

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 25th October, 2000

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

PAPERS LAID

The following Papers were laid on the Table:-

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

Annual Report and Accounts of Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) for the year ended 30th June, 1998, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

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

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

Annual Report and Accounts of Kenya Industrial Research Development Institute (KIRDI) for the year ended 30th June, 1996, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

*(By the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and
Rural Development (Mr. Sumbeiywo) on behalf of
the Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry)*

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

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

Annual Report and Accounts of Local Authorities Provident Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1997, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Local Authorities Provident Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1998, and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.344

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO
MR. MACHARIA'S FAMILY

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

(a) whether he is aware that Mr. Anthony Kigundu Macharia was killed by an elephant in Mutunyi area of Timau Division, Meru Central District on 15th December, 1992 and the matter reported to the Kenya Wildlife Service Isiolo; and,

(b) when the Government will pay compensation to Mr. Macharia's family.

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

(a) Yes, I am aware that Mr. Anthony Kigundu Macharia met his death when he was attacked by a rogue elephant towards the end of 1996.

(b) Mr. Macharia's case has been adjudicated upon by the District Wildlife Compensation Committee. His claim is, therefore, among other Government pending bills on this matter and he will be paid once the Treasury approves and releases funds for this purpose.

Mr. Mwiraria: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am surprised by the answers given by the Assistant Minister. When is the Treasury likely to release those funds? Is it this year, next year or the year 2010? Could the Assistant Minister give a more definite reply than this one?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, cases of this nature have been piling up for the last two years. Part of the problem has been that the Kenya Wildlife Service has changed parent Ministries three times. Originally, it was under the Ministry of Tourism, it moved to the Ministry of Natural Resources and now it is under the Office of the President. This year we have made provisions of about Kshs8 million in the Budget for purposes of compensation. We are expecting that, by early next year, we will have disbursed all monies meant for compensation.

Mr. Mwenda: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this man was killed by an elephant eight years ago. This is an inordinate delay and it is completely inexcusable. This House passed a Motion calling for the increment of the amount to be paid to the relatives of people who die as a result of wildlife attacks. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House how much money will be paid to the family of the deceased as compensation?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while this House did pass a Motion on this particular item, the relevant Bill has not been brought to the House to enable the Kenya Wildlife Service to pay the amount recommended. The family of the deceased will be paid Kshs30,000 because that is what the law provides for.

Mr. Mboko: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard very clearly that the Kenya Wildlife Service has been under three parent Ministries. I am sure that by the time the deceased met his death, Kenya Wildlife Service was still under the Ministry of Tourism. Why has it taken such a long time for the family of the deceased to be compensated?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this case was actually reported to us in 1996 and not 1992 as stated. This case was forwarded to the Kenya Wildlife Service headquarters on 14th May, 1998. So, it has been pending for over a year. I have made a commitment to this House that we shall be able to dispose of this issue early next year.

Mr. Mwiraria: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has just told us that the Bill to implement the Motion passed by this Parliament is yet to be published. At the moment, the Government is only prepared to pay Kshs30,000 for somebody killed by an elephant. When does the Government propose to introduce a Bill to enhance compensation for lives lost through wildlife attacks?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Office of the President, have been working on this Bill. It is currently in the Attorney-General's Chambers. As soon as the Attorney-General is through with the Bill, it will be brought to this House. However, the Government can only pay Kshs30,000 because that is what the law provides for.

Question No.606

ARRANGEMENTS TO HONOUR FREEDOM
FIGHTERS/NATIONAL HEROES

Dr. Ochuodho asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

(a) what plans he has put in place to honour Kenya's freedom fighters and national heroes;

(b) whether he could consider excavating the remains of Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi from Kamiti

Prison for a befitting reburial; and,

(c) whether he plans to merge Moi and Kenyatta Days and rename it "Heroes Day"?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The Government has an established system of honouring Kenyans who have rendered outstanding or distinguished service to the nation. Some of the freedom fighters have already been honoured. However, the best honour we can give to the freedom fighters is to uphold the principles and ideals for which they fought and laid down their lives.

(b) Nobody has submitted an application, under Cap.242, to the Minister for Public Health, for the excavation of the remains of Field Marshall Dedan Kimathi.

(c) The Government has no plans to merge Moi and Kenyatta Days because each of these days has its own themes and purposes.

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate to hear the Minister say the best way to reward the freedom fighters is to stand for the ideals which they fought for. Dedan Kimathi and Bildad Kaggia never stood for land grabbing. Could the Minister tell this House how they determine who a national hero is?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Ochuodho and I, being of relative age, do know people who are national heroes on both sides of the House.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Minister tell us how many of the well-known national heroes have been honoured posthumously?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not anticipate that question and if the hon. Member wants to know how many heroes have been honoured posthumously, I will go and do research on that and bring the answer to the House.

Mr. Gitonga: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, I have asked the Minister to tell us how many of those national heroes have been honoured---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Mr. Gitonga! The Minister said he did not anticipate such a question. If you request to be supplied with the list, he will provide it.

Dr. Murungaru: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in part "b" of his answer, the Minister has stated that nobody has made an application to the Minister for Public Health to exhume the remains of Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi, from Kamiti Prison for reburial. If the Government truly recognises the contribution of the late Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi to the State, must the Minister wait for a private citizen to make that application? Can the Minister not take the initiative himself and direct that the remains be exhumed and reburied in a more befitting manner?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member being a lawmaker, recognises that there is a procedure to be followed. For the time being, the Public Health Act is the procedure.

Mr. Kiunjuri: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to mislead this House that the Government would take action to exhume the body of Dedan Kimathi while, constitutionally, *Mau Mau* is still outlawed?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Constitution of Kenya that we have now, was written by most of those people who fought for freedom and we call them our founding fathers. It would be totally out of order to mislead this House, that those same people could have outlawed the *Mau Mau* organization. The Government recognises the contribution of the *Mau Mau* towards the Independence of this country.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people who fought for Independence did very well for this country. Now, most of them are currently languishing in poverty. For example, Bildad Kaggia, Paul Ngei, Achieng'-Oneko and others. What is the Government doing to see to it that land and decent housing are given to them in recognition of their efforts, so that they live peacefully?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Mwakiringo is certainly not suggesting that Paul Ngei has no land.

I would like to remind him that Paul Ngei was a Member of this Parliament for a long time, has been a Cabinet Minister and has owned a lot of wealth. Mr. Bildad Kaggia was also a Member of this House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Sunkuli, he was giving that as an example. I think you have not answered his question.

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what was the question?

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Government consider allocating land to those people, putting up decent houses for them to ensure that they live a decent life?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure the hon. Member would like to bring such a Motion to this House, so that we can vote for that purpose.

Mr. Murathe: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to refuse to answer questions as they are put? Part "b" of the Question asks the Minister to consider excavating the remains of Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi from prison for a befitting burial.

