuodho, hon. Member of Parliament for Rangwe Constituency, on 8th June, 2000, in respect of the recent retrenchment exercise at Nairobi Hospital.

I confirm that Nairobi Hospital recently retrenched 61 members of staff of various cadres. The names of the retrenched members of staff are in the list attached and I will table it here. The exercise was as a result of the downturn in the economy and a recognition of the need for the hospital to become more efficient due to increasing competition within the health care market. Indeed, the Hospital has witnessed a reduction in admissions in the last one year. Currently, it admits less than 900 patients per month. This is the contrast to the same time last year, when admissions were in the range of 1,100. I have attached the requisite evidence to underscore the deterioration in admissions. I have attached the requisite evidence in admissions which show that 12 per cent reduction over the one year period. In addition, the hospital suffered wage inflation above 10 per cent and consumable inflation up to 70 per cent. These factors combined to necessitate a re-organisation of the hospital resulting in some redundancies in order to match the hospital's finances to the economic environment. To back up the re-organisation, there was substantial job re-designing bearing in mind the need to ensure the standards of health care were not compromised.

Indeed, the quality of care may actually improve through amended work methods. The job re-design has been very specific in the requirements for each new position within the organisational structure. Thereafter, the current staff were retained because they had the requisite experience, qualifications and attitude appropriate for the new positions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when a decision to declare staff redundant was reached, the Collective Bargaining Agreement was adhered to particularly Sections 21, 22, 25 and 26. Copies of the same are attached for ease of reference and I shall also table them here. Let me also add that the Ministry of Health has been consulted at the various stages in the retrenchment process and we are satisfied that the exercise was properly done in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement and as humanely as possible.

(Dr. Anangwe laid the documents on the Table)

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Just one very last one from Dr. Ochuodho before I go to the Procedural Motion.

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since I realise we are short of time, can the Chair allow that I go and study the documents and raise issues next week?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, you can study the documents and consult me. Will you?

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

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. Mr. Madoka, I am afraid, you had a Ministerial Statement which I cannot now reach. I am told by Mr. F.P. Lotodo that he will give his Ministerial Statement on Tuesday on a matter raised by Mr. Michuki. We will hopefully get some time on Tuesday. I think those are the only ones who asked me on this.

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! What are you doing?

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought you allowed me.

Mr. Speaker: No! Order! Mr. Michuki, what I said is that looking at the clock, we have got to go through that Procedural Motion before 3.30 p.m. and I was seen by the Minister, hon. F.P. Lotodo, on the issue you raised and he said that he is not ready for it until Tuesday. So, I was just informing you and you should just bow there and say thank you.

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! We cannot continue. Members may have forgotten that we still have the Zero-Hour. I think since we resumed we are not getting any applications for Zero-Hour. So, can you also utilise that advice because it is the rules of the House that say we must get to the next business not later than 3.30 p.m. and I am just a goalkeeper of the rules. So, please, allow me to discharge my duty as well.

Next Order, Mr. Minister!

PROCEDURAL MOTION

EXEMPTION OF BUSINESS FROM PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDER NO.137(1)

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communication (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Procedural Motion:-

THAT, this House orders that the business appearing on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order No.137(1) which gives precedence to the debate on the Financial Statement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also wish to draw the attention of the House to the provisions of Standing Order No.142 (6) on the Committee of Supply, which states:

"Any Vote on Account shall be put down as the first business on the first of the allotted days being a day before 26th June; and if on the last allotted day before 26th June, the question with respect to any Vote on Account shall not have been put, then the Chairman shall, one and a half hours before the time of the interruption of business, forthwith put that question".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear that 26th June falls on Monday and, therefore, we will be breaching our Standing Orders if we do not make provisions for this House to be able to debate the Vote on Account in accordance with the Standing Orders regarding the Committee of Supply. So, I am seeking the indulgence of this House that Members support this Procedural Motion then we can get to the substance of discussing the Vote on Account.

With these few remarks, I beg to move.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second that Motion. I think it is necessary because we need to continue to provide the necessary services to wananchi. So, it is important that we do support it.

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Anyona, before the Question is before the House? Order, Members.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Even now, we have breached the Standing Orders. In fact, it has been done by the last Parliament and by this Parliament. This is because Standing Order No.142, Paragraph 6 states:-

"Any Vote on Account shall be put down as the first business on the first of the allotted days".

We are up to three allotted days now and we are moving this Motion. It should have been moved the next day after the Budget. Does the Chair consider this to be correct?

Mr. Speaker: Which Standing Order did you refer to?

Mr. Anyona: Standing Order No.142 (6).

Mr. Speaker: What does it say?

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it states-

"Any Vote on Account shall be put down as the first business on the first of the Allotted Days being a day before 26th June".

So, what I am saying is that this business should have come the next day after the Budget. That is how it used to be in the old days, but after the Sixth Parliament, that is the mlolongo Parliament, everything else went haywire. I would like to appeal that we go back to the normal procedure provided for in the Standing Orders.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Maybe, you got it all wrong. Mr. Anyona, I think in all honesty you got it upside

down. What we have been doing between Budget Day and now is in the Committee of Ways and Means, to deal with Financial Statement. The Vote on Account is in the Committee of Supply and if you look at Standing Order No.142 (1) it states as follows:-

"Twenty days, being those before the 31st October, shall be allotted for consideration in the Committee of Supply of proposals in respect of the Annual Estimates".

The first item that we are dealing with is the first stage of the Committee of Supply is the Vote on Account and it is the first business on the Order paper on the Committee of Supply. So, we are absolutely right. The Minister is asking for the leave of the House because under Standing Order No.137, the Financial Statement shall be continued for seven days without interruption, without the leave of the House. So, we are complying with Standing Order No.137 so that we get the leave of the House to get into the very first business in the Committee of Supply which is the Vote on Account. When we come back to the Committee of Supply later, the second issue will be day two. Today is day one. So, we are absolutely right. Now, since I do not have the time, I will seek your decision which is to put the matter to the vote.

(Question put and agreed to)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Order for Committee read)

MOTION

VOTE ON ACCOUNT

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members have already received---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Minister! You must move the Motion first before you address the House because that is your access. That is what they call in computers "windows". You must get a window to access.

(Laughter)

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Okemo): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for that correction.

An hon. Member: Read out the terms of the Motion.

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT, in accordance with provisions of Section 101 of the Constitution of Kenya, the withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of the sum of Kshs74,973,663,105, representing one-half of the total net estimates of Recurrent and Development Expenditure for the Financial Year 2000/2001, made up in the manner set out in the Vote on Account schedules laid before the House, be authorised for the purpose of meeting expenditure necessary to carry on the services of the Government of Kenya during the year ending 30th June, 2001, until such time as the Appropriation Act for the year comes into operation.

His excellency the President has signified his consent to this Motion.

VOTE ON ACCOUNT SCHEDULE (RECURRENT)
2000/2001

ESTIMATES showing the several services of which a Vote on account
is required for the year ending 30th June, 2001

Vote No.	Service	Total Net Estimates	Vote on Account
	Office of the President	15,252,220,520	7,626,110,260
R02	State House	439,606,880	219,803,440
R03	Directorate of Personnel Management	8,375,115,550	4,187,557,775
R04	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation	2,836,770,640	1,418,385,320
R05	Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home affairs, Heritage and Sports	3,694,214,390	1,847,107,195
R07	Ministry of Finance and Planning	8,187,773,320	4,093,886,660
R08	Department of Defence	13,903,107,800	6,951,553,900
R10	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	5,533,634,880	2,766,817,440
R11	Ministry of Health	9,890,261,480	4,945,130,740
R12	Ministry of Local Government	312,937,820	156,468,910
R13	Ministry of Roads and Public Works	3,004,744,040	1,502,372,020
R14	Ministry of Information, Transport and Communications	1,968,823,960	984,411,980
R15	Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development	1,392,537,070	696,268,535
R16	Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry	1,454,006,390	727,003,195
R21	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	2,162,394,050	1,081,197,025
R25	Office of the Attorney-General	599,058,500	299,529,250
R26	Judicial Department	888,869,930	444,434,965
R27	Public Service Commission	60,381,300	30,190,650
R28	Office of the Controller and Auditor-General	190,009,670	95,004,835
R29	National Assembly	1,623,743,460	811,871,730
R30	Ministry of Energy	41,187,700	20,593,850
R31	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	48,405,511,460	24,202,755,730
R33	Electoral Commission	719,350,000	359,675,000
R36	Ministry of Lands and Settlement	1,037,854,860	518,927,430
R45	National Security Intelligence Service	<u>2,668,000,000</u>	<u>1,334,000,000</u>
	TOTAL	134,642,115,670	67,321,057,835

**VOTE ON ACCOUNT SCHEDULE (DEVELOPMENT)
2000/2001**

ESTIMATES showing the several services for which a Vote on
Account is required for the year ending 30th June, 2001

Vote No.	Service	Total Net Estimates	Vote on Account
D01	Office of the President	1,726,252,470	863,126,235
D02	State House	35,000,000	17,500,000
D03	Directorate of Personnel Management	115,000,000	57,500,000
D04	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation	45,000,000	22,500,000
D05	Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home affairs, Heritage and sports	423,025,120	211,512,560
D07	Ministry of Finance and Planning	5,105,203,190	2,552,601,595
D10	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1,655,931,010	827,965,505
D11	Ministry of Health	1,029,904,900	514,952,450
D12	Ministry of Local Government	361,500,000	180,750,000
D13	Ministry of Roads and Public Works	1,930,570,900	965,285,450
D14	Ministry of Information, Transport and Communications	313,000,000	156,500,000
D15	Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development	136,800,000	68,400,000
D16	Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry	32,408,000	16,204,000
D21	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	1,349,654,950	674,827,475
D25	Office of the Attorney-General	25,000,000	12,500,000
D26	Judicial Department	30,000,000	15,000,000
D30	Ministry of Energy	302,000,000	151,000,000
D31	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	624,960,000	312,480,000
D36	Ministry of Lands and Settlement	<u>64,000,000</u>	<u>32,000,000</u>
	TOTAL	Kshs. <u>15,305,210,540</u>	<u>7,652,605,270</u>
	GRAND TOTAL	Kshs. 149,947,326,210	74,973,663,105

Mr. Speaker: Proceed now!

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that I have accessed the "windows", hon. Members have already received and gone through their copies of the Vote on Account schedule for the Financial Year, 2000/2001.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in accordance with the provisions of Section 101 of the Constitution of Kenya, Parliament is being asked to authorise the withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund, monies not exceeding in total, one-half of the total net sum included in the estimates of Recurrent and Development Expenditure, for the purpose of meeting expenditure necessary to carry on the services of the Government of Kenya during the year, until such time as the Appropriation Act for the year comes into operation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as it is common practice, the estimates of Recurrent and Development Expenditure will be discussed and scrutinised in detail in this House, during the proceedings of the Committee of Supply. I do not, therefore, wish to go into the details of the subject at this stage.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the net estimate of Recurrent Expenditure amounts to Kshs134,642,115,670, for which I am, at the moment, seeking an approval for Kshs67,321,057,835. The net estimate for Development Expenditure amount to Kshs15,305,210,540, for which I am seeking an approval for Kshs7,652,605,270, to be able to continue Government services uninterrupted, until such a time the Appropriation Act for the year is passed by Parliament and becomes operational.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the Recurrent Vote, the funds sought are mainly for payment of salaries, operations and maintenance. Funds sought under the Development Vote are for the implementation of development projects and programmes. I, therefore, call upon all hon. Members to pass this procedural Motion, to enable me to release funds to Ministries and Departments, to continue with their operations come 1st July, 2000.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to second the Motion moved by the Minister for Finance. I would like to reiterate the fact that, what he is seeking is the consent of this House so that come 1st of July, 2000, the Government will be in a position to access the resources that will enable its operations to continue. At the same time, I wish to remind Members that, during the process of the Committee of Supply, individual Ministries will present their individual Votes. That will give hon. Members a better opportunity to go into the details of each particular Vote, other than when it is brought before the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing new here. It is basically a procedural issue which, I hope, the House will debate and give sanction to the Ministry of Finance, so that we can move on to other businesses as we await the prolonged debate under the Committee of Supply on each individual Vote.

With those few remarks, I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Speaker: For the information of the House and for purposes of record and time, hon. Keriri will speak as the Official Responder.

Mr. Keriri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Normally, we have no quarrel with the Vote on Account. We know it is intended to enable the Government to continue the services that it offers to wananchi, including paying our salaries. But, although all this money is being provided, one wonders whether it will be available. We are providing the money and giving the Minister leave to raise the revenue. But whether or not he will raise enough revenue to cover those amounts

within the time provided is a very big question. The economy is performing very poorly. Drought is with us. Power cuts are with us. Water rationing is with us. I cannot see the rest of the sectors of the economy performing well when they are suffering that way. We wish ourselves luck to get there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Minister spoke about his estimates last week, he did imply that, he had not taken the current drought into account. It is unfortunate that the drought was not taken into account properly. We were caught unawares as it were. But, there has been drought warnings from the Meteorological Department for the last six months. Someone should have realised that, we should have taken care of that much more importantly than we did in this Budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, having said that, I am doubtful if the money will be available to meet expenditure. I want to say this: Security is very important. There is nothing that will happen in this country without security of Kenyans. Now, if you look at the Office of the President, there is a provision of about Kshs900,000,000 for the Directorate of Security Intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the regular Police Force, which is more important in this respect. The security of Kenyans is at stake and I do not think that enough money has been set aside for the regular Police Force, which is supposed to take care of Kenyans more than the National Security Intelligence Service. I wish the Kshs900 million was

set aside for the Police Force to train them and give them the morale they need, for example, giving them proper housing and increasing their salaries so that they can be comfortable and feel more Kenyan than they are today, because the harassment they give to Members of Parliament, especially those from the [Mr. Keriri] Opposition parties, makes them look less Kenyans than they should be.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other aspect which I would like to talk about is the provision of money to the agricultural sector. When I listened to the Minister during the Budget Speech, and when I look at the Estimates, I think the Minister for Finance and the Kenyan Government have almost ignored the agricultural sector. We feel that this country will never develop because agriculture, being the primary sector of the economy, has been ignored. You cannot develop Kenya unless you look after agriculture properly.