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member should read tomorrow's HANSARD because I have already given the answer here.

Mr. Wamae: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister, in his earlier reply, to say that *Mau Mau* is not a prohibited organization in Kenya, when it is, in fact, prohibited in accordance with the law?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, to the best of my knowledge, *Mau Mau* does not exist as an organization now. It used to exist in the colonial days, fought for Independence and once we had got Independence, it had served its purpose.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in part "b" of the Minister's answer, he has stated that no citizen of Kenya has made an application to exhume the body of Dedan Kimathi. If Kenyans made an application to have all those who have been executed in Kamiti Prison, for example, Ochuka, Protus Oteyo, Isaac Nahashon Njenga and the rest, to be given a befitting burial, would that be accepted by the Kenya Government?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is an hypothetical question, because no such application has actually been made.

Mwenda: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister - who is a lawyer fortunately - to state that it is only upon application that the Minister can order the exhumation when Section 147, Cap.242, gives the power to the Minister to order exhumation on his own volition?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my interpretation of that Section is that, the Minister will order exhumation upon application.

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for this Minister to try, or even attempt to answer this Question when we know that the KANU Government is exceedingly hostile to the late Dedan Kimathi and the role *Mau Mau* played in the struggle for the Independence of this country?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): That is not a point of order, Mr. Gatabaki.

Mr. P.K. Mwangi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a Government which does not have any respect for the freedom fighters of this country. As the Minister answers this Question today, the wife of Bildad Kaggia is dead, while Kaggia himself is ailing at his home. What is the Government doing to assist that family? Or are you still grabbing?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members will remember that Dedan Kimathi did not die when Moi became President. The hon. Gatabaki should therefore, not make such a wild allegation. I think it is out of order for any Member to try and allege that anybody here is against freedom fighters. Many freedom fighters also came from the KANU side. In fact, it is KANU which fought for Independence.

Mr. Muiruri: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister not misleading the House by saying that if anybody made an application, the remains of Dedan Kimathi would be excavated from the grave? The information I have is that Dedan Kimathi was buried in a mass grave. Does he know the exact spot where Dedan Kimathi was buried?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Mr. Muiruri! If you stand on a point of order, please make it a point of order and if you want to ask a supplementary question, do exactly that.

Mr. Muiruri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was trying to catch your eye to ask my supplementary question, but you did not give me the chance. I had to find a way of doing it!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Mr. Muiruri!

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that, as this Question is being answered, Bildad Kaggia has just lost his wife who is yet to be buried. The President has found it befitting to send condolences to many other people, but not even to Bildad Kaggia's wife. The information I have is that, the family of Dedan Kimathi put an application long ago. Could the Minister assure me that if we got hold of Dedan Kimathi's family tomorrow and they make another application, he would be able to locate where Dedan Kimathi was buried and make his remains available for a decent State burial?

Mr. Sunkuli: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not in possession of the information that the family of the late Dedan Kimathi made an application. That notwithstanding, I must confirm to the House that once that application is received, the problem will actually be to locate the remains of Dedan Kimathi because it is not immediately obvious, the spot at which the late Dedan Kimathi was buried in Kamiti.

CONSTRUCTION OF WATER STORAGE FACILITIES

Dr. Murungaru asked the Minister for Water Development what plans he has to construct 90 days water storage facilities for use by rural communities during drought for both irrigation and domestic consumption.

The Minister for Water Development (Mr. Ng'eny): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

My Ministry has identified dam sites which can be developed into water storage facilities for use by rural communities. In 1999, my Ministry carried out a survey and prepared a nationwide inventory of the existing water storage facilities and noted their status, so as to determine the rehabilitation requirements.

It is a requirement for all water users, for irrigation, domestic and industrial use, to construct a 90-day storage facility. A 90-day water storage facility is to enable water users, especially irrigation farmers, to harvest enough water and store the flood flow during rainy seasons to be used during drought periods.

In view of the prevailing severe drought in the country, my Ministry is in the process of revising the Water Act, among other provisions, to emphasise the need to conserve water and even increase the storage capacity of 90 days to 120 days. This legal provision is to be applied to all water undertakers, including my Ministry

I wish to urge all water users in Kenya to provide storage in whatever capacity, even at household level.

Dr. Murungaru: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my Question, I had specifically drawn the attention of the Minister to the need for storage facilities for rural communities. The rural communities have already invested whatever they have been able to invest, in provision of water for themselves and they are basically financially incapable of financing construction of 90 days water storage facilities. The Government states that it is committed to poverty eradication and there is no better way of eradicating poverty in rural areas than through this venture. What financial arrangements has the Minister made to assist rural communities to construct the 90 days storage facilities?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Ministry has carried out an exhaustive survey of the dam sites, including the existing ones with a view to rehabilitating them. This means, subject to availability of funds, we know where, what size and when it will be done. During this year's Budget, every district has been allocated Kshs3.7 million for the purpose of rehabilitating those existing dams by providing them with fuel.

Mr. Mutahi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has talked of identification of dam sites. Could he tell this House which sites he has identified countrywide? For example in Kieni, could he tell us how many dam sites have been identified? Could he also tell us how much money he has kept aside to rehabilitate those dams?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is fairly difficult for me to know all the dam sites at the moment, but I can assure the hon. Member that in Nyeri District, we have identified a few dam sites. For example, we have dams like Kirimbuta- Endarasha, Twanga Hill, Kandune, Kithura, Kathiuri-Ragati, Karameno and many more others.

Col. Kiluta: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you heard the Minister say that he had set aside about Kshs3.7 million for each district. What is the use of that money? Since we know that the Ministry does not have the equipment to construct dams, how will the Ministry utilise that money without the equipment? Where will they get the equipment from?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry has got some equipment, but as you know, the Government has got a system of pulling resources. There are various equipment in various Ministries - like the Ministry of Local Government and even in the local authorities. So, if the communities in whatever area want their dams to be rehabilitated, they should apply to the Ministry and the money will be made available for purchase of fuel, and they may get the equipment from any Ministry.

Mr. Kiunjuri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been experiencing drought for the last three years, especially in Laikipia District. It is only dams that can save us now, since all water has been harnessed by horticultural farmers from all over the mountains. What is the use of providing Kshs3.7 million to rehabilitate dams which are never rehabilitated when the need arises? We require the dams to be rehabilitated right now, so that during this time of short rains, we can harvest water. Could the Minister tell this House when he will improve the existing dams, so that they can enable us to harvest water?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member; that Kshs3.7 million is grossly inadequate. But we all know that this year's Budget has got very many constraints, and when funds are made available, the Ministry will be ready to go ahead and implement those identified dam sites, so that even if the weather remains unfavourable for three years, we should be able to feed wananchi and livestock.

Dr. Murungaru: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are glad to hear that he has set aside Ksh3.7 million

for rehabilitation of dams in Nyeri District, and he has admitted that it is grossly inadequate. But in spite of that, could he direct that the money be released to the District Water Officers immediately, so that those dams can be rehabilitated before the onset of the next long rains?

Mr. Ng'eny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that as soon as funds are available, we should release the money immediately for construction of the dams.

Question No.477

MEASURES TO CURB WATER SHORTAGE
IN BUNGOMA MUNICIPALITY

Mr. Wamunyinyi asked the Minister for Water Development what plans the Government has to curb persistent water shortage within Bungoma Municipality.

The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Mr. Kofa): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

Currently, Bungoma Municipality gets water supply from Atasi Treatment Works. However, the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation (NWCPC) which is the water undertaker within the municipality, is rehabilitating four boreholes to supplement the existing water supply.

So far, three have been flushed and cleaned and are to be equipped with new pumping equipment. Drilling of one new borehole is currently going on, and production is expected to increase by 600 cubic metres per day when these works are complete. In the Financial Year 2001/2002, the Corporation intends to replace the raw water pumping equipment, together with a clear high lift pumping equipment and expand the treatment works by construction of an additional sedimentation and filter unit whose capacity is 300 cubic metres per day. My Ministry has already identified a suitable dam site upstream of the current intake on River Kuywa. Currently, technical proposals are being prepared, with a view to soliciting for funds for construction of those facilities which are expected to meet future demands for the town and its environs.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Mr. Gatabaki!

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it convenient or is it in order--

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Mr. Gatabaki! I called Mr. Wamunyinyi; I have recognised him!

Mr. Wamunyinyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have had water shortage problems in Bungoma for a long time. Everytime we have had water, it has been brown or dirty water. However, I am satisfied with the Assistant Minister's explanation, but I would only like him to confirm when the pumping equipment will be installed, so as to increase the capacity of water supply.

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for an Assistant Minister to answer Questions when the Minister in charge of implementing Government policy is there, sitting down?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Gatabaki, it is quite in order. Mr. Assistant Minister, could you now answer the question?

Mr. Kofa: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Corporation is soliciting for Kshs600 million in order to carry out the project between 2001 and 2004. That is the time when that project is expected to be implemented.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it looks like our urban centres in the entire country have no water. In Kisii, there is no water despite the fact that there are two rivers running through the town. Nyamira does not have water. Could the Assistant Minister give us a masterplan of providing water to all our urban centres in the country?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): M. Angwenyi, your supplementary question ought to relate to Bungoma Municipality.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bungoma is one of the towns lacking supply of enough water and Kisii District is bigger than Bungoma!

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is talking of the NWCPC drilling boreholes in the hospital. Why does he not consider - because the Corporation has not been effective at all - leaving the management of the boreholes to the Hospital Management Board?

Mr. Kofa: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the water works used to be run by the Municipality, but in 1989, they were handed back to the Corporation because of lack of payments. However, the Ministry will have no objection in handing over these water works to the Municipality provided the Municipality has the water and a sewage department which is autonomous. They should have the water and a sewage department which should be able to show

the tariffs, the competence of the staff and how they intend to expand in future.

Mr. Wamunyinyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Matisi Water Treatment Works has not been able to supply sufficient water. If there has been any, it has not been clean. While we await for the Government to provide sufficient water, what urgent steps is the Assistant Minister taking to ensure that whatever water that is supplied is clean?

Mr. Kofa: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, apart from the water works there were six boreholes; two of which are operational. The Corporation is currently rehabilitating the four boreholes.

Question No.568

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO
NGUNI/KASITENI LAND OWNERS

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

(a) whether he is aware that land owners of a portion of the Mwingi-Kalanga Corner Road namely; Nguni to Kasiteni in Ukasi Location of Mwingi District were not compensated for their land used during the construction of Mwingi-Kalanga Road (contract No.0138); and,

(b) when he plans to pay these people their dues.

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

(a) I am aware that some land owners along Mwingi-Kalanga Corner Road have not received their compensation.

(b) My Ministry has now received valuation records and is looking for ways of raising money for payment.

Mr. Musila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very disappointed with this answer especially when it comes from a very good friend of mine. This same Question was asked on 6th October, 1998, which is exactly two years and one week ago. With your permission, I will read the answer which states in part as follows:-

"The land owners will be compensated as soon as a revised list of those affected is compiled by local administration."

Two years ago, this list was submitted by the District Commissioner. Since the road was completed, and the contractor has already left, could the Assistant Minister give us a definite time when these poor wananchi will be compensated for their land that was taken by the Government for road construction?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not able to give the exact date, but it will be within this financial year because we have to find the money and get authority to spend it. At the moment, we do not have this particular item in our budget. We have to find a way of paying this money. We hope to pay before the end of this financial year.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister's answer is surprising. What is the Government's policy on this issue? Do you pay the land owners before construction of the road, or do you take the land before paying them?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the policy is to pay before and during the construction.

Mr. Musila: This is very unfortunate. The first Question was about compensation for a man killed in 1992 by an elephant. The Government has not paid compensation up to now. There is the question of pension from public officers which is lying in the Treasury unattended. Now we have another case of four wananchi whose land was taken eight years ago and they cannot be compensated because the Ministry keeps on postponing payment. I think this Question is not properly answered and I beg the Chair to defer it and ask the Assistant Minister to go and come back with a definite period when these people will be paid.

Eng. Rotich: I do not know whether it is proper to do that because we have the final list here and we are looking for money to pay. There is nothing else for me to look for except money.

Question No.496

INSTALLATION OF GUARD RAILS
ALONG MAKUPA CAUSEWAY

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

(a) whether he is aware that there are no guard rails along the Makupa Causeway in Mombasa; and,

(b) what action the Minister is taking to fit new guard rails to prevent frequent accidents on this spot.

The Assistant Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. Mokku): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that there are no guard rails along Makupa Causeway in Mombasa. However, I am aware that the guard rails installed along this causeway are inadequate.

(b) New guard rails will be installed during the term of the proposed contract for resealing of the section between Saba Saba to Miritini.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am surprised by the Assistant Minister's reply because you cannot say you are not aware and then admit later on that you are aware that they were not sufficient. When were these guard rails constructed and why was the work not completed because we have lost a lot of lives?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the first answer I said "no" because the guard rails are there. They are not adequate and that is why I said "no". Secondly, we are doing the work now because the previous one was not complete and they were inadequate.

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell this House whose responsibility it is to construct those important structures? Is it the DRC or the Ministry? We want to know this since the roads now fall under the DRCs. When will these guard rails be installed?

Mr. Mokku: It is under the Ministry and the work has already started. It started on the 23rd of this month and the contractors are on site now.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I know is that the work has not started.