(Loud consultations)

The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Mr. Sumbeiywo): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We cannot follow the proceedings in the House because there is too much consultations by hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Gor Sungu, Mr. Ngure---

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am here!

Mr. Speaker: Sorry, sorry! I apologize.

Mr. Ngure, you are holding an illegal meeting there! So, would you please maintain order and everybody around you. Please, keep order! Proceed, Mr. Keriri!

Mr. Keriri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the Member who raised that point of order, because I think I need to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was talking about agriculture. The farmer requires a number of items in order to produce food, when the rains come. We hope rain will come!

An hon. Member: Are you sure it will come?

Mr. Keriri: No, we must hope that it will come. This is because, if we have no hope, then we might as well close this Parliament and go away! Farmers require good seeds, fertilizers and all the other farm inputs. To get all these, the farmer requires money; capital to procure such inputs.

Today, there is not a single institution which is financing agriculture, as far as the small-scale farmer is concerned. He cannot get money from anywhere. All the institutions that used to finance the agricultural sector have all collapsed. I wish the Minister thought about that and came to this House and told us how he is going to revive those institutions that can afford credit to the farmer. A large scale farmer can go to a commercial bank and get credit because he can maintain Kshs10,000 in his account. A small-scale farmer cannot maintain even Kshs1,000 in his current account and he is not known by the banks of this country and, therefore, he cannot be a customer. So, banks will not deal with him as a customer, let alone lending him money.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge this Government to revive the institutions which the same Government killed. These institutions are very important for agriculture and we have always said that, agriculture has failed because of drought. We have now had an excuse which we use every time by saying, "drought has affected us and, therefore, we cannot produce." How about when it rains and we cannot produce enough because the farmer cannot get that money he needs for agricultural production?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we are happy that the Minister for Agriculture has moved in to facilitate independence in the tea-growing communities. We are now holding elections for the tea factory companies. That is a step forward. But that same farmer will require finance for his fertilizer and other farm inputs and the coffee also requires sprays and so on. So, when the Minister comes here for the Supplementary Estimates or anything else, he should tell us how he is going to look after the farmer. The Minister comes from a community which practices farming. When I read his life history, I found that he was born in a peasant family. So, why could he not think about that peasant farmer; his parent? When he presented that wonderful Budget he read it very well and in Oxford English - it is a pity that he did not remember agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I now turn to education. If we think about how many commissions this Government has appointed; commissions of inquiries--- Every time we want something done, a commission of inquiry is appointed. A commission of inquiry is supposed to be practical and whose findings are implemented. Or is it supposed to be a stop-gap to reduce pressure on the Government? Is it a game that this government is playing with us? We have been talking about our education in this country, we have been talking about 8-4-4. It is not the 8-4-4 which matters, it is the content of that system which matters! When we spoke enough about the 8-4-4, the Government appointed a Commission of Inquiry to look into our education system so that we can relieve the parents the burden they are carrying in the present system.

The Commission of Inquiry on Education interviewed all of us. Every party was invited to give its own

views, including KANU, the ruling party, which did recommend whatever they recommended. We, in Democratic Party, did the same and went there with a written paper. The Commission of Inquiry on Education came out with a very good and useful Report which is going to make education cheaper than the current education system. We were told that the Government was appointing a Commission of Inquiry on Education so that we can do better than we are doing today. No sooner were the recommendations of the Report of that Commission made public, than we heard the Government saying that, "it is impossible to implement these recommendations." Who decided that those recommendations were impossible to implement? Did this Parliament discuss that Report? I do not know whether the Cabinet may have decided to meet and discuss it. All these gentlemen in front here, who look very smart, must have gone to the meeting and found out the reason why the recommendations of that Report are impossible to implement. They have to tell us what they found out because the President said that the Government was not going to implement the recommendations given in that Report of the Commission. Now, to begin with, why did he appoint that Commission? We must do things knowing that, we are doing them for Kenyans and we should tell them that we are going to do this and that. If we tell them that we are appointing a commission whose report we shall implement, why are we saying that we cannot implement it?

Incidentally, although the other day, Mr. Speaker did rule that, we should get this Report very quickly, we have not started getting copies. An Assistant Minister stood up here the other day and told us, "it is impossible to print 260 copies!" Now, what are we voting all this money for? The Minister for Finance will probably tell us. Now that, we are giving the Government money to operate on, will they please give us this Report so that we can study it and tell the Government that, it should be implemented? We must implement the Report!

The education system is so cumbersome today that, it is not worth being called an education system. For example, a parent buys a textbook on history for a Standard Four pupil which is used by that particular fellow only for that year. The following year, his brother or sister comes to the same class but he cannot use it. They are told to buy another textbook. Our poverty line has become so low. We have become so poor and to expect a parent to finance the current education system, it is actually cheating ourselves. Illiteracy and drop-outs will increase and we will have a nation of illiterates very soon, if we do not care. I think we ought to get this correct.

I will have a chance to speak about the actual revenue raising later, but I cannot afford missing one item. I know the Minister is going to raise revenue, mostly from Sales Tax and I agree with him that indirect tax is the most useful source of revenue. But as he increases indirect tax, he must also try to reduce direct taxation. About three years ago, or so, the then Minister for Finance - but not hon. Okemo - if he told us, I trust he would have continued implementing what he said. One of them told us that they were going to reduce Corporate Tax by 2.5 per cent until we come to about 25 per cent. Last year, that programme was stopped. I hope the Minister will tell us why it was stopped and why he thinks he is right in raising Sales Tax by 3 per cent which is too high. For example, he probably thinks he will get money from this one, but I warn him that it might be counter-productive. Everything is going to go up in prices, so very few people will have the power to purchase anything and so, the rate of consumption will decline. The amount we raise in tax revenue depends far much more on volume rather than the rate. If the volume is low, you may find yourself raising no additional money and this will be a disaster in support of the Budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, by protecting some small men in the streets by describing some items as zero rating so that they do not attract Sales Tax, I would like to remind the Minister that, that is not correct. If you exempt maize millers and the others from Sales Tax, those fellows are also exempted from claiming the Sales Tax they have incurred in buying inputs. If we do that, it means they cannot claim the Sales Tax amount they have paid on inputs and therefore, they cannot lower the prices of the outputs. That is going to be very difficult. I do not think the exemption after raising the tax is going to benefit the small men in the streets. I hope the Minister will look into that and see what he can do. He must find a way of exempting those same sectors from paying sales tax on their inputs. That is the only way he can help the small consumer, the mwananchi who needs to be protected.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Vote on Account is not something that one would like to speak on for too long, because we want to support it and wish the Minister luck in raising the amount of money we are giving him. I have doubt that he will do it, because we have no power and I cannot see the Government doing anything at present. Since we were given the first indication that something was being done, I cannot see anything being done. The confusion in power supply today is so much that the industry is likely to suffer a lot. On drought, I think the Government must do more than they are doing.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Muite: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Before one can adequately be able to consider whether to support this Motion or not, there are a few pertinent issues that one requires to raise.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the first issues is to urge through you that, if this House is going to be effective as a watchdog for public money, we must reconsider the deletion of the Estimates and Budget Committee in our Standing Orders. We are far too many here and the only way that justice can be done is to reinstate the Estimates and Budget

Committee, so that the Budget itself can go to that Committee for scrutiny. The Members of that Committee will hopefully be members who have got special knowledge in accounts and budgets. Also, that sort of Committee will have the opportunity of calling experts, so that when they are bringing that report to this House, then we, the other Members, can rely on the Members of the Estimates and Budget Committee, that, in fact, they have scrutinised the Budget. In the absence of that, the likelihood is for this House to be used, unfortunately, as a rubberstamp. We do not want that. If truly this Government wants the House to act effectively as a watchdog, then the Estimates and Budget Committee must be reinstated in our Standing Orders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of us are a little handicapped in contributing to this sort of Motion in the absence of a report by that sort of Committee. Nevertheless, and I see that the Minister has gone, but the other Assistant Minister is here; may I ask through you that when the Minister for Finance stands to reply to this debate, can he identify to me where the money for the Parliamentary Commission, otherwise known as the Raila Commission is going to come from? Where is the Vote? Where is the money that we are being asked to approve? Is there a provision in this Budget and if so, under which Vote and how much is it? Is the Vote under the Office of the President or the National Assembly? Where is it? How much money are we being asked to approve? I would very much like that when the Minister stands up to reply, he should specifically enlighten the Members on that particular issue.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are being asked to authorise a sum which is just under Kshs75 billion; this is what we are being asked to sanction. It is a lot of money and all this money comes from the Kenyan taxpayers. Therefore, I am unable personally, to give my vote in favour of this Motion, unless this Government undertakes to cancel the contract between the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and a company called Swipco. It has become the norm for Kenyans to get into First Class flight, go out to Switzerland or Malaysia or Indonesia and form companies there and pretend that those are foreign companies. Before a contract like this one can be signed, it is the responsibility of the Kenya Government to find out the individuals behind that company that is said to be incorporated overseas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before one imports goods into this country, the SGS inspects them and translates the necessary documentation to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA). So, the KRA should assess the duty payable on the basis of the documents from the SGS, which would have inspected the documents at the point of importation of those goods into the country. So, the question arising from this is. Why has the KRA entered into a contract with a company called "M/S Swipco", to do a job that would, at any given time, have already been done by SGS, the services of which Kenyan taxpayers would already have paid for?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will recollect that when hon. Members pressed the Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning, Mr. Kirui, to tell this House the names of the directors and shareholders of M/S Swipco, he declined to do so. I would, therefore, like the Minister to---

The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning (Mr. Arap-Kirui): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member is misleading this House.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I would like to hear the point of order being raised by hon. Arap-Kirui.

The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning (Mr. Arap-Kirui): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is misleading the House; I did not refuse to give the names of the directors and shareholders of that company. I did not have the information. I now undertake to bring that information next week.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we look forward to getting that information. We would like to have those names. We would also like him to investigate---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! By the way, Mr. Muite, the register of directors and shareholders of any company is a public document within the meaning of the Standing Orders, and any hon. Member can look for it for himself or herself.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the company we are talking about is, purportedly, registered outside the country. I am saying that the Kenya Government, when it is entering into---

Mr. Speaker: But it is registered here.

Mr. Muite: No, it is not, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Before the Government---

(Mr. Arap-Kirui stood up in his place)

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only 10 minutes to contribute to this Motion. Please, protect me.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order!

The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning (Mr. Arap-Kirui): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is it? What company are we talking about, in the first place?

The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning (Mr. Arap-Kirui): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the company we are talking about is called "ICS (Kenya) Limited". So, you are right; it must be in the Kenya Register of Companies.

Hon. Members: No! No!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! You are wrong, Mr. Arap-Kirui. You cannot rise on a point of order to inform the Speaker. Proceed, Mr. Muite.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister said earlier that he was not aware of the company. Anyway, thank you for protecting me. I wish to ask the Minister to investigate whether, in fact, among the shareholders of that company are the personal assistant of somebody in State House and a Cabinet Minister whose name, of course, the rules of this House prohibit me from mentioning. However, there is something very total about it. We want that information brought to this House. We cannot allow a situation where the KRA actually pays Kshs200 million per month for services that have already been paid for by the taxpayers. That figure translates to approximately Kshs2.4 billion per year.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Muite! Could we have some order? I am sure that you do not have to blow up our ear-drums in the course of advocating, or misadvocating, this thing. I am told: "Pesa huvunja mlima". Lakini, pesa isivunje kipaa za suti. What was your complaint, Mr. Arap-Kirui?

The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning (Mr. Arap-Kirui): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is constantly misleading this House. M/S Swipco is not paid Kshs200 million per month, leave alone per year. I am sure that the correct position will be known when I bring the relevant information to this House. Unless the hon. Member has information by which he can substantiate his claim that M/S Swipco is paid Kshs200 million per month, he should stop misleading this House.

(Mr. Muite murmured something)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Muite! Order, Mr. Arap-Kirui! There must be something about this thing called "M/S Swipco". If this matter excites you two hon. Members, there must be something.

Hon. Members: True!

Mr. Speaker: What is it that both of you are not telling us?