However, could we be assured that the guard rails will be placed on our way to Mombasa and out of Mombasa because of the short distance between the road to Nairobi and the railway line on the other side?

Mr. Mokku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, his point is taken.

Question No.609

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO MR. KAMAU

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Muiruri, the Attorney-General has told me that you have agreed that your Question be deferred to Thursday, next week. Is that correct?

Mr. Muiruri: We have agreed on that, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(Question deferred)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

CLARIFICATION OF ISIOLO/MERU/
THARAKA/IGEMBE BOUNDARIES

(Mr. Maore) to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

(a) Why has the Minister delayed to clarify the boundaries of Isiolo and Meru North Districts and Tharaka and Igembe Districts?

(b) When will these boundaries be made public?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Maore not here? Let us move on to the next Question by Private Notice.

DESTRUCTION OF FREEMARK/GIKOMBA/
KAWANGWARE MARKETS

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

(a) Has the Government established the causes of the fires that have in the recent times destroyed small scale business establishments such as Freemark, Gikomba and Kawangware Markets in Nairobi and elsewhere in the country?

(b) What measures has the Government taken to ensure that such disasters are not repeated?

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

(a) The causes of the fires that destroyed business establishments at Freemark, Gikomba and Kawangware Markets in Nairobi are still being investigated by the Government.

- (b) The Government has impressed upon local authorities and particularly the Nairobi City Council to:-
- (i) licence for business purposes premises that are insurable, and;
 - (ii) build up the necessary capacity to contain disasters like these ones that took place.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is really incredible that a Government which boasts of the best Police Force, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS) North of the Limpopo and South of the Sahara, cannot find the suspects responsible for destruction of about Kshs4 billion worth of businesses. Could the Assistant Minister assure Kenyans that this is not the work of the same people who were responsible for tribal clashes for political purposes in Rift Valley and Coast Provinces? In this case, it is determined to destroy businessman from communities such as Kikuyu, Luhya, Luo and Kamba, for political purposes. Could he assure us that these are not the same people we know were responsible for tribal clashes?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of Kangemi and Gikomba fires, five people have already been arrested. These people have been charged in the Kibera Court with arson. The Ministry of Roads and Public Works, on the other hand, is working under Fire Enquiry File No.1 of the year 2000, to try and establish the causes of the fires. However, as for the allegations made by hon. Gatabaki, I am not aware that these fires could have been caused by people known to him as having started tribal clashes. In any case, I would like to request that, if there are people the hon. Member suspects, he can assist the police in that particular respect.

Mr. Ndilinge: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. If the Chair heard what the Questioner asked, and the reply which has been given by the Assistant Minister--- The Questioner wanted to know whether the people who set Gikomba and Kawangware Markets on fire are the same people who started tribal clashes. Here, the Assistant Minister is telling us that five people have already been arrested. Could the Assistant Minister give us the names of these people, so that we can compare with those of the Questioner and find out whether they are the same?

(Applause)

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have the names here, and in any case, I do not know whether we have a list of the people who caused the tribal clashes. In any case, the notorious *Mungiki* with the notoriety with which it is taking this City by storm, hon. Gatabaki should point fingers in that direction!

Mr. Michuki: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to say that there is no list of people known to have caused tribal clashes when we have the Kiliku Report, which was tabled in this House and the Akiwumi Commission Report which is in the offices of the Government, where specific people have been mentioned? Is he in order to do that?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of any specific persons that have been mentioned as having caused tribal clashes.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a matter that I think should be treated with a lot of seriousness; it is a matter that has a very negative impact on the image of this country; it is a matter that has resulted in a lot of loss of people's property. I do not think that I need any help from hon. Michuki to frame my question. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House, the country and the world, whether the motive, as far as his investigations go, behind these incidents is political or otherwise?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier on, these incidents are still under investigation and we shall make the findings public. Then, and only then, can we make a statement on these very unfortunate incidents that took place.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the Assistant Minister aware of the hostile activities by the Kenya Manufacturers Association and specifically, Asian manufacturers of textiles before the fires destroyed small businesses owned by Africans? If the answer is in the affirmative, what steps will he take to ensure that the small-scale African manufacturers are compensated for those losses? He should also tell us whether this Government is committed to ultimate emancipation, development and protection of small-scale African manufacturers whom he pretends to support? We would like to know whether you are indeed, supporting them, and if so, you can watch the fires destroying many businesses which belong to Africans.

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of any hostility between the African and the Asian businessmen before or after the fires broke out. My only hope is that the zeal with which I see hon. Gatabaki pressing this issue will be the same to protect young people like myself in Central Province who are now engulfed in the menace of *Mungiki*, which he dares not make a comment on.

Eng. Muriuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy 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 large herds of cattle have invaded parts of OI Kalou Constituency in recent weeks and that they are destroying crops in people's shambas?

(b) What is the Minister doing to ensure that these animals are removed from OI Kalou to avert disputes with the local farm owners?

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

We are facing very difficult times in our country as a result of the climatic conditions prevailing. A large part of our country has been engulfed in drought. I am aware that large herds of cattle have invaded parts of OI Kalou Constituency in recent times.

However, the Provincial Administration, in consultation with the local communities, have been trying to sort out this menace amicably. Some of these animals have destroyed people's property and crops. Unfortunately, that is the case, but we are trying to sort it out amicably.

Eng. Muriuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, now that the Assistant Minister has confirmed that crops were destroyed, what urgent action will he take to ensure that those people are compensated? The people of OI Kalou are taking the law into their own hands and demanding compensation on the spot. There is a serious danger of a crisis.

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member, that there has been compensation on a matter-to-matter basis. That has been going on. Compensation has been paid for crops destroyed. We are trying to encourage the herders to drive out their animals, to stop the problem from degenerating into an ugly incident.

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, crops have also been destroyed in Kasarani Constituency. Rather than the residents themselves negotiating for compensation, what is the contribution of the Government towards compensation to crop owners whose crops have been destroyed by the Maasai cattle that were brought into Nairobi, with full knowledge of the Kenya Government?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, members of the Provincial Administration have been actively participating in that exercise. That has been the contribution of the Government.

However, I do not know which part of hon. Muchiri's Constituency is affected. I know very well that Korogocho does not have any crops!

Mr. Mwenda: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do appreciate that there is a severe drought that has put the herders in a difficult position. But the interest must also be balanced with the crop farmers. Rather than the Assistant Minister saying that the Provincial Administration is trying to sort out the problem, what specific actions have been taken by the Government to ensure that, there are no clashes between the two communities?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do believe the fact that members of the Provincial Administration have been actively involved in trying to moderate issues that have come up between the farmers and the herders. I think that is a specific measure. I do not know whether the hon. Member has any specific suggestions to make.

Eng. Muriuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the leaders of the people who brought their cattle to OI Kalou said that the reason why there is no rain in Maasailand is because God got angry with them for killing the Kikuyus in Enoosupukia. I do not know whether that is true. But could the Assistant Minister advise the Maasai leaders to tell the Maasai people to repent? Otherwise, I understand there will be no rain there!

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that, if there are issues of repentance here, all areas that have not received rain should repent!

CLARIFICATION OF ISIOLO/MERU/
THARAKA/IGEMBE BOUNDARIES

(**Mr. Maore**) to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

(a) Why has the Minister delayed to clarify the boundaries of Isiolo and Meru North districts, and Tharaka and Igembe districts?

(b) When will those boundaries be made public?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Maore still not here?

(Question dropped)

POINT OF ORDERMINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON
HON. RUTO'S REMARKS

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order to seek a Ministerial Statement with regard to a statement made by one imbecile Minister called Mr. Isaac Ruto in Bomet, targeting the Kisii people---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Mr. Angwenyi! If you want me to allow you to continue, you must use the language that is parliamentary. "Imbecile" is not parliamentary!

Mr. Angwenyi: Okay! I seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister in charge of the Public Service, with regard to a statement by hon. Isaac Ruto in Bomet, targeting the Kisii people who work as public servants there. He said that they should either be sacked or transferred, simply because they are Kisii. I also would like to know from the Office of the President, whether the Kisii people, as a group, have been targeted by the Government to be eliminated from public service in this country.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Samoei, have you noted the Ministerial Statement that he has demanded?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Samoei): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the Chair heard the hon. Member very clearly referring to an hon. Member of this House, hon. Isaac Ruto, as an imbecile! I think it is incumbent upon us, and the dignity of this House, to ask him to withdraw and apologise to the House, before I make any reply!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! I made it clear to him that he had to withdraw that before I allowed him to seek the Ministerial Statement! Now, could you respond as to when the Ministerial Statement will be given?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Samoei): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think he withdrew! If he withdrew, he did not apologise to the House! We deserve an apology! I believe that is outrageous!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, hon. Samoei! I stopped the Member in his tracks when he used that word! He started afresh after he complied with my order. I allowed him to make his request. It is for you now to respond as to when the Ministerial Statement will be given! I ruled that the word imbecile is unparliamentary. You cannot revisit that issue!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Samoei): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I oblige, could I request the Chair to go through the HANSARD and, indeed, if the hon. Member did not apologise to the House, make him to do so?!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Absolutely!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Samoei): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will make a comprehensive Statement on Tuesday.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Very well! Next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy

(The Minister for Petroleum Energy on 24.10.2000)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 24.10.2000)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Proceed hon. Munyao, you were on the Floor last time.

Mr. Munyao: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Before the House rose yesterday, I was contributing on the Ministry of Energy. I explained that within the agreement that built the Masinga Dam, 2 per cent of the monies generated from that dam was to be used to develop the area. I had requested the Minister, when he

comes to reply, to tell the House what happened to those funds, and how much has been generated up to now. That money has not been used. It was supposed to dig boreholes, develop schools and health centres. This House must know what happened to the 2 per cent of the total money generated. The money was supposed to be utilised in Ukambani. Up to now, it amounts to billions of Kenya shillings.

I also said that hydro-power is like a savings account. When you deposit some money in a savings account, and then keep on withdrawing every month without adding some more money, the account will have no money at the end. Hydro-power is supposed to supplement the economy of the country. The Minister should use other methods of generating power, like wind mills. I am told that a single wind mill, which is very easy to operate, when put on top of Ngong Hills or other hills that we have around Kenya, could generate much more power than the generators that were imported! I do not want to go into the nitty-gritty and other details of how the generators came. The way the generators were allowed to come in duty-free and the speed at which they were made available, it looks as if somebody somewhere was monitoring how the Masinga Dam was drying up. The matter was so sudden. It was at the speed of thunder! It is questionable and leaves a lot of doubts. Somebody somewhere knew when the dams would dry up. They knew when the generators would be in the high seas, and where they would be stored, so that immediately the duty-waiver was granted, they were released into the market!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want the Minister to come up with new methods of generating power because it is very crucial for the development of this country.

Let me now turn to yet another very important point. I want the Minister for Energy to know that people of Makueni District and those of the entire Ukambani, belong to Kenya and they are taxpayers in this Government. In Ukambani, the areas which have power supply and, particularly in Makueni District, are very few. There are no power lines in Makueni District, yet it is a full district. It is just the other day when Wote, the Headquarters of Makueni District, was supplied with a single-phased power. I think now they have a three-phased one. But this should have been done a long time ago. It is a shame at this point in time to have an area like Mbooni Constituency, where there is not a single power post. I want the Minister to do something about electricity supply to that region.

The two Ministers in charge of this Ministry must harmonise their speeches. Yesterday, hon. F.P.L. Lotodo and hon. Masakhalia said different things. Of what they said, which one is important to create harmony in the Ministry of Energy?

With those remarks, I do not know to support or oppose the Vote.

Mr. Mbela: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote. First of all, I want to congratulate the Minister for the able manner in which he presented the Vote.

Although I would have wanted him to highlight a little more about the issues that are of concern to hon. Members, I would also want to congratulate him for bringing a competent team from the Ministry Headquarters. However, I have also noticed that the parastatal chiefs, particularly the ones who are the subject of criticism from this House, are completely absent.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, energy is very essential in any development. In fact, you cannot develop without energy. Recently, we discovered that, no industry can survive without power. In fact, Kenya was almost brought to its knees because of the power rationing. It is important that the officers, both in the Ministry of Energy and in the departments plan ahead. They should be able to know what problems are likely to face Kenya in 10 or even 20 years' time and make a provision for that. They should also be able to anticipate the problems that are likely to arise.

The problems that we had recently were because those in the energy sector did not plan ahead. Turbines which were designed some 30 years ago are still in use, although technology has changed a lot. There has been no attempt to make sure that we get turbines that can operate with much less water than when the weather conditions in this country were a lot better. We seem to be in hurry to fill the Indian Ocean. So, after the water has generated electricity once, we allow it to drain into the Indian Ocean, as if we have a contract to fill up the Ocean. It is important for us to plan better and avoid "putting all eggs in one basket."

We seem to have forgotten that we have rivers like the Nyando, Nzoia, Sondu Miriu and others in other parts of Kenya. In any case, who said that we must be at the mercy of bad weather conditions all the time? I would like to see plans made for the exploitation of electricity, even if it is to go beyond the 67 per cent that we are currently producing in our hydro-power stations. This is because that is the cheapest way of generating electricity, where we are not at the mercy of the international manufacturers who require us to spend foreign exchange to purchase our wares.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to see more resources going towards the development of geothermal power energy, because we seem to have a big potential of 2,000 MW in it. I realise it is more expensive, but I do not think we would have lost as many jobs as we did recently, when we did not have adequate water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like now to turn to the petroleum sector. The petroleum sector was liberalised about six years ago and at that particular time, we had eight multinational companies who were supposed to give one another stiff competition and agree on reasonable prices, bearing the consumer in mind.