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall wait for the Assistant Minister to bring the contract and cheques by which that company is paid. We have that information. What I was saying is that it is not justifiable for the KRA to pay that astronomical amount of money to that company, only for the same Minister for Finance to ask us to approve an increase of 3 per cent in Value Added Tax rate, from 15 per cent to 18 per cent, which will then be spread across to every Kenyan. We cannot approve this Motion. We should not approve this Budget until that contract is cancelled. If that contract is cancelled, the Minister will save enough money. The money being paid to M/S Swipco by the KRA is more than the amount the Minister will collect through the enhanced VAT. So, if the Minister wants us to approve this Budget, the contract between the KRA and M/S Swipco must be cancelled. If it is cancelled, it will not be necessary to increase VAT from 15 per cent to 18 per cent, because the Minister will even save more money.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other point I would like to raise is about the so-called "Dream Team". We, as Kenyans, are paying a lot of money to that team. Some members of that team take home Kshs2 million as salary at the end of every month. Even you do not earn that amount of money. Even hon. Members of this House are not able to make ends meet, but there are members of the "Dream Team" who are being paid upwards of Kshs2 million every month. That money is not being donated to them by the World Bank; it is being debited to Kenya's account with the World Bank. We have to repay this money. It is your money, my money and the money of every Kenyan that will go towards clearing that debit. The Kshs2 million plus that some members of the "Dream Team" are earning is not a gift. We want this reviewed because, in addition, it is causing a lot of frustration in the Civil Service. It is not rational for the Government to pay one Permanent Secretary (PS) Kshs2 million and then pay other PSs between Kshs30,000 and Kshs50,000. What would be the motivation for such an underpaid PS? Frustration is rife in the Civil Service. We want this matter reviewed before we can approve this Budget.

Mr. Speaker: Your time is up, Mr. Muite. Proceed, Mr. Sumbeiywo.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Mr. Sumbeiywo): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to contribute to this Motion.

Now that we have agreed to give the Minister for Finance a portion of the amount of money he had asked for in his Budget, we would like to see the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology revive the School Feeding Programme (SFP). There are areas in this country where children spend the whole day in school without eating

anything. Those areas include arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) in Elgeyo-Marakwet District, the North Eastern Province and Turkana District, among others. In Keiyo Location, Keiyo District, we have a lot of problems. Particularly, now that there is a severe drought, we would like to see that our children, who are presently malnourished, are fed under the SFP, so that they can follow the subjects being taught in class.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the money that has been voted for the Office of the President, as opposed to what an hon. Member of this House said earlier on, I think it is important to finance the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS). We should give NSIS more money, because it is the practice the world over that intelligence organisations be given enough money to enable them collect intelligence, so that it may be known where a particular country, or which country likes it, or otherwise. In Kenya, it is the duty of the NSIS to gather that intelligence. The CIA, the MI5, the Mossad, and other countries' intelligence agencies are adequately financed. Likewise, the Police Department must be adequately catered for, especially the vehicles being used by the Department are ramshackles. They are ramshackles, because the vehicles - or whatever they are called - in use are too small, and hence cannot be driven on rough roads.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would urge the Government to see to it that our police officers have good equipment. They should be given Land Rovers and other durable vehicles instead of the cheap ones, on which the Government is losing a lot of money by repairing them and they do not last for a long time. Therefore, it is my appeal that money voted for the police force should be properly utilised. I would urge the Government to properly retrain our police officers. I know they are well trained, but because of the advancement in technology, they need to be retrained. We should also send them to friendly countries for further training, in order for them to receive the necessary skills required in the modern world.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to see money voted for the Office of the President, particularly for relief food well managed. I have a proposal to make to Kenyans. In order for us to reduce the number of Kenyans suffering from the pangs of hunger as a result of the prevailing drought, I humbly request His Excellency the President to appeal to all Kenyans through electronic media, to forego some of their meals. If the President can appeal to Kenyans to skip one or two meals in a day, we would be able to save enough money to buy food for our suffering Kenyans in remote areas of this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kenyans have to be honest to themselves. This is because, if we were honest, we would still be having KFA operating today. It would also be advancing seasonal credit to farmers. The giant KCC would be operating as it used to and our farmers would still be getting money from the AFC. Today, it is a pity that the AFC has been turned into a financial institution which only advances money to certain individuals to purchase property, as opposed to its original idea of assisting farmers. We would like to see it reverted to its original purpose, so that our farmers can get credit facility. It is sad that our farmers get loans from the commercial banks that demand high interest rates and yet, farmers are being accused of not properly using their loans from those banks. It is not the fault of farmers, but they are unable to pay the high interest rates charged on the loans. If those banks can reduce the interest rates on loans they advance to farmers, then our farmers would be able to borrow enough money to invest in agricultural activities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about price of fuel in this country. The price of diesel is very high and yet, our farmers depend on it to carry out farming activities. I urge this Government to reduce price of diesel, so that we can invest in our farms.

Nowadays, youths cannot visit their parents in the rural areas because they cannot afford to do so like we used to. This is partly because of high price of fuel. Therefore, parents are left in the rural areas to suffer. We need to find a way of reducing price of fuel, so that our youths can afford to visit their parents in the rural areas. We do not want their parents to be frustrated. They might even die because of frustration. It is not the fault of parents or the youths, but it is because of the economic hardships we are experiencing in this country.

I want to appeal to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to construct dams throughout the country, so that we can save water which is going to waste in the Indian Ocean and Lake Victoria. I heard one of the hon. Member when he was giving a Press conference saying that we do not have a contract to fill Indian Ocean with fresh water; neither do we have enough water to let it go to Egypt. Our Government should ask those countries which benefit from our water to drill boreholes in the ASAL areas, for example, Ukambani, North Eastern Province and Turkana District. We need boreholes for the pastoralists. I respect most of our technocrats, but they need to plan. They need to tell this Government that this is the way forward for this country to arrest the situation. We do not want to be caught with our pants down when the problems arise.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let us concentrate on things that can turn round our economy. We should not always talk about other things that do not benefit our people, like leadership of this country. Leaders are born. You cannot impose yourself on the people. Instead of engaging in succession debate, let us talk of ways and means of jump-starting our economy.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr. Donde: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that the Government needs money to make sure that all its programmes are on course. Therefore, I do not have a major quarrel with the Vote on Account.

However, I would like to say two or three things on what this Budget is all about. I would like to talk about poverty reduction. When you look at the way the Treasury has put its poverty eradication strategy, one really wonders if they are serious or whether they know what they are doing. Poverty is a very sensitive issue in this country and as I am talking now, there are many of our brothers living in makeshift huts along the river banks Nairobi. The way the poverty eradication strategy has been treated in this country is not fair to our brothers and sisters, most whom go without a meal. If you look at the nature of poverty in this country, you will see that the major cause of it, is lack of employment. If you do not have a job, you are more likely to be poor. If I lost my job today, within a number of years, I will be definitely poor. We do not have a programme in this country that can give employment to our people. There is no way you can continue giving people handouts forever. We have to have a programme that will guarantee employment to our people so that they can earn a living for themselves and their families. Therefore, it is very important for this House to find a way of assisting millions of people who are really suffering in this country. There must be a programme to enable us reduce unemployment, which is the biggest problem in this country. People talk about corruption and other things, but lack of employment is a very serious problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, another cause of poverty in this country is old age. Even if there is a job and you are old, you may not work. Therefore, there must be a programme on how we can assist the old people in this country. You will find that somebody who is over 60 years old cannot look after himself and the Government has no programme at all on how it is going to assist the old people in this country. I would like to inform this House that these people are left on their own to suffer and die poorly. There is nothing at all in the programme that the Government has in place to help those people who have helped build this country, but are now old and cannot look after themselves. So, it is important that the Government really looks into this issue. I would like to inform this House that the estimates for paying interest rate in this Budget is Kshs30 billion and, yet, there is nothing in place to help the people who are aged. It is a very sorry affair.

Another cause of poverty is sickness. Even if there is a job somewhere and you are sick, you cannot take it and, yet, there is no programme for helping the citizens of this country who are sick and are unable to look after themselves. This is a government which does not care when you are sick and cannot earn a living for yourself, leave alone when there is no job. We must have a programme where this country can ask: "What do we do for those people who are sick and are unable to work?" If you fall sick for the rest of your life and you are unable to work, what will we do for you? We need to take a very serious look on the way we run this country. We must change the management of this country so that we can be sure that we have some compassion on the people we govern. At the moment, it seems as if we really do not care what happens to the sick people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other point I would like to talk about is the increase in the Value Added Tax (VAT), which many hon. Members have spoken about. The increase of the VAT from 15 per cent to 18 per cent is a little bit of a burden and there is no good reason why it should be at that percentage. This is because there are many business communities who do not pay taxes in this country. Instead of making sure that those who fail to pay taxes pay them so that we increase the number of people who pay taxes, we are penalising those people whom we have managed to charge VAT. So, I would have thought that a reduction in the VAT would give people incentive to pay it. For example, if the VAT was 11 per cent and the penalty for evasion was very high, we would have more people coming to pay than evading it.

In some countries, the issue of taxes is taken very seriously. In some countries, to evade paying taxes is a capital offence, but in this country nobody thinks that it is important. They just want to punish the few people who pay taxes, and it is high time we thought of making sure that tax evasion is made a capital offence just like robbery with violence.

In some countries, like China, it is a capital offence to evade paying your taxes. For how long will we penalise those people who pay taxes by making sure that we increase taxes, while those people who evade to pay them are left alone? So, I would like this House to consider making tax evasion a capital offence so that we can have responsible people in this country and in that way look after those people who cannot work, the sick and show that we are a compassionate society; that we can care for those people who are unable to look after themselves. I am saying this with a lot of sympathy because--- For example, the collectable VAT in the last audited accounts was Kshs43 billion and the Minister is now expecting to collect around Kshs70 billion. I think that is a very ambitious proposal because he is just going to take more money from those people who are already paying the VAT. He is not increasing or telling those people who are evading the VAT to pay.

So, I would have thought that in future, we really look at the issue of taxation more seriously than the way we are looking at it now. I think the Government should take it seriously to re-think its whole procedure of collecting

taxes. I would like to say that collecting taxes is a very important issue and should be regarded as important in any sort of set up.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say something about the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) and the way it has treated its own citizens. This honourable House repealed Section 39, 47 and 48 of the CBK Act. I would like to say that Section 48 of the CBK Act used to limit to 25 per cent the amount of borrowing which the Government can do at any one year. This is 25 per cent of the total revenue which the Government can collect in the last audited accounts. The last audited accounts of 1998/99 show that the Government collected Kshs163 billion, with the repeal of Section 48, the Government could have only borrowed domestically 25 per cent of that amount of money. But you can see now that when that was repealed, the domestic borrowing is now Kshs162 billion, which is more than the amount of money that the Government collects as revenue in a whole year. So, it is important that we must look back and see where we went wrong on our finances, because this country is in a mess just because we have lost direction!

I have no quarrel with the repeal of Section 39 although we will do a bit of amendment in this House soon, but repeal of Section 48 was wrong and this has left the Government to borrow without any control at all. As a result of this, we have found ourselves with a domestic debt of Kshs162 billion and we are paying interest at Kshs32 billion. If you look at the figures, you will find that the Minister has provided Kshs30 billion for paying interest on debts.

Mr. Wamae: On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The information I would like to give the hon. Member is that the Kshs162 billion, which is local borrowing, arose from the Goldenberg issue in 1992, and it is what Kenyans have to pay today.

Mr. Donde: Thank you very much, Mr. Wamae. You can see that this came about when the Government lost control in the financial sector. So, we really have to sit and create an environment where we can make sure that we run this country in a responsible manner and realise that we have brothers, sisters and old men to look after, and we do not want to pass over this burden to the future generation.

I know that my colleague spoke on the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS), and I was surprised that he asked for more money. But I would have thought that Kshs2.6 billion was a little bit too much for this organisation, because I know that they do not employ many people and with an open society which we have now, really there is no need for them to keep on "eavesdropping" everywhere. In fact, we have them here in Parliament, but really there is nothing we talk in secret any more.

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

Mr. Speaker: Mbunge wa Manyatta!

*(Messrs Ndwiga and Kathangu stood up
in their places)*

Order! I beg your pardon. Mr. Ndwiga, you do not look like you come from a "manyatta", but he does look like he comes from one. Mr. Kathangu!

Mr. Kathangu: Bw. Spika, ni kweli kwamba ndugu yangu ni "Mmanyatta", nami pia hutoka huko ijapokuwa manyatta yangu ni kubwa kuliko yake. Kwa miaka miwili iliyopita, sijapata nafasi ya kuzungumzia juu ya Makadirio ya Fedha. Mwaka huu, nilikuwa mmoja wa wale Wabunge ambao walisema kwamba ni vizuri tuketi ndani ya Bunge na tumsikize Waziri wa Fedha atuambie vile mambo yatakavyokuwa katika karne ijayo. Ningependa kusema kwamba niliketi kitaka hapa na kumsikiza Waziri wa Fedha kwa makini sana, lakini baada ya hayo, nilifikiria mambo matatu ambayo yametusumbua sana. Ningetaka kuyasema mambo hayo leo ili katika historia tuwe tunajua Bw. Kathangu kutoka Runyenjes alifikiria nini kuhusu makadirio ya fedha ya mwaka huu, kwa sababu gani uchumi wetu haukuwi na ufukara unaendelea kuikumba nchi hii.