Unfortunately, instead of the companies competing, they formed a cartel that fixes the prices up by one per cent. They are very quick to adjust the prices when they anticipate that market prices for oil will increase. Sometimes, even two months after the world oil prices went down, they would still be charging the old high prices. These companies are very slow in adjusting the prices when they are required to reduce and they are very quick in adjusting the prices when they are supposed to increase.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is an anticipated Petroleum Bill to be brought to this House. I think the multinational oil companies have been solely responsible for the need to introduce a post of a regulator, complete with his experts so that when the multinational companies want to increase the petrol pump prices, they have to justify it, and they do not adjust the pump prices until a formal approval is given. Unless we do that, this country will be completely ruined. To emphasize my point, I would like to say that I came across news that Mobil Oil Company doubled its profits last year. If they can double their profits in one year, are you telling me that they have got the interest of the consumers in mind? I think the situation is getting fairly dangerous.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while the Minister is seated have and respecting the wishes of the Americans, many other countries, including our neighbour, Tanzania, are rushing to Iraq to make deals about oil. I do not see the reason why we cannot rush and make those arrangements before the ban on the sale of fuel imposed on Iraq is lifted. They will receive us well and even give us discounts, particularly because it has been known that we are friends of Iraq for some time now.

Mr. Minister, if you are a bit shy to go on your own, my Committee on Energy, Communications and Public Works will escort you upto Baghdad, to go and be with you at the time to negotiate for oil to come to this country. I am also impressed by the fact that you are making efforts to get loading arms developed. This is because it is the only way the independent suppliers of fuel are able to get fuel at reasonable prices.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue that is of concern to this House is rural electrification. Yesterday, I heard phrases like "tool of patronage" being used in reference to rural electrification. Another phrase which was used was "politically-correct". These, I believe, were used to emphasise that development was going to places at the expense of where the priorities are. It is important that every corner of this country is covered by rural electrification.

My Committee on Energy, Communications and Public Works, has held sittings and the last one was a retreat at Safari Park Hotel, where it came up with a formula on how we can share the Rural Electrification Fund, so that every constituency can know how much money it can expect in any one year. We would like to be able to have a sitting with the Minister and I hope we shall be able to agree. However, failure to that, I am hopeful that we can bring a Private Member's Bill to enforce that. This is because, really, infrastructure is a human right and you cannot deny certain parts of this country certain rights to which they are entitled.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we did some research with my Committee and found that in the case of the Ministry of Roads and Public Works, in 15 years, 85 per cent of the money only went west of Nairobi, indicating that certain parts are completely excluded and ignored as if we do not know the boundaries of Kenya. I think it is very important that we become fair in sharing these services. In fact, we should be equitable in the distribution of these services.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally, my Committee has also discussed the issue of managing the energy services in a better way. We are convinced that there is a need to have a Kenya Energy Authority and streamline certain functions; that is, streamline the parastatals that come under it, because a lot of them are now headed by "institutions." I am talking about individuals who operate as institutions and they cannot be questioned. In fact, I am not surprised that they have even boycotted the sitting of Parliament which is discussing the distribution of energy, and those institutions must be retrenched. We must completely liberalise so that services to the consumers can be improved.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important that we have "home-grown" solutions. In the past, we have been able to make changes on the basis of pressure from the World Bank and IMF. However, I believe that if we have a chance of having a forum where we can brainstorm on issues to do with energy, we can come up with solutions for the benefit of this country.

I beg to support.

Eng. Muriuki: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would wish to, first all, compliment the Minister for his very well-organised presentation. However, that does not mean that I agree with everything he said. A lot has been said and I would wish to focus my short contribution only on rural electrification and, so, I believe that I will be brief.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Minister's contribution while moving the Vote, he said that energy is required to improve the economic welfare of the people. I would wish this House to consider which people the Minister has in mind because almost all the effort in the energy sector, at least, as far as the electricity is concerned, is only in urban areas. Again, when he was moving the Vote, he said that energy is necessary because the economy cannot function without an adequate and reliable source of energy. Again, if you look at the whole budget, the concentration is

on electrification which is basically in the urban areas. Very little is going into the rural areas. The Minister seconding the Vote again, told wananchi not to cut trees. I have no idea what that means. This is because if the common mwananchi has no electricity, oil to heat, gas to cook and even if there was gas, he cannot afford it, then he has no alternative but to cut trees. What we should be telling our wananchi and what the Ministry should be doing is to ensure that more trees are planted and they are well grown.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, looking at the development budget aspect, close to Kshs6 billion goes into the development of electricity power and only Kshs1.2 billion goes to rural electrification. If you look inside that section which is called rural electrification, there are some other small sub-headings, so that the actual amount which is left for rural electrification is only Kshs200 million. Out of a total budget of Kshs60 billion, only Kshs200 million goes into rural electrification!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I started by saying that I will focus on rural electrification. I would like to change that and say that I am focusing on the lack of rural electrification. Our population, if you look at the last two censuses of 1989 and 1999, the indication is that close to 80 per cent, if not more of the people, are living in the rural areas. However, if you look at the budgetary provision, if out of Kshs6 billion we are only affording Kshs200 million which is not even 5 per cent, then something is very wrong. I believe in due course, all budgets to do with infrastructure in this House should be structured, such that the distribution of resources is equitable throughout the country, starting off with the rural areas where most of the people live.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have made a good head start in the roads sector where we have implemented The Kenya Roads Board and due allocation of funds to various constituencies in the districts, which means that now the rural areas are going to benefit the way we would like to see. Before long, we would like to see the same thing happening in health, water and more seriously, in energy. As just mentioned by my Chairman in the Energy Committee, we have already sat down and made some proposals to the Ministry of Energy on how the funds for rural electrification should be equitably distributed to various parts of the country. If you go to the so-called developed countries, and this is where we are trying to head to, you will never see rich people anywhere. You do not see them. They are not noticeable. The reason is because there are no poor people either. This is where we are headed and this is what we should be doing. However, when you look at the ongoing power rationing, everybody in the urban areas is crying that there is power rationing, but that problem is directly transmitted to the people in the rural areas. This is because we now have to buy generators and alternators which require foreign currency, and there is no foreign currency which is being generated in the urban areas. It is all coming from the rural areas and it is only fair that the rural people get their fair share.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker Sir, my proposal is that in due course, we should have a systematic approach to power provision in the rural areas. This should be done to make sure that, first of all, all the district and divisional headquarters have got power, so that we do not have a situation where some have it while others do not. Also, when it comes to the hospitals and health centres in the rural areas, the Ministry of Energy should take it upon itself as its duty to ensure that there is power in hospitals and even when there is no power from the main grid, it should take it upon itself as its duty to buy generators for those hospitals and not ask politicians and other leaders to carry out Harambees for their job.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker Sir, also as a matter of policy, the Ministry of Energy should ensure that boarding schools have got power and where they lack power, it should take it as its duty, so that the KPLC as a matter of principle, provides generators to those high schools which do not have power from the grid.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one hon. Minister said that they are lucky that they have had uninterrupted power supply for the last two weeks in Kyuna Estate in Nairobi and in other urban areas. On the other hand, people in the rural areas have had uninterrupted power supply, not for two weeks, but since Independence. In fact, in the rural areas, there is no power, therefore, you cannot interrupt it. Can efforts be made to ensure that there is power supply in the rural areas? In order to achieve this, it will help greatly if the Ministry of Energy can focus on other types of sources of energy and not just the hydro- power. I have in mind, for example, a country like Netherlands in Europe which has about 15 million people or half the population of Kenya. Their total power capacity is nearly 40 megawatts and about a fifth of that is wind generated. That means a smaller country than Kenya is generating four or five times energy from wind. This is five times what our country is using in total. The Kshs28 million put aside in the budget for research into wind power is far too little, considering that all parts of the country have wind that can generate power for smaller towns and locations. I propose that more provision should be made and not just Kshs28 million.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would wish to revisit the issue of District Focus for Rural Development. Many years ago, somebody came up with this idea. I think it was very noble although it may have been misused in this or that way. But now that you can no longer focus on the districts because borders are changing every time, it is my proposal that we now focus on constituencies. If you focus on the constituency, you have no problem because we have

hon. Members to ask questions and to make a follow-up in order for projects to be implemented. I have in mind, for example, the lack of policy. There is no policy at the moment. When you are in the rural areas you do not even know who to see in order to get power supply for your school or village. It is like the policy is not existing. If we focus on the constituency rather than on the district, I have no doubt that the Ministry and the KPLC will be able to guide this nation to get power in every sector and in an equitable manner. It is my wish that the Ministry will set aside some funds for each constituency. We may be discussing how much it is. We have made our proposals in the Energy, Communications and Public Works Committee, that it is only fair that every constituency is allowed a certain amount of money for rural electrification. This is because the hon. Member will be able to sit with his constituents and other leaders in that to decide which line to do in a given year. I have a case in my constituency of a school called Kangoi Secondary School. I have asked the question as to when KPLC will instal electricity in that school every year since I came to this Parliament. However, every time I am told they will do so when funds will be made available. A few weeks ago, a power supply line passed about five kilometres from that school, and ended up in somebody's house. This is because there is no policy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would wish to support this Vote on condition they take power supply to Kangoi Secondary School in Ol Kalou Constituency.

Mr. Musila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this important Vote. From the onset, I would like to state that I support the Vote. I wish also to congratulate the Minister for Energy for the manner in which he presented the budget for his Ministry.

Having said that, I would like to make three points. The first point has been laboured on by most hon. Members who have contributed since yesterday concerning the Rural Electrification Programme. This programme has been channelled to areas in the most discriminative manner. It is obvious that from what we know, this programme goes to certain areas which are favoured for reasons we do not understand. As far as I know, the current Government policy is to try to distribute the resources available to this country equitably, particularly by giving preference to those areas which were neglected in the past. Recently, I was able to put my hand on a document on the Spanish Rural Electrification Project. That document contains 32 projects to be funded under the Spanish Electrification Scheme. Out of those 32 projects, ten projects are concentrated in one province. It leaves the rest of 20 projects to be shared among other provinces. If you look at that province, it is where the rural electrification was concentrated in the past. In my view, it means that the Ministry of Energy appears not to be in control over where rural electrification projects should be located. This is because we have tried to go through the Ministry to get certain work done and they tell us they have forwarded projects to KPLC. I think the Minister for Energy must be told in no uncertain terms that he must take charge of Rural Electrification Programme in this country. This is because he seems to have given it to KPLC. That is why you will see--

Mr. Khamasi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I hate to interrupt my good friend, hon. Musila, but he has made a very serious allegation that out of 32 projects, ten are concentrated in one province. Would I be in order to ask him to substantiate that allegation?

Mr. Musila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, It is my pleasure to substantiate. I will do so by laying a document here entitled Spanish Schemes Progress Report. It is my pleasure to lay it on the Table for the hon. Member to peruse.

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

Hon. Member: Which is the province?

Mr. Musila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first ten projects are concentrated in Central Province. I hope the hon. Member is satisfied.

What I am emphasising here is fairness and not that I am against any province. If we had 32 projects to be funded under that scheme, why should they not be distributed equally throughout the country? We have certain projects which are in the books of KPLC. The Ministry of Energy has forwarded projects to KPLC and they have been put in the work programme, but things have remained undone for years. For example, in my constituency, Thitani, Kyome and Tseikuru rural electrification projects have remained in KPLC books for many years, but nothing has been done. This House must put the Minister on notice that while we approve the budget this year, next year, we may not do so unless the rural electrification programmes are fairly distributed throughout the country.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second point concerns the exploration of coal. When the Minister

was moving this Vote, he did give some very pleasant news that there was evidence of large coal deposits in Mui Location of Mwingi District. That area is in my constituency and I was very happy to hear that news, because Kenya stands to gain immensely if coal is finally exploited in Mui area. At the moment, Kenya is spending large sums of foreign exchange importing coal, particularly the cement-producing factories are spending a lot of money to import coal. If this coal was mined, Kenya would be saving a lot of money. Secondly, we could also use that coal to produce electricity which is so rare in this country. We would be producing it very cheaply. In addition to that, if coal was discovered and exploited, it would open up that particular area to the development of other industries. I think this is a welcome move.

But more importantly, if coal were to be exploited, it would go a long way in providing employment and reducing poverty which is so prevalent in the area. Let the statement by the Minister that coal is available in that area not just be a public relations exercise as we have noticed in the past, where a Ministry says this thing is going to be done today and ten years along the line; nothing happens. If the Minister is serious with the statement he made to this House that there is coal in Mui area, why is it that the Ministry has sent there very junior geologists who are just wandering around in the pretext of looking for coal? Why can the Ministry of Energy not invite internationally known companies that have experience in coal exploitation that can go immediately into business of conducting surveys and even mining coal because we are in dire need of that commodity? Time is of essence here, we must move very fast and ensure that we exploit that commodity. We need coal for industrial development and power generation. Therefore, we should not wait; we should move. The best way forward is not to send young geologists to go and wander around saying that they are looking for coal. The way forward is for the Minister to invite, possibly by international tender, companies from all over the world who have experience in coal exploration so that we can have this done immediately and alleviate poverty which in any case is the policy of the Kenya Government.