Makadirio ya fedha kila wakati huwa inangojewa sana kwa sababu kila mwananchi hufikiria itakuwa na matumaini fulani. Matumaini hayo husababishwa na wananchi kufikiria kila wakati kwamba Waziri wa Fedha ataleta jambo fulani ambalo litawaletea matumaini. Mwaka huu tumesikia watu wakisema mambo ya mashamba na kazi. Leo hii tunasema kuhusu mambo ya njaa. Katika makadirio ya fedha mwaka huu---

Bw. Spika, Bunge lina kelele nyingi ambayo itakwisha wakijua kwamba watakuwa na chakula jioni na wale ambao wanatusikiza hawatakuwa na chakula siku ya leo. Wakati ninaposema hapa, ninajua kwamba katika Embu ambako ninatoka hakujakuwa na mvua kwa miaka miwili sasa, na kwa hivyo hakujakuwa na chakula au kazi. Ni sababu gani hakuna kazi---

(Loud consultations)

Bw. Spika, Mhe. Biwott na wenzake wanasema kwa sauti kubwa. Tafadhali niulizie wanyamaze.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members!

Mr. Kathangu: Katika eneo la Africa Mashariki na Kati Waziri wetu wa Biashara ana biashara nyingi kubwa. Utakuta hizo ni biashara ambazo zinahitaji pesa nyingi. Tunaendelea kulia kwamba watu wetu hawana kazi. Ni ukweli tutaanza kufikiria jinsi tunavyoweza kusaidiana na wale ambao wamekumba nchi na biashara ambazo tarajio letu ni kwamba zitaleta fedha katika nchi hii. Biashara hizo zinahitaji fedha na kila siku tunastaajabu pesa hizo zinatoka wapi. Mimi si mfanyabiashara lakini ninapokwenda kwa benki kuuliza nipewe mkopo wa Kshs100 ni lazima nipeane ploti na nyumba katika mjini, lakini sijui Waziri wetu wa Biashara huwa anatoa hizo pesa wapi. Ni benki gani ambayo inampatia hizo pesa za kununua ndege na kadhalika?

Tumeanza kufikiria sana. Jambo la kwanza tunalofikiria ni ikiwa tunaweza kuenda njaa wakati kila mmoja wa Mawaziri wetu ana biashara ya Kshs3 billion, Kshs4 billion, Kshs20 billion na Kshs100 billion, tunashindwa pesa hizo zinatoka wapi. Nikiangalia kwa sababu gani njaa imekumba nchi hii na Waziri wa Fedha anaendelea kusema kwamba tutapewa pesa kutoka kwa Benki ya ulimwengu na Shirika la Fedha Ulimwenguni, ninashindwa zile ambazo zilichukuliwa kutoka kwa fedha zetu zitarudishwa mwaka gani ili ziweze kujenga viwanda katika nchi hii? Nchi ambayo haina viwanda, mvua, wala chakula na ambayo ina watu 15 ambao wana biashara ya zaidi Kshs4 billion kila mmoja ina matatizo na kilio.

Benki zetu zikiongozwa na benki za kigeni kama vile Barclays Bank of Kenya haziwezi kukupa fedha ikiwa hauna security ya kutosha. Pili, pesa wanazopata sana sana zinatolewa nje. Zile ambazo ni za hapa, Kenya Commercial Bank, National Bank of Kenya na Consolidated Bank, zote zitaanguka hivi karibuni kwa sababu misingi yake haina manufaa yoyote. Ningetaka kusema kuwa kila wakati tunapoenda katika mikutano ya hadhara tunawaambia watu wetu waweke amani na wawe na utulivu ili nchi iweze kuongozwa kwa njia iliyo safi. Ikiwa hujala tangu asubuhi, watoto wako, wako nyumbani na hawajaenda shule, mvua haijanyesha na maji yamekatwa na hakuna stima, utakuwa na amani kwa njia gani?

Hukuwepo kwenye Kiti siku moja wiki iliyopita wakati nilipotolewa katika Bunge hili. Nilisikia uchungu sana kwa roho. Nilikuwa ninasema kuwa si jambo la manufaa sana katika nchi tunaposema kwamba watu wafunge mishihi yao kwa sababu hawana mashamba au chakula. Kazi ya kwanza ulimwenguni ni kwamba utalima shamba lako. Ikiwa hauna shamba ni lazima serikali ambayo inasimamia masilahi ya nchi ikupatie kazi. Katika nchi hii hakuna kazi, shamba, chakula au maji. Tunasema fungeni mishihi. Watu watafunga mishihi mpaka mwaka gani? Kuna wakati ambapo Mawaziri au watu wengine wanapoenda nje kuangalia kwa mfano, jinsi Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Sudan ama Somalia zina shida na sisi tunasema kwamba tuko katika nchi ya amani na tungetaka kuendelea hivyo hivyo.

Maombi yangu ni kwamba Serikali itaona kilio gani kiko katika nchi hii kwa sababu mtu asipokuwa na chakula, hana nguvu. Lakini mwisho kabisa huyo mtu huenda akawa kama paka. Ukimsukuma kwa kona kwa giza, paka huenda akawa mnyama mbaya sana. Mwisho kabisa huyo paka huangusha vidude vya watu gizani na kuwaua. Hii ndio sababu nilikuwa ninataka nisikizwe nilipokuwa ninasema kwamba Bw. Foday Sankoh huenda akawa na sababu ya kupigana kule Sierra Leone. Anapigana ili apate almasi ili tumbo lake na za watu wake ziwe na chakula. Watu wa Kenya huenda wakasukumwa kwa vita ambayo haina maana. Katika upande ule kuna Waziri mmoja kati ya wale waliokuwa wakifanya kazi kwa nguvu zaidi, usiku na mchana, ambaye alifukuzwa kazi jana. Unashindwa alifukuzwa kwa sababu gani.

Ukiangalia wale walio na bidii ya kuifanyia nchi hii kazi, ndio lazima wapigwe mijeledi. Nchi itarekebishwa namna gani ikiwa wale walio majangili na majambazi ni lazima wasimamie uchumi wa nchi hii na wale wanaofanya kazi kwa nguvu ni lazima watolewe kazini? Maombi yangu ni kwamba Rais wa nchi hii atasikia maombi yangu na kumrudisha usiku wa leo mara moja Bw. Kiptoon ili aifanyie nchi kazi. Ninajua Mzee amenisikiza na atamrudisha kazi. Hatutaki kuingia katika giza kama vile Sierra Leone inayoweza kuletwa na kujipenda, kusukuma watu wetu katika ufukara ama njaa.

Elimu na afya ni mambo mawili ambayo yana maana sana. Ikiwa hatutaangalia watoto wetu na kupeana pesa za kutosha kwa shule au kwa Idara ya Afya, tutakuwa tumepoteza mambo mengi.

Kwa hayo machache, ninashukuru.

Mr. Kimeto: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion. I just want to point out that budgets, like the one which was read recently, have always been taking the same trend, where the Minister for Finance usually comes to the House and delivers his speech already prepared by the Ministry.

I would like to give an overview on that issue, and propose that we should be given about three months to debate on this Budget so that we can give some input to the budgetary process. All what is contained in the Budget should have come from the Members of this House so that whenever we talk about the policies in the Budget, we should not always be speaking about unrealistic things. Hon. Members should be given the opportunity to contribute on the issues affecting their constituencies so that they are included in the Budget, because most of them are left out.

In the near future, I wish this House is informed and allowed to contribute to the Budget on issues like education, health and agriculture. You will find that in the education sector, we are being told that in Kenya there are some districts which have excess teachers when others are under-staffed. Such an issue could have been taken care of

in the Budget so that the districts which are lacking teachers could benefit. For example, Bomet district lacks 261 teachers while other districts have over 700 teachers. We should have noted that before, and the Minister for Education should have been informed in time if he consulted Members. You will find that the Minister for Education says that they will transfer excess teachers to other districts. Then, there are those teachers who graduated from teaching colleges and are jobless and suffering. We must do that exercise genuinely by employing teachers from their locality.

For example, in the Recurrent Expenditure, we have Kshs48,405,511,460 proposed for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and yet some of its staff have already died because of so many reasons, and yet there is no employment of others to replace them. For the last three years, we have not employed teachers. I would like to urge the Minister for Education not to transfer those excess teachers to other districts. We do not want to be given teachers from other districts. Let them stay in their districts, and wait for employment opportunities to be created there for them. We have been saying that teachers should be working in areas where they find it very convenient for them, but sooner or later, the Ministry will be transferring those teachers to distant districts with a meagre salary. How will they survive? We must create that awareness in our budgetary system, and we should be given the opportunity to participate in the budgetary process before it is brought to this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will find that in the Printed Estimates, the Ministry of Health has been given little money in the Recurrent Expenditure; about Kshs9 billion, and you know that all Kenyans need to have very good health. How will the 28 million Kenyans survive when you give the Ministry of Health such little money? Yet, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology gets Kshs48,405,511,460; the Office of the President, gets Kshs15,252,220,520 in the Recurrent Expenditure. We should have included those views beforehand instead of waiting for the Minister for Finance to comment about them when he is replying to the Motion.

I would like to say something on the recently held elections of the Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA). Recently, the Minister for Agriculture gave a directive that those who want to participate in the elections should have above 2,000 kilos of tea produce. Let us be realistic, because Kenyans are poor, and there are few who have over 2,000 kilos of tea produce. They are very few, unless you create a different status in the KTDA like what exists in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Why do we not allow those members who have over 2,000 kilos of tea produce, and even those who have less than 1,900 kilos of tea produce, to be eligible to participate in the elections? Let us have representation from all quarters, and not be very selective! Let us look at Kenya from all levels. I would urge the Minister for Agriculture to rethink and review his directive so that those members who have less than 1,999 kilos of tea produce elect a new management of the KTDA so that they are also represented. In Kenya, people own very small farms, and therefore, those with big farms should not be allowed to elect themselves. We are creating a very dangerous precedent which will be very difficult to correct.

Another important issue is that we are buying maize at exorbitant prices just because the Government never provided the farmers with the money to enable them to plant and irrigate their farms with, and yet it is now importing maize, while the farmers in other districts who would have produced more maize face a financial problem. It is now importing maize duty free. That is a straightforward case of killing our farmers for the benefit of the farmers who have had their products subsidised in South Africa and America. I am urging the Government: "Look at your own people and be kind to them." Hon. Members, repent and look at your own people, instead of giving money to farmers in South Africa or in other areas where maize is now imported from; give money also to your farmers. Repent and make your people live a better life, instead of importing so much maize which is not taxed while our people would have produced the same maize if they were provided with loans. The prices of fertilizers and maize seed are high and, therefore, how will you help the farmers?

Let us be realistic enough so that our people can also get rich in this country. Let us not look at the farmers as if they do not belong to this country by allowing the importation of maize by a few people who are very rich, and who are able to govern this country. Let us have a participatory Government where people are given money to enable them to bring up their children. At the moment, many students in secondary schools are not in a position to continue with their education, especially those whose parents are meagre farmers. Very soon or later, you will find that many children in Kenya are uneducated, although Kenyans are moving forward so that they become educated. If the Government does not look into that issue, very soon or later, it will have a bunch of uneducated Kenyans, and who are very poor in this country. Let us have a participatory management in the running of our Government and share our resources equitably so that Kenyans can get rich at all levels. We do not want to have a situation in this country where we have few Kenyans who are very rich and others who are very poor. Let us rethink and repent.

With those few remarks, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you pay for a service, you expect to get it. When you pay for a commodity, you expect to receive what you are buying. On the onset, I want to say that I support this Motion that we should allow the Minister to spend this money. We are authorising the Minister to have this money and supply it to the various Ministries as he has indicated here. However, later, the Public Investments Committee (PIC) and the Public

Accounts Committee (PAC) will sit down and tell us how much of this money will have been misappropriated. Any good manager of any company would want to follow the amount of money that he has invested and see whether it has actually been utilised properly or not. I want to appeal to the Minister for Finance, whom I have a lot of respect for, that he should not just give out this money and forget to supervise how it will be spent. Let us not come here next year and find that some of the amount of money that he is asking us to authorise has been misappropriated and people did not get services. This is taxpayers' money. If somebody is paying taxes and he is not receiving the necessary services, this is fraud, misappropriation and it is obtaining money by false pretence. Let us hope that this will not be allowed to happen and our people will get the necessary services out of this money.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know of some Ministries which are not offering services properly to the public. For example, the Ministry of Energy does not deserve any money. This is because the Ministry does not do its work. That is why today we are suffering from shortage of power in this country. This is because the managers did not do their job properly. Let us hope that the Ministry of Energy will start performing. I can see that it has been allocated some money here which I do not know what it is for. I saw the other day that a company was making a lot of profit from the importation of generators. After they have now been authorised to import generators duty-free, they are selling them at very high prices. Yet, Kenyans are the people who are paying tax, part of which is now going to the Ministry of Energy. The Ministry of Energy does not deserve even a single shilling at this time. It should be punished. Why are people buying generators, yet, they should have been supplied with electricity? I will ask the Minister for Finance to follow closely the Ministry of Energy activities and see what it will do with this money.

[Mr. Speaker, left the Chair]

[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Roads and Public Works has of late been doing a good job. I would like to thank the Ministry of Roads and Public Works because of late, we have seen a lot of improvements. We hope that when the Kenya Roads Board and the District Roads Boards will be operational, they will do something. It is unfortunate that the same Minister who was doing a very good job, has now been dropped from the Cabinet. I want to agree with hon. Kathangu that a message should be delivered to the President that this Minister was working. We will single out all those Ministers who are working and also mention those Ministers who are not working.