Finally, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to touch on the prices of fuel. The Chairman of the Energy Committee and many other speakers have talked about the prices of fuel. He did issue a statement last week where he warned that the economy of this country stands to be ruined completely by oil companies. What we have seen in the last few months is that, we have a cartel of oil companies. That is why they are minting money in this country and they never make losses. Whenever prices of oil go up, even before they have purchased that crude oil, pump prices here go up the same night. But by the same token, if the prices go down as they did last year; we never see pump prices going down.

Unless the Government moves fast, and perhaps this House, to publish and pass a Bill to introduce price controls for the oil industry, the economy of this country will be ruined. Therefore, I call on my colleague to move a Motion to control oil prices.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Khamasi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to contribute on this Vote. First, I would like to touch on the Speech of the Minister for Finance during the Budget day. The common factor there was "Recovery of the Economy". The energy sector is very important. I doubt whether the economy will recover if this sector does not pick up. Of late, we have been reading about how the industrial sector in this country is in trouble. Some companies are now relocating to neighbouring states within the region because of the failure of this particular sector to perform.

I would like to go on record and talk about the Rural Electrification Programme as my other colleagues have done. The Minister should take very seriously the threat which has just been given by previous colleagues on this issue. Probably this year, we will pass this Vote but next year, the Minister should be on guard. We may not pass it because the manner in which the Rural Electrification Programme is being handled leaves a lot to be desired. All people from all parts of this country pay taxes and they are entitled to a portion of the distribution of power in this country. In my own constituency of Shinyalu, I stand here to say that we have benefited very little, if any, because the last time heard about electricity might have been about ten years ago or so. Since that time, nothing has come in terms of development of rural electrification. We do not know what criteria is being used. We have been left at the mercy of the KPLC. I think it is high time that the Minister came clean on this one, particularly when we hear allegations that certain parts of this country are gaining more than others.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Parliamentary Committee overlooking this Ministry has done a pretty good job on rural electrification. I am happy to hear that they have given some suggestions to this Ministry on how they can equitably distribute rural electrification. We would like to see this in action. It is of no use having allocations in the Printed Estimates and, at the end of the year, you do not see anything tangible on the ground. We would like the allocations which have been put in the Printed Estimates given to the named projects. Once the funds are available, Ministry officials should make sure that those programmes are completed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like also to address the question of other sources of energy, which I think this Ministry is not addressing very seriously. For example, there is the issue of wind energy. I

think we have a very big potential which is not being exploited and I would like to request this Ministry to consider that very seriously, including solar power. We want to see much improvement in that area.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take some little time to talk about the levies that are charged on the consumers of electricity. This is one area where we are not sure how these funds are utilised. This House has not been told how much is ever raised. I am aware that Questions have been brought here, seeking clarification from the Ministry on the amount of money that is raised, but we have never been given proper answers. We have also sought to know how the money raised through that Fund is utilised. We require answers to all these questions. If true answers finally come, which is very unlikely, you will realise that the Fund's money is used in same places year in, year out.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention something about the oil industry. We are sitting on a time bomb. I am aware of the commentary that was broadcast by the national television about Members of Parliament complaining about the increase in price of fuel by oil companies. Whether we like it or not, this country will reach a situation where it might be impossible for motorists to buy fuel. Also, the ordinary man who uses kerosene might not be able to buy the commodity for domestic use. We cannot sit here and look on helplessly as the multinational oil companies, whose owners are foreigners, form cartels and fleece the ordinary man. The Government cannot look helpless as those companies fleece Kenyans with impunity. We would like the Ministry in charge of the energy sector to realise that sooner than later, the ordinary Kenyan will rise and say: "No, we can no longer afford this". This is our country; we must have a Government that looks after the interests of its people.

Unless something substantial is done about the rising oil prices, we will, sooner than latter, witness incidents similar to those which occurred in Europe. Banks have also formed cartels, and are fleecing people of money through very high interest rates. If you look at the oil industry, you will realise that the developments in that industry are very comparable to those in the banking industry. So, it is high time that the Government rose to the occasion and ensured that the interests of the ordinary Kenyan are looked after.

I would also like to, very briefly, comment on the issue of available resources that have not been harnessed by the energy sector players. Sugar companies countrywide produce a lot of sugar biogas, which goes to waste. If sugar biogas were used properly, some extra energy can be produced, which can then be fed into the national grid and be sold to the consumer cheaply. When we visited Mumias Sugar Company as the Departmental Committee on Agriculture last time, we were given statistics which indicated that Mumias Sugar Factory alone had the potential to supply a substantial amount of electricity to the neighbourhood. The sugar company management told us that they had talked to the power generation company about the possibility of tapping that potential, but nothing was done about it. We were given similar statistics at Chemelil and Muhoroni Sugar Companies.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speakers, Sir, some of my colleagues have addressed the issue of concentration of hydro-electricity generation dams in one area. I would like to also add that in western Kenya, we have rivers which never dry up. I think it is high time that the Ministry in charge of the power sector looked at those rivers. We are talking about River Nzoia, a very big river which is causing havoc in Budalangi. We could harness the water of that river for the generation of electricity. We are talking about Yala River, which pours its water into Lake Victoria through a very big swamp. The large amount of water of that river just goes to waste. If the Ministry still wishes to generate hydro-electricity, it should harness the waters of those rivers for profitable use.

With those few remarks, I support.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Affey): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for finally giving me the opportunity to support this very import debate.

We know that energy is a vital component of development. I would, therefore, like to encourage the Minister to request for more allocations in future. Given the current demand for energy and the erratic nature of this country's climatic conditions, I tend to think that the Ministry's request for funds presented to this House may not be sufficient to meet its obligations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has underscored the fact that we rely very much on water for the generation of electricity. Everybody in this country knows that over the last few years, we have gone through difficult times. It would not be fair for anybody to blame the Government for the current power crisis. It is not also fair for us to blame our managers in the power sector, because they have done their best. There were times when this country had sufficient rainfall as well as raw materials. The only sector that has over the years recorded considerable profits is the energy sector. So, it would not be fair for us to forget that fact too soon. Just last year, the power sector declared dividends to the Government because it made profits then. I can, therefore, say that since the energy sector has been making profits in the recent past, its management must have been efficient.

We know why that sector made losses this year. It is because the country has undergone considerable water supply strain. Our water dams have been empty, and we have not been generating power. Probably, we have taken rainfall for granted; that is why the President asked the church and mosque leaders countrywide to pray for rain not only for the power sector, but also for agricultural purposes. As I said before, it is wrong for us to personalise debate in this

House and blame individuals for the woes being experienced in this country. Some hon. Members have the tendency of forgetting the good times this country has enjoyed and only concentrating on its difficult times as they point fingers at individuals. I would like to appeal to my colleagues to always speak the truth, as leaders. In