Some Ministries have improved. Today, I passed near the Ministry of Lands and Settlement offices and I did not see the crowd which used to be there. I am glad to say that the Ministry of Lands and Settlement is somehow working now and there is some improvement. But in some Ministries you cannot know what is happening. For example, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, up to now does not appear to understand that the Boards of Governors and the Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs) have a role to decide the destiny of schools. The Minister sitting here alone, cannot just make regulations which do not suit schools. If parents today decide that they want to increase a certain fee for the betterment of their children, why should they not be allowed to do so if they are the ones who have made the decision? Those who want to increase fees against the wishes of the parents, why are they not told no? It appears that things are heyway and everybody is doing what he wants. This is as if there is no Government in place. This situation needs to be checked and it is serious.

If you look at this money that we are being asked to authorise, you will realise that most of it is for Recurrent Expenditure and there is only a little of it for Development Expenditure. The amounts for Recurrent and Development expenditures are uncomparable. That shows that this country is not growing. We are not growing at all. No wonder the gross domestic product (GDP) has come close to zero per cent. This is because this country is not growing and we are concentrating more on Recurrent Expenditure rather than Development Expenditure. This is not a healthy situation and it needs to be reversed. The problem in this country is that nobody wants to be involved in development unless there is some "*kitu kidogo*" involved. This is a situation that we should not allow to occur. Even at a time when there is famine, people want "*kitu kidogo*". This situation is not right or in order. It is time that anybody who is involved in corruption was mentioned so that we can stop this kind of behaviour where the public pays money and it is stolen. Those who steal the money are mentioned in the PAC and PIC reports, yet, they are never punished. So, corruption in this country is, therefore, official. This is because it is known who stole the money, what he did with it and he is never punished. Time has come for this country to reverse this kind of situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amount of money allocated to the Office of the President includes money which will be used to pay salaries to the Police Force. If hon. Members would agree with me, we should remove all the money payable to the police officers. They should not be paid salaries because they are behaving in a manner likely to cause a breach of peace in this country. They are not being honest and they are being misused to do a lot of shady things. Even if we will pass this amount, when it comes to the final figure, I will agree with those hon. Members who

said yesterday that we should not pass any amounts of money payable to the police officers. It is time that we either reduced their number or sacked all of them. They just witch-hunt individuals, arrest them and they ignore even court orders. This situation is very bad. It is time we told the Commissioner of Police that we cannot allow misuse of this Force. The Force is now being used by some people to harass others and do whatever they want. It appears as if the Police Force today belongs to some individuals who use it the way they want. The police officers should not get any pay, but they should be paid by those paymasters who are ordering them on what to do.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I used to pity the police officers' lifestyles. I used to think that they should be helped to lead better lives, but I have changed my mind and think that they no longer deserve any sympathy. They should be sacked or stay without being paid salaries for sometime so that they can behave. Although they are trained, they do not behave as if they are trained any more. I do not support their sub-Vote. I wish I knew the actual figure allocated to the Police Force sub-Vote and I would ask the Minister to deduct it from the figure allocated to the Office of the President so that the police officers are not paid salaries at all.

The Department of Defence is doing a good job, but we do not need to continue raising this figure every year. This is because we are not at war with anybody. Kenya being a peaceful country is not at war with anybody and those Kenyan soldiers going out for peace-keeping missions are actually being paid by the United Nations. The amount allocated to the Department of Defence, part of it should now go to the Development Vote.

I also do not see why the Electoral Commission of Kenya should get this large figure. We are not holding a general election, unless the Minister tells us that there is a secret general election. Why does the ECK need all this amount of money? The Commissioners are paid Kshs5,000 per sitting. When hon. Members of Parliament are being paid Kshs3,000 per sitting, the Electoral Commissioners are paid Kshs5,000 per day for 365 days! Why? We are only paid for the time we sit here. Is this fair? We should be paid per week and per month. They are paid on daily basis. Are they more important than us? Why does anybody think that the Electoral Commission is more important than Parliament? They simply supervise the elections and go away. When I was elected in Embakasi in 1997, there will be no other elections until another time when I will come back here. We do not need another election.

(Laughter)

Why do they need all this money? I do not think we need to allocate so much money to these people because if we have by-elections they will be seen and known.

I support this Motion.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance. Today, we are voting for the expenditure for the next six months. Today, we are committing ourselves as to how the economy of this country will move in the next six months and for the balance thereafter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country needs development because it is through development that we will be able to turn around our economy. Like I have said before, what this country needs today, tomorrow and the day after, is economy. However, how do we advance this economy? The economy will be improved and enhanced for growth if we invest in its proper sectors. What are these proper sectors of our economy? The proper sectors of our economy are agriculture, tourism, infrastructure and security. However, what do you see in these budgetary allocations today? We have allocated to the Treasury Kshs4 billion as Development Expenditure while we have only added Kshs500 million to agriculture. Is that a budget that can spur the growth of the economy? We are investing in an area which cannot generate growth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we know, agriculture is the greatest employer in this country and we have got high unemployment rates at present. So, the logical thing one would have done is to invest in agriculture, to create more employment and reduce unemployment levels and, thereby, reduce poverty. Our investment policies are wrong. The way the money has been invested here is wrong. We should encourage investment in tourism. As you know, three years ago we had about 500,000 people employed in the tourism sector, but today they are less than 100,000 people. We have lost more than 400,000 jobs in the tourism sector. So, I would have thought that this year's Budget would invest heavily in tourism and even subsidise some of the tourist costs in order to create jobs and thereby eliminate or reduce poverty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are investing and spending on Defence an extra Kshs3.5 billion. Most countries in the world in this era are trimming down their Defence portfolios. They are spending less and less in Defence because the world has become one village. I do not know whether we are preparing for war or we are presently at war. I cannot understand why we want to spend an extra Kshs3.5 billion on Defence. I would have thought that amount would be used in beefing up our internal security. That is where we need this money. We need to provide the Police Force with proper training, accommodation and remuneration so that they do not go out there and harass our people. The Police Force is harassing people throughout the country because they are a frustrated lot. You find four married

policemen staying in one room with curtains separating their beds. You can imagine four grown up couples staying in one room. Then you begin to wonder whether there was need for them to be a couple. The money that we have given to the Department of Defence should have been given it to the Police Force.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are investing very little money on health and yet our policy this year is to eradicate poverty. I really wonder how you can eradicate poverty when 60 per cent of the population of Kenya live below the poverty line. I thought that we would have to spend much more money in developing health facilities so that we bring health services closer to our people. If we do this, they will not have to look for too much money to buy health services. I would have invested the amount they have invested in the Treasury and in the Department of Defence in developing health facilities, thus availing more health services to our people. If we do this, we can then reduce the impact of poverty on our people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have allocated very little amount of money to education and yet we do say that we want to avail education to every child of this country. How do you do that when you do not provide funding for it? I thought that we would have allocated more funds to education and feeding programmes throughout the country. I come from a region which is endowed with abundant rain. Therefore, we have not suffered much from long droughts. However, there is hunger and famine right now in my area. If there is hunger in my area, then you can imagine what amount of hunger there is in Ukambani, Turkana, Pokot and in North Eastern Province. Would those kids be able to go to school?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government did promise teachers two years ago that it would enhance their salaries as soon as funds are available. It looks like we have had funds available today, but we are spending that money in the wrong Ministries. We should have enhanced the salaries of our teachers. We should have fulfilled at least part of our promise. The Government promised the teachers that it wants to pay enhanced salaries to the teachers. In this way, the word and commitment of the Government would be trusted by Kenyans. As it is now, you cannot trust the word of the Government because they made a promise to the teachers and they have not honoured it three years after. They are spending money in the wrong Ministries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I noticed that a lot of money has been allocated to the Electoral Commission. I wonder what the Electoral Commission does between the elections. I understand they meet 365 days a year. They meet on Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Madaraka and even on the days when they are sick. What do they do? Why did the Ministry allocate them so much money when they have no work to do until the elections are near? This needs to be explained, otherwise the money should be re-allocated elsewhere, for example, to finance health or education facilities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I notice that we have properly funded our intelligence services, but I would urge our intelligence services--- and we have got plenty of them in Parliament tracking down Members of Parliament in order to find out what they are saying and what they are whispering to each other. I would urge them to apply themselves to reducing and detecting crime. They should be able to know how arms and ammunition come into this country so that they seal off those loopholes. They should be able to know when students are to go on strike. They should be able to know in advance of a raid in town by students when they are still 30 kilometres away so that they can alert the police. They should apply themselves to stopping those kinds of ravages from the students instead of trailing Members of Parliament. They are responsible people and leaders who have got a forum where they express themselves. They should be trailing criminal elements.

They should look for information that could help to market our products. They should look for ways to stop dumping of products into this country. If they do that, they will be the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS) worth its name!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country does not reward those who perform well. We saw what happened yesterday. I enjoin my friends over the other side to urge the President to give back the Ministry of Roads and Public Works portfolio to hon. Kiptoon.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Ndwiga: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity, to say a few words on this Motion. In moving this Motion, the Minister for Finance said that he was targeting poverty reduction. If you listened to what hon. Members said in this House, there is absolutely no focus in that direction. Kenya is an agricultural country. We have always said that we are an agricultural country. But what has been provided for agriculture? Almost nothing!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we had the *El Nino* rains, we ran to the donors and cried: "We have too much rain! Give us some money!" When there is no rain, we run to the same donors with a bowl in our hands crying: "Now, we do not have rains! Give us some money!" When are we ever going to be comfortable? When there is drought, we also run to donors to borrow some money. I think we have reached a point when this Government should be ashamed of itself. This is a sign of poor planning. We cannot plan for abundance. This Government is incapable of planning anything!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, poverty reduction, without targeting agriculture, is a joke! Could the Minister in his reply, tell us what happened to the money that was given to this country by the European Union (EU)? I am referring to the STABEX funds, which were meant to alleviate the hardships facing coffee farmers. Today, the coffee farmers cannot buy inputs and, yet, the Minister is waiting for the same farmers to provide the income that he will require for next year's Budget. He is not giving them any assistance! As I am speaking now, coffee deliveries of December last year have not been paid to date. The Coffee Board of Kenya, which the "Dream Team" cleaned, has not paid farmers for December coffee deliveries. We are now at the end of June. What agricultural country are we talking about? The Government should really be ashamed of itself!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today, I saw a Presidential convoy travelling from Thika. We counted 56 mammoth vehicles. I had an opportunity to listen to one old lady by the roadside who said: "My goodness! Na hawa ndio wanasema hakuna pesa?" This conspicuous consumerism must end. The Government must learn that, we are a country that is down on its knees. We are beggars! Even where we go to beg abroad, we do not get Prime Ministers or Presidents moving in a convoy. That is so shameful in terms of wastage! The Government is run in the streets. Today, it is in Thika and tomorrow, the same convoy is somewhere else.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in addressing the Budget, I would like to commend the Minister and his team. You can see that a lot of work went into making the Budget. But it is not realistic! You are asking Kenyans to pay more taxes and Value Added Tax (VAT) while, at the same time, you are sacking them! Where will you find the taxes to maintain the Government? This is not possible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so many things have been said in this House. Recovery will depend on a number of things. One key area is the infrastructure. If we cannot get good roads in this country; if we cannot get proper communication in this country, we shall not move! But sadly, this House discussed the Kenya Roads Board and passed it. I wish to commend the former Minister for Roads and Public Works who was sacked yesterday, for the diligent work that he did in that Ministry. I am now wondering whether the new Minister is capable, or has the guts to stand up against corruption-ridden construction companies. We have companies like the HZ Construction Company, which has ripped all roads, and collected taxpayers money and gone home. But nothing has happened. We are also told that, part of the pressure to remove the Minister came from sons of some big fellows, who front for Asian contractors in this country. That is the truth! That is why the Minister had to go! Like I said, this country is run from the streets. Diligent workers have no opportunity in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister banned the importation of second-hand tyres. Why? Could the Minister, if he is frank, tell this House and nation the reason for the ban on imported second-hand tyres? Where did the pressure come from? This is because there is pressure. It is because we want to protect the interests of a Mr. Merali and a Mr. Shah, while the poor Kenyan importers are going home poor! The Minister should, perhaps, re-think morally, some of those things. We must get to a point where this country thinks about its citizens. Right now, we are in the business of protecting Asian businessmen. That is what we are doing. We are saying that the Budget is focused on poverty reduction. But the Budget is increasing poverty! This is an Indian Budget! It is only Indians who can go and buy those generators that we are talking about and not the poor Jua Kali fellows!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is only the Indians who can do that. This Government must be told that, the Budget of the year 2000 makes shame of the new century, and it is not focused at all on the people of Kenya. I think that is why we are having Ministers who, instead of concentrating on putting the nation together and talking about constructive issues; or how we move forward from this quagmire, are interested in tribalism. Tribalism is a vocabulary that exists in the minds of very few of our colleagues on this side. In fact, it is a stale word! I think we should take some fellows to school to learn new vocabulary because, whenever they open their mouths, tribalism comes out. You are not telling Kenyans that we are in darkness today, not because of tribalism--- You are not telling Kenyans, who are starving now, that you do not have strategic reserves; you have no food for them! Instead, you are telling them about tribalism. You are not saying anything to thousands of Kenyans who do not have jobs. Why tribalism?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I went to Heaven and found some these fellows there, I would make an about-turn quickly. We cannot sit in the same place with them. But I thank God because I know my seat in Heaven is intact. There are people who have sinned against this nation, and I want to quote a friend of mine who said that fellows who have messed up this nation should be tried under the Hanging Act because, right now, we have lost one whole generation. What is happening to the Report of the Koech Commission of Inquiry on Education? Is that also tribalism? Instead of listening to what Kenyans want, I do not know who this Government listens to. But very soon, Kenyans will make their input and they will decide on which Government is going to rule them.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are a number of factors that the Minister ought to have taken into consideration when dealing with the Budget. He should have considered the agricultural sector, which he totally left

out. You cannot rationalise how you spend Kshs2.6 billion on the Security Intelligence, only to spend Kshs1.9 billion on the agricultural sector.

These are some of the issues where, when the Government tries to seek sympathy from the public for various difficult decisions they make, it becomes impossible for us to make the public understand why the Government is taking some of these actions. While the Minister is quite aware of the drought, because the signs of drought were announced six months ago, he decided to leave out the drought component when it came to the Budget. We do not understand why the Minister decided to leave out that particular factor, instead of dealing decisively with the problem of drought. While the Government has been making appeals internationally and locally, about the food situation, it is clear that for the last two years, we have had very good harvests, particularly, from the high potential areas. Instead of the Government purchasing the surplus produce from the farms, they have been leaving it to various market forces to take care of the surpluses to the extent that the Government does not have any strategic food reserves as we are talking now.

To compound the problem, when it came to the Budget, other than giving a lot of money to the Office of the President to be spent on famine relief, they are not saying what exactly they are going to do to make Kenyans produce more. We cannot rely on food relief that is going to be imported from other countries, otherwise, this country is going to be a net importer of all foodstuffs because, right now, we are importing more than half of the wheat that we require.

For the last 20 years, we have been importing maize every year, while this country is capable of producing enough maize for local consumption and for export. This is a situation that we find very hard--- Whether or not it has a very good meaning, we find it very hard to understand how the Minister is going to rationalise that situation, knowing very well that 80 per cent of Kenyans rely on the agricultural sector.

Secondly, in the money allocated towards education - while it is substantial - there is this bursary component where, for the last five years, we have been spending over Kshs300 million on education. The Minister for Education must look for another criteria in giving out that money to all the needy students throughout the country. I am saying this because Kshs300 million has been going through schools and there are thousands of needy cases of students, who end up at the doors of Members of Parliament, while that money has been voted in this House. This year, the Minister has told us that Kshs500 million is going to be spent on the same. Why do we not use the criteria that we are using in the Ministry of Roads and Public Works, where every constituency is going to be given a certain component of that money for the leaders in that particular constituency to decide which are the needy areas in that constituency.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do allocate money here and we do not have the ability to recall that money, which is going to be misused at the Ministry and at the end of the day, it is the taxpayer who is going to foot the bill. This is a serious anomaly and the Minister for Finance, in conjunction with the Minister for Education, ought to design a better criteria for that particular aspect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other component that is worrying, as far as the Budget is concerned, is the increase of Value Added Tax (VAT) to 18 per cent. I would rather the Minister, at the right time, explains the criteria for designing the negative list and leaving the rest of goods and services to be charged VAT. This is because the danger will come when many unscrupulous people will start using that opportunity to cause a lot of problems to the poor, whom we ought to assist. Secondly, as far as VAT is concerned, the rate of 15 per cent that was there up to this year had been a big burden on many a Kenyan. Increasing it by a further 3 per cent is actually asking for too much from the ordinary person. It looks as if you are milking a dead cow, and the milk that is in the udder is not likely to increase because the ordinary man is already suffering.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know why the Ministry of Finance decides not to improve on tax collection measures and savings. Instead, they are transferring their inefficiency to the ordinary people. For example, take this company whose services have been hired to do the job that is already done by the Customs and Excise Department and other organisations that have been there before. This is a very important issue. The Minister ought to explain to the House because we are passing taxpayers' money. This is not money from the Minister; it is from the people. We cannot support this situation where, year in, year out, we are budgeting for over Kshs200 billion and there is no evidence on the ground to improve the lives of Kenyans.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is also important for the Minister, when he is talking about Poverty Eradication Strategy, to look into measures that actually translate into Poverty Eradication Strategy. For example, on the question of roads, I have seen in our Estimates that the money we are giving to roads is the same amount we have allocated to the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS) and yet, the kind of roads we have now, particularly the tarmacked ones, like from Naivasha to Nakuru, and Nakuru to Eldoret, are very bad. Before we think of going to constituencies, we actually kneel to pray that the Almighty God deliver us in our constituencies. The nature of our roads is terrible and

the Ministry of Roads and Public Works had better have proper people maintaining those particular roads. Any time you are passing along Eldoret-Kitale road, there are some young boys purporting to be repairing potholes on the road by filling them with soil. I remember, seven years ago, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Eng. Wambura, did assure this House, through the Committee, that this question of repairing of roads by filling soil on a tarmac road was going to be a thing of the past. But we pay a lot of money to those young boys because they spend so much time filling the road with soil and within two days, the same soil is washed away by the rain or even wind. It is high time that we realised we are voting money on behalf of Kenyans. This is not money for the Minister, or the Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry, or any other Minister for that matter. It is important that the Minister realises that we are not passing this money for the sake of it.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Ngure: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this Vote on Account.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said about roads and I would start by commenting that the money that is allocated for roads is inadequate. Roads in each and every constituency, we are always being told when we ask about them, would be done when funds are available. This is the time when we are debating the funds and the money that we have here is not enough for the roads. We are giving the NSIS the same amount of money that we are targeting for roads. But if all those fellows in the NSIS are going to do any useful work, they will also need vehicles and they will need to use roads. So, I do not think we have provided enough money for roads. I think some of the money provided for other areas, like State House and the Office of the President, should be shifted to roads.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some of our constituencies are impoverished not because we cannot produce, but because during the rainy season, we produce a lot of fish which is always rotting because we do not have roads and we cannot transport them to where refrigeration can be found. I do not think this country has given serious thought on all areas of the economy. If we do not pay attention to the fishing industry in this country by improving on how we can handle fish, and by improving the roads surrounding the lake, we are going to lose billions. At the moment, trawling is not allowed within the gulf, but members of the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Department have allowed people to carry out trawling in the gulf. That is at the detriment of the poor fishermen who lose their nets to those trawlers. Time has come when in my constituency, I am going to mobilise people into their boats with stones and everything, and we will deal seriously with those trawlers. We have spoken about the ban on trawlers and the Government is not paying attention because officers of the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Department are receiving bribes from the trawlers. Right now, as I am speaking, people in my area, in a place called Luanda-K'Otieno, got hold of those trawlers and called the Provincial Administration, but in the end, the fellows who caught the owners of the trawlers are the ones that were taken to the cells and charged for interfering with the business of others. But we are not going to sit back any more and see the poor people being exploited by others who are fishing illegally and damaging their properties. An ordinary fisherman with a canoe cannot afford to lose his new net, just because somebody has swept it away and damaged his trawler.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about poverty and famine, but I do not think we are seriously addressing agriculture. At the moment, we are only talking about how to reduce poverty. We are not considering seriously how we will stop from relying on mother rain because its pattern has changed all over the world. If we do not use the resources that we have, such as the fresh water that we have in Lake Victoria for irrigation, we will have famine forever. If we do not address the issue of irrigation in this country, let us assume that Kenya will be a famine country forever.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we keep on talking about the IMF and World Bank. All we know is that the IMF and World Bank have put Kenya into what we call international debts. At that time, they were giving favourable loans to countries that were toeing the line of the West in an effort to contain the spread of communism. But right now, we must stand up and tell them that they were bribing us to go against the Russians and the bribes cannot be debts. We should stand up and ask them why they are now supervising us. When they were giving us that money, which was wasted, why were they not supervising us? They had a threat of us turning to the East. Time has come when we just own up and tell them that we are not going to read a Budget that is so pleasing to the ears of the IMF and has ignored the general public in particular.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are now talking about power rationing; I do not understand this. The Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KP&LC) is rationing electricity at night in Bondo Town. We do not have any factory that operates during the day. The natural rationing of power happens during the day. Why should the KP&LC interfere with those fellows at night? They are so poor that they cannot even use 100 watts per hour. What type of power rationing is that? The KP&LC rations electricity even in areas where the only person who uses electricity welds an exhaust pipe of a car for, maybe, one *tajiri* per day. Then, at night, the KP&LC continues rationing electricity. This is a mere gimmick; electricity should be rationed where the benefits accrue. The benefit of power rationing is not accruing

in Bondo Town, and it should be stopped. Electricity consumption there is minimal. It is not even worth rationing electricity there because power consumption in that area is not even worth the amount of power that some *tajiris* consume in their gardens. Power is not even being rationed to some of those *tajiris*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our people are suffering, and yet we vote some money here every year. Some retired Government workers are not even receiving their pension. Technological development now allows us to computerise data on personnel, such that, on pressing a button, the date on which pension should be paid to a particular person, as well as the date on which his last pension was paid, is accessed. This will, particularly, be beneficial to the beneficiaries of pension such as widows. Those responsible for processing pension are taking advantage of widows. Some widows might not receive their husbands' pension at all because when they travel to collect the Kshs100 pension, they are told that the files of their husbands have not been found. They end up at the houses of *Waheshimiwa* to ask for transport money back to their rural homes. If, after 30 years of Independence, a country cannot even streamline the payment of its pension, what are we talking about?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, what Budget can we manage? We are just charging people Value Added Tax (VAT), and increasing it by another 3 per cent. That is punitive. VAT is paid by even unborn babies. When you buy napkins, you pay VAT. Why do we not just streamline tax collection and forget VAT? Some of us should not even pay VAT because we do not see the benefit of VAT at all. We keep paying VAT on soft drinks and beers, but its benefit never passes back to us. The time has come for us to get back whatever amount of money the Minister for Finance collects in terms of VAT in a particular area; we should demand to see the benefit that may have accrued in that particular area. We cannot go on paying for things that, purportedly, benefit *wananchi*; benefits which we cannot point out.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is suffering from shortage of teachers, yet the Government has stopped recruiting teachers. I do not understand that type of logic. You have shortages, and you stop recruitment. My constituency is suffering from shortage of teachers, yet, at the end of the day---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Ngunjiri! Your time is up. Proceed, Mr. Nassir.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika, ninashukuru kwa kunipa nafasi hii. Ijapokuwa mimi ni mfupi, wewe huniona nyakati nyingine.

Bw. Naibu Spika, Kenya ni nchi ya kidemokrasia. Wananchi, na hasa viongozi, wana haki ya kusema yale wanayotaka. Lakini ukweli ni kwamba, Waziri wa Fedha ana jukumu kubwa. Mawaziri wa Fedha wa zamani walikuwa wakitayarisha makadirio ya mapato na matumizi katika nchi ambayo ilikuwa na watu milioni tano, milioni sita, milioni saba, au milioni 10. Mawaziri wa Fedha wa siku hizi hutayarisha makadirio hayo katika nchi ambayo iko na watu milioni 32. Nchi hii iko vile ilivyokuwa miaka ya zamani. Katika nchi hii, bado hakujuvumbuliwa dhahabu, mafuta, ama madini mengine yoyote yale. Lakini Mawaziri wa Fedha wa siku hizi, katika makadirio ya mapato na matumizi ya nchi hii, hufanya kila wawezavyo ili kuzingatia maslahi ya watu milioni 32. Wale wanaopinga mapendekezo ya makadirio ya mapato na matumizi ya mwaka huu ni watu matajiri, ambao hawafahamu shida wanazozipata wananchi wa kawaida. Mtu huishi tu hapa Nairobi akifanya shughuli zake. Mtu kama huyo huwa hajui shida wanazozipata watu katika sehemu za mashambani. Ndio maana tumewasikia wengine wetu wakisema: "Ninaipinga Bajeti hii". Je, mtu kama huyo anaipinga Bajeti hii kwa sababu yeye yuko na chakula cha kutosha, na anaishi maisha raha msitarehe?

Bw. Naibu Spika, huu ni wakati wa Wabunge kuipitisha Hoja hii ili wananchi wa kawaida waweze kupata chakula, watoto wao waweze kuendelea na masomo shuleni, na manufa mengine. Kwa sababu ya itikadi za kidemokrasia, watu wako huru kusema watakavyo. Ninasikitika kwamba wale wanaodai kutetea uimarishaji wa itikadi za kidemokrasia katika nchi hii hutetea tu sehemu fulani za nchi hii. Ukijaribu kuimarisha itikadi hizo katika sehemu nyingine za nchi, wanademokrasia wale hutetea eti wewe unafanya vibaya. Kutoka jana, watu fulani wamekuwa wakilaumu shughuli za kikosi cha polisi nchini. Maafisa wa kikosi hicho wametoka katika makabila yote nchini. Kikosi hicho kinafanya kazi ngumu kwa sababu wezi wamekuwa wengi siku hizi. Bunduki nyingi haramu ziko katika mikono ya majambazi. Watu wasio na hatia wanauliwa na kunyang'anywa magari yao; wizi huo pia unaendelea katika mabenki. Polisi wanajitahidi katika jitihada za kupambana na wizi huo kama wanavyoweza. Kikosi cha polisi hakiko vile kilivyokuwa zamani, ambapo maafisa wake wote walitoka kabila moja. Leo, watu wa Kenya wanafurahika. Hata akina Sharif Nassir leo angaa wanapeperusha bendera juu ya magari yao rasmi.

(Laughter)

Bw. Naibu Spika, ukweli ni lazima usemwe. Tuacheni kulaumiana. Kulaumu ni rahisi, lakini kujenga nchi hii na kuwasaidia wananchi walio na taabu ni kazi kubwa sana. Baadhi ya wenzetu hapa wanauliza ni kwa nini Ofisi ya Rais imepewa pesa nyingi katika Bajeti hii. Kazi iliyoko katika Ofisi ya Rais ni nyingi sana. Ninatamani mtu mmoja

aje katika ofisi yangu ili ajionee ile taabu iliyoko. Ninampa ruhusa mtu mmoja aje ashuhudie. Sijakula chochote kuanzia asubuhi; ninafanya kazi tu.

An hon. Member: Mimi nitakuja. Nije saa ngapi?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika, anaweza kuja saa yoyote. Mimi sipendi kuitisha mikutano ya waandishi wa habari katika Majengo ya Bunge ili kuzungumza tu; ninapenda kufanya kazi. Sipendi kutukana watu wengine katika Bunge. Ukweli ni kwamba, katika bara la Afrika, leo, hakuna Serikali nzuri kama Serikali ya Rais Moi.

(Applause from the Government Benches)

Mr. Murungi: No way!

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika, hao waheshimiwa Wabunge wenzangu, wapende, wasipende, ukweli ni lazima usemwe.

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Nassir---

Hon. Members: He should raise his point of order in Kiswahili!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! It is not necessary. Go on, Mr. Murungi.

Mr. Murungi: Is the Minister in order to mislead this House that there is no Government in Africa which is better than the Government of President Moi, when we know that for the last one year, Mr. Nassir has never left this country? He does not know what happens beyond Nairobi and Mombasa. What can he tell us?

(Laughter)

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika, mimi kama mmoja wa viongozi katika Serikali hii, nimezunguka nchi yote nikifanya mikutano ya Harambee. Ninajua shida za wananchi wetu. Mimi huwa sifanyi mikutano yangu na waandishi wa habari hapa Bungeni, lakini huzunguka nchi nzima kuona hali ya wananchi wetu. Ninajua taabu za wananchi wetu kuliko wengi wenu. Viongozi wengine wanazungumza kiholela kwa sababu wanadhani uchaguzi uko karibu. Nchi hii ina mwongozo wa kidemokrasia---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Bw. Nassir, endelea na kuchangia Hoja iliyoko mbele ya Bunge.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika, yangu nikumwomba Bw. Waziri wa Fedha asiwe kama Mawaziri wa Fedha, wa zamani ambao walipeleka pesa zote katika sehemu zao za uakilishi Bungeni, kama vile Nyeri, Murang'a na Othaya.

Mr. Kibaki: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was Minister for Finance for 12 years. Could the hon. Minister actually stop joking and substantiate that I did anything special for Othaya Constituency? Mention one!

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika, kuna wananchi ambao hawajui yaliyotekea. Hata hivyo, mhe. Kibaki ni rafiki yangu mkubwa. Lakini tunaposema aliendeleza ukabila kwa vile alipendelea kabila lake, ni makosa? Ukienda Benki Kuu ya Kenya, lugha ni "aterere", kuanzia mfanyakazi wa chini hadi yule wa juu.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I think we have had enough jokes now. Mr. Nassir; either you continue to contribute to the Motion or you sit down. If you do not now revert to the Motion, I will stop you.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika, Hoja hii ni juu ya shida za wananchi wetu. Tunataka maisha yao yawe mazuri. Kwa hivyo, nikisema kuwa mambo haya yalitendeka---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Do not argue. You are not addressing yourself to the Motion before the House.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Naibu Spika, ni lazima tukuheshimu na pia viongozi nao tuheshimiane. Waziri katika Bajeti hii alipendelea kuwa wafanyakazi wa Serikali watastaafu kwa mpango maalum. Jambo hili hutokea kila mara, lakini waandishi wa gazeti la *Daily Nation* waliandika kuwa Serikali itafuta kazi wafanyakazi wake. Mambo haya ya kustaafu hutokea kila mara, miaka nenda, miaka rudi.

Bw. Naibu Spika, kisu ni kizuri kwa nguruwe, lakini kwa binadamu kinaumiza. Ukitukana watu wengi ni sawa, lakini ukitukanwa, wewe unakasirika.

Bw. Naibu Spika, kwa hayo machache ninaunga mkono.

Mr. Mboko: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I am at great pains to support this Motion. This is because during the Budget day, the Minister was also at

great pains to explain how he will raise taxes to finance the Budget. I am sure, due to his great pain on how to raise taxes, that is why he resorted to increasing VAT to cushion Government expenditure. Due to non-performance of the economy, the Minister may have had very good intentions on how to finance Government expenditures, but how is the Government going to raise taxes? How will the Minister raise revenue to finance Government expenditure?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as from October this year, the effects of COMESA will be felt. In the COMESA region, we have zero-rated tariffs of all imports. When importation starts within the COMESA region, Government is likely to lose a lot of revenue because the local manufacturers and business community will not be able to raise enough taxes as projected by the Minister. How will the Government do this with the very weak personnel at Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)? We all know that there are several companies which have not paid their taxes or remitted PAYE for their employees for the last three years. For example, China Road and Bridge Company, for the last years, has not remitted PAYE to KRA. It is also sad that they have not been paying corporate tax and yet, KRA is falling short of revenue. If one company fails to pay taxes for three years, how many other companies have failed to do so?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government aims at reducing poverty in this country. One of the fundamental areas in terms of tax collection is the agricultural sector. However, in the Budget, it was not given much attention. It is in the agricultural sector where we hope to improve our economy. Although we import tractors duty-free, the maintenance of those tractors is very expensive. It is high time the Government considered waiving taxes on the spareparts of farm machinery. It is only when the farmers are given incentives that this country will come out of the quagmire it is currently in.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of insecurity in this country. Our policemen are not being compensated. We do not adequately take care of them. It is not a wonder that when you go to the streets of Nairobi, you find them in tattered uniforms. It is a pity to see three police officers living in one small room. They are frustrated and since they have guns, what do you expect them to do? Instead of combating crimes within the society, they will themselves become a security risk to this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the time has come for us to pass a legislation in this House to compel Kenyans who have kept their money abroad to bring it back. This is because we cannot continue borrowing money when we have individuals who have it in foreign accounts. We have hon. Members in this House who have billions of shillings in overseas banks. A time is coming when things will change. We know what happened to the late Mobutu of Zaire when he was ousted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you are a leader, you live by example. If you are thinking about inadequate money in this country and you go to borrow only Kshs14 billion, while an individual in this country has more than that amount of money--- What is the use of borrowing money from outside? Where do we take our dignity as a nation?

The office of the Permanent Secretary, Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Public Service is notorious. It is busy sending Ministers here who are incapable of doing their job well. These Ministers who are seated here cannot do anything without Dr. Leakey approving it. When we speak here and protect their interests, some of them do not realise that we are doing so. We need to have that office being accountable to Parliament. It is just the other day---

The Minister for Environment (Mr. Nyenze): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Mboko: What are you saying?

The Minister for Environment (Mr. Nyenze): It is a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, and I need your protection. Is the hon. Member in order to say that people wait for Dr. Leakey to give directions when different offices at the Ministries are independent to make decisions? Is he further in order to say that Parliament should make every decision on the Ministries?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Nyenze, that is not a point of order, and you very well know it; you are arguing with the hon. Member.

Proceed, hon. Mboko.

Mr. Mboko: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Minister cannot do anything without the approval of Dr. Leakey. Tell him to degazette Karura Forest without the approval of Dr. Leakey. Although he is the Minister in charge of forests, he cannot do that. Tell him to do that.

(Applause)

The Minister for Environment (Mr. Nyenze): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to say that I cannot degazette any forest without authority from Dr. Leakey? If that is true, could he substantiate?

An hon. Member: You cannot! Go ahead and do that!

Mr. Mboko: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if he can do that, let him degazette Karura Forest and give me the documents.

(Applause)

The time has come when land which belongs to indigenous Kenyans should be protected from encroachment from any person or authority. I am saying this because it is fraudulent for the Government to take away land which is owned by Kenyans. I would like to say that the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is very notorious for degazetting or legalising land that belongs to some people without their knowledge. I would like to point out that these things are being done without the local communities being consulted, or being told of the Government's intentions. In Kibwezi, Kyulu Hills have been degazetted by the KWS without the owners of the land knowing what is happening. This has resulted in thousands of families being evicted and some schools being closed down. We did not fight for Independence to protect wild animals; we fought for our land. If the interest of wild animals overrides the interest of mankind, then we are in trouble as a country.

It is common knowledge that there are some people who are being favoured by the Government. I would like to say that some Kenyans own thousands of hectares of land while others are landless. First, who went to the forest to fight for Independence? Did some of us go to the forest to fight for the Independence more than others? I would like to inform this House that our forefathers fought for Independence of this country and land.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Minister for Environment (Mr. Nyenze): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute. I would like to say that infrastructure is the key to economic development. If we are to industrialise by the year 2020, it is good that not only in this Budget, but in the forthcoming Budgets, we should consider making Mombasa Road a dual carriageway from Mombasa up to the Kenya/Uganda border, because this is a very crucial road. I would like to say that it is the basis for economic growth in this country. We also have to consider the Nairobi-Thika-Kitui-Kibwezi Road. I would like to point out that, that road has no hills, but is on a level ground. So, I would like to appeal that we consider tarmacking that road as an alternative route to Mombasa, because it will open up most of the Eastern and Central Provinces to trade with Mombasa and ease congestion along Mombasa Road.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in urban centres, especially in Nairobi, I have noticed that there are heavy traffic jams. A traffic jam will cause delay and time wastage. I would like to urge local authorities, in this and the forthcoming Budgets; and also the Minister for Finance, to consider allocating more money into building flyovers, so that we do not have long traffic jams. This is because Nairobi and other urban centres are growing very fast. That is the trend in many countries where economic growth has been achieved.

For us to advance economically, we have to remain in peace. I have said time and again that the peace we are enjoying in this country is not by mistake, chance or coincidence, but it is because of good leadership by the President. Whenever I say that, some hon. Members feel bad, just because they do not want to accept the fact that we are not at war with any country, and there are no rebels in the country, unlike our neighbours. This is because of the good leadership of His Excellency the President. This is a fact and we should always support him. The Opposition can criticise that, but let us also note that fact. That is something that will go down in history, that during Kenyatta's and Moi's time, we lived in peace and that is why our economy has grown. The economy may be down today, but we have put every structure in place, and it will start growing again. It is like a vicious cycle; you are either up or down. Today, we are down, but we are not out. I would like to say that the economy will start growing again.

(Mr. Kibaki nodded his head)

I can see hon. Kibaki approving this. It is very good that the economy will start growing again, and let us work together as a nation. Let us not encourage tribalism, or people to invade other people's land.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am hurt whenever I hear people say: "Let us invade white farmers' land and Kenya Cannons". That is wrong because we will not move forward. So, the best thing is for us and the Government to protect private property. You should be safe if you own one acre. If you obtained 1,000 acres of land through proper channels, why should you not be protected? After all, we want less politics and more development. Let both sides of the House have no succession debates, but discuss on how to tackle the economy; let us always not criticise the Government. I would like to say that this Budget was very balanced because it cared for the common mwananchi. Whenever a Budget is presented in this House, like I keenly listened to this one--- I saw both sides of the House approving it, and even today, I can still see that approval. I hope that we do not shoot down what has taken so long to prepare.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing I would like to point out is that whenever we contribute to the Budget, which is very important, we should not threaten and criticise other people. Some people are saying that this and that will happen to those people who have committed crimes. For example, some hon. Members who have spoken before me have said that there are some billions of shillings which are stashed in foreign accounts by some Kenyans, but if you tell them to substantiate their claims, they will take another route. If you tell them to give names, they will

take other routes. This is something said without a basis. Let us forget about the past and move forward. A nation that always criticises and talks about history is no nation at all. Let us talk about the progress of Kenya today and tomorrow, instead of always finding faults.

Some of you who are in the Opposition today were in the Government some time back. There is no way you can live and lead without a few crimes here because the country and the Ministries are big. However, you always accuse this side of the House. Where are we heading to, my hon. brothers? Let us forget about the past and try not to persecute each other. Let us build Kenya. One legislator said that the police force should not be paid any salary and that they should not be sympathised with, but I disagree with that person. Members of the police force work under difficult conditions. When you are asleep at night, they are guarding you. When you walk in the streets, they are patrolling there.

I think the Minister was very fair to allocate some money to the police force so that we can give them some incentive. If you do not pay the police their salaries, there is no way you will expect law and order to be enforced. What the Minister said in the Budget is proper and it should be supported. Let us pay our policemen well and give them equipment. Do not complain about insecurity if you talk about not giving them what they need to work. Let us buy them good, faster cars and good equipment so that they can work.

Agriculture forms the basis of our economy and the Minister has tried to help the farmers. The only bit that I wanted to add in the other Budget is that irrigation forms the basis of food production in this country. All the areas with a high agricultural potential are sort of exhausted because there are so many people crowded together in places where they get rainfall. In places like Kitui, there are big rivers, very few people and fertile soils. Let us put more money towards irrigation so that we do not depend on famine relief every time. I would also urge the legislators not to blame the Government for the power shortage. This has been caused by drought. God gives the rain and we cannot blame him. It could be that we have moved away from God. It is high time we turned back to God.

Yesterday, hon. Murungi was talking about Egypt. I hope and pray that hon. Members will also turn to God because we are the leaders of this country. I would urge the Opposition side to join us in churches to pray, and God will give us rain. He is the provider of everything. It could be that we have run away from him. Let us come back to him and pray even for the economy and for rain. I have been in school in Nyeri and I have never seen a drought that lasted for that length of time. If people in Nyeri are being given food and yet it is a place which has never missed rain, we should turn back to God and ask Him what is wrong. In Kitui, we get food every time.

I asked the hon. Members to help the Government in encouraging individual farmers in their constituencies to have tree nurseries. Let us try to plant as many trees as possible, and also---

Mr. Wamae: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Minister to talk about preservation of forests when he has given out one forest in my area for cultivation?

The Minister for Environment (Mr. Nyenze): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member has any documents or details about what forest I have given out for cultivation, he can bring them here.

I was saying that the hon. Members should encourage the farmers and the local people in their areas to have tree nurseries, so that we can attract more rain.

I beg to support.

Mr. Murungi: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to oppose this Motion. I want to call upon my colleagues in Parliament to make history by voting against this Motion on the Vote on Account. We appreciate the consequences of voting against this Motion because the effect will be to shut down the Government, and we will all go home. The hon. Members are ready to go home. We are doing this because this Government does not take Parliament seriously. We know that from history, there should be no taxation without representation. Over the years, this Government has been taking Parliament for granted by writing what they want, and then they come here for "rubber-stamping".

If we hon. Member were involved in the preparation of this Budget, the various sums that we are required to approve for various Ministries in the Vote on Account would be totally different. For instance, there is no way I would have given Kshs1.3 billion to the Special Branch, and Kshs1.5 billion to the Ministry of Roads and Public Works. We have very exaggerated security concerns for this country. The Government is allocating on the Vote on Account, Kshs6 billion to the Department of Defence. What war is Kenya fighting now? This amount should be used to fight poverty, ignorance and disease. It should not be given to soldiers marching in the barracks during the day, sleeping at night, eating free rice and that kind of thing.

We have our priorities upside down. While we allocate Kshs1.3 billion to the Special Branch, we allocate only Kshs444 million to the Judiciary, which is less than half a billion shillings. What is important to this country? Do you want justice or to fight all over the place? We are very worried about the way we have not linked the rhetoric and action in our public policy. Recently, we were talking about the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. You called everybody to the School of Monetary Studies for a big show, which was just meant to impress foreigners. When hon.

Kiptoon was the Minister for Roads and Public Works, he called us to Safari Park Hotel and said he would allocate Kshs5 million of the Road Maintenance Levy to every constituency. We clapped our hands for him and thought he was serious. We did not know that somebody else who wanted to "eat" this money would throw the man out. We are watching very keenly.

(Applause)

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are keenly watching, although Mr. Morogo does not speak much and, therefore, many Members do not know what kind of person he is. But I think he had better know this from us: If the Kshs5 million which we had been promised by Eng. Kiptoon is not provided for every constituency, come 1st of July, this year, his conduct might be in for debate in this Parliament because we would like to know what happened to the Kshs5 million which each of the constituencies in Kenya was to be given for road maintenance.

It is true that Major Madoka was referring to me when he said that some Members had vowed not to vote any money for the Kenya Police Force, because, yesterday, we had a press conference and we said that we will not vote for any money for the Kenya Police Force. We have looked at the Vote on Account schedule to see how much money has been allocated to the Force, but we are very happy there is nothing under this Motion. We have money which has been allocated for the Office of the President, the National Intelligence Security Service and other departments, but as a line of account, no money has been allocated for the Kenya Police Force. We know that, that move was to beat our strategy for voting against the Force, although we know that this money is hidden under the Office of the President. We would like the Minister to desegregate the various amounts being given to the Office of the President, because, at least, we would like to vote some money for Dr. Richard Leakey and his team because we do not want to deny him money because he is doing a good job. But we would like him to separate the "Dream Team" from the Kenya Police Force, so that we can refuse to give money to it; because, why should we give money to the Force for tear-gassing and clobbering the Opposition leaders whenever they see them?

Hon. Nyachae's house and his business premises have been attacked several times by people we do not know. Today, the police have not arrested a single person, even for questioning. Why are we paying for all these inefficiencies? I still insist that unless hon. Madoka pulls up his socks and gets the Force working, even if we are not able to do it today, because we cannot see the amount that we are voting for them, we shall look for that amount and make sure that we block it. It is not out of malice; it is because we feel that the police are not protecting us, and that is why we also want to hit back. The police should fight crime and protect the lives and property of every Kenyan, irrespective of his or her political opinion. That is the law we passed here in 1997, and we do not understand why police services in this country are being given out in a discriminatory manner. We have converted the Kenya Police Force into a political product in order to be used to support hon. So-and-so against hon. So-and-so. Why was hon. Kones, when he was a Minister in the Government, allowed to be pelted with stones by thugs as the police stood on and saw all that and did not take action? Do we have two laws which the police should enforce in their own way? Unless they change their behaviour, we will block their money through this House. We have been saying that we will not pay for torture and brutality, and the police have to protect the rights and freedoms of every Kenyan.

With regard to Budget preparation, the Minister has been talking to us about the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). We hope that the House Estimates Committee, which was abolished in 1997 on the pretext that the Departmental Committees would be checking the Votes of each Ministry, will be given a place in the budgetary process. The Votes that we are discussing today have not been scrutinised by any Departmental Committee. I am a Member of the Committee on Administration of Justice and Legal Affairs. We are the ones who should have scrutinised the Vote for the Judiciary, which we are seeing here for the first time. We are the ones who should have scrutinised the Vote for the Attorney-General, but we have not seen it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why should the Executive take Parliament for a ride, then it comes here to tell us: "These are the figures and we have to rush, otherwise the Government will close down", while it knew more than one year ago that these Estimates had to be considered in consultation with the Departmental Committees? It is high time that Parliament exerted itself. We have been elected by the people of Kenya to protect their interests in this House. We will be failing in our duties if we allow all these figures to come and pass through here, then, tomorrow we do not know how the money is being spent.

I would also urge the House to set up a committee on intelligence and security, which should be sworn to secrecy and should look into how our security services are spending their money, especially the Special Branch. How do we know if they steal or "eat" this money? We need a committee to look into that.

Thank you.

The Assistant Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion which I support.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You have only two minutes.

The Assistant Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Motion within the two minutes, I merely have a couple of appeals to make. Because it will not be until some considerable time before we get the Report of the Controller and Auditor-General, mine is to urge the officers who we are authorising to spend money today, to really take due cognisance of the new methodology of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). They should make sure that whatever we approve is, in fact, spent on what we approve it for. I also want to urge the spending Ministries to get away from the old history of incurring expenditure which is outside the Budget, and coming up with projects which are not budgeted for and, therefore, accumulating pending bills which are not paid for a long time. When these pending bills are not paid, interest accumulates on them, making the total payments much larger than the original cost. Our problem in the management of the finances and the economy has been really the spending aspect. Expenditure has been much more above the finances that we have. We should develop a real strict culture, where we will be spending within our means.

(Mr. Wanjala consulted with Mr. Kirwa)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Wanjala!

An hon. Member: This is not Bundalangi!

The Assistant Minister for Information, Transport and Communications (Mr. Keah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my appeal is to the Ministries; they should be absolutely vigilant and should follow the MTEF methodology strictly to the letter, so that we do not spend what we do not have. This is really my plea, and I would want to see that there is some kind of severe punishment meted out to those who spend what we have not authorised for them to spend.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Minister, you may now reply.

The Minister for Finance (Mr. Okemo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you. I am privileged to take this opportunity to thank hon. Members for their contribution to this Motion. A number of issues they have raised were actually very well captured in my Budget Speech, but I will make a few remarks just to amplify some of the concerns.

First, I will make one comment as far taxation is concerned, although there will be a more comprehensive response when we come to debate the Finance Bill. However, for now, I will just want to mention that a lot of Members have expressed concern about the VAT rate having gone up by 3 per cent. I would like to assure all the Members here that given the situation in which the Ministry of Finance found itself, there were very few options. You have a shrinking economy, with a very small tax base; therefore, meaning that you cannot generate sufficient revenues. On the other side of the equation, you have a stagnating economy that you must take certain measures in order to make it grow. Now, the two are contradictory. So, we had to find some kind of balance to make sure that we are able to raise some revenue and apply it towards spurring the private sector. That is why, when Members talk in terms of the Budget supporting the rich and being against the poor, I think they have missed the point. This is because the point is that you cannot reduce poverty if you do not have the resources to do so. Therefore, you must create the resources first, and then apply them towards poverty reduction.

So, what I am really saying is that if I was to implement what most of the Members are indicating here, what we will end up actually doing is re-distribution of poverty, and that is not what we are aiming for. We are aiming for reduction of poverty. If you look at items such as milk, which is consumed by all the poor people; bread which is consumed by all the lower income people, and unga which most poor people use, these are not "vatables"; there is no VAT on these items. We took full account of that in raising these VAT rates, knowing very well that many of the items that are consumed by the poor people will not be affected. However, we will give you a more comprehensive response when we discuss the Finance Bill.

The other issue Members have talked about here is that we are spending so much money on this and that, and yet we are not producing growth. I think we must know where we started from. We started from a position whereby more than 95 per cent of our Budget allocations were on salaries and wages and debt servicing. There was very little left for operation, maintenance and development. What was the reason for that? Because we have a very huge public sector. Now, how do we deal with the problem? How do we re-structure our Budget so that we can re-direct more funds towards operation, maintenance and development, and, therefore, retrenchment and down-sizing of the public sector? So, it is a painful price we have to pay in order to release resources from salaries and wages, and direct these into operation, maintenance and development. We also started from a very difficult situation with a very huge domestic debt, and a very huge external debt.

Now, all these are inherited and we have to do something about them; we have to start somewhere. That is why it is not very obvious to see that re-directing of resources from recurrent to the social sectors like education, health and infrastructure. The shift is not obvious because this is only the first year of a three-year period. Next year, this

pattern will come out very clearly, and we will actually see that shift of more expenditure coming away from this recurrent non-poverty related items to pro-poor activities. So, in the first year, this is not apparent because we are going to use a large proportion of the money in retrenchments, and we are also using it to correct that unbalanced position that we started off from.

So, there is a lot of thought and planning that has gone into this exercise. The important thing for the Members to know is also that we, for the first time, have engaged stakeholders other than Government employees in the Budget preparation, and that is a big step forward. We were able to go out there and get ideas from various people. Okay, we did not invite all Members of Parliament, but all chairmen of all the Committees of Parliament were invited, and I think that is a step forward. NGOs, the private sector and the religious people were all invited. We had quite an engaged discussion, where we went through the whole budgeting process, starting with sectoral priorities. We said: "Okay, of all the sectors, which is the most important?" We went through the prioritisation process. We said that the most key sectors to apply our resources to are security, infrastructure, agriculture and rural development. Then, we went to the social sector and looked at the health services and education. But you must realise that we started off from a very small resource envelop. The resource envelop was defined by the assumptions that we made about how much taxation revenue we can raise. If we wanted to get more resources to apply towards all those activities, we could have increased our taxes more than what we did. So, you can understand that this is a vicious circle. If you want to get more revenue, you must raise more taxes. If you raise more taxes, you hurt the people. Therefore, there is a contradiction. So, you have to draw a balance somewhere! Therefore, with given resources that we were able to obtain, using the assumptions that we made about the growth of the economy, we had to re-distribute the resources to the various sectors, Ministries and departments. That exercise was done very strenuously and exhaustively, and with a few hard options that were available to us, we were able to produce the Budget.

The next thing that I would like to assure hon.

Members is: This time, we have been talking about the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). I think it is important for hon. Members to appreciate that this is an instrument that brings about discipline in the implementation of the Budget. What it means is that, once you set Budget ceilings, every Ministry and department must live within those ceilings. The test of this MTEF tool will be when we look at the implementation programme. I promise this House that I will be giving periodical reports on actual implementation of ministerial and departmental expenditures, then from that, it will be very easy to see whether we are actually keeping to what we said we will do. I think that is a departure from the past. What has been happening in the past is that we wait until the end of the financial year, and then the Controller and Auditor-General comes to tell us where we misbehaved and so on. So, I do think the MTEF and periodical reports to the House to show the implementation progress should be a way in which Parliament can actually see how the money is applied to the various activities that are set.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think I will go into a lot of details at this time, but just to let Members know that the Budget discipline will be enforced, we have posted finance officers to each line Ministry, who will counter-sign all expenditures with the Accounting Officers. So, there will be some checks and balances. The Treasury will have a Budget Monitoring Unit, which will be the oversight body to oversee that actual expenditures are carried out according to what appears in the Budget, then Parliament, at the appropriate time, will see how expenditure progress is being undertaken. So, I think there are enough checks and balances to ensure that the Budget will be applied.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I mentioned in my Budget Speech that, during the actual Votes, when we will be looking at the detailed Ministerial Budgets, we must have annexes, particularly on infrastructure, public works and roads, health and education, to see where the money will be spent. We are told that the money will be taken to the districts. If it is a district hospital or health centres in a district, we want to see an annex showing which health centre or district hospital will be given funds, so that, at the end of the time, the Ministry has to explain why the money that was earmarked to a particular hospital or health centre did not get there.

I think we are making progress. I would like this House to encourage us to make further refinements to make the Budget a more useful tool to bring about economic development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like very much to appeal to all hon. Members to approve this Vote on Account, and I do make a pledge here that we will try to be as disciplined as possible.

Having said that, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. This House, therefore, stands adjourned until Tuesday, 27th June, 2000, at 2.30 p.m.
The House rose at 6.45 p.m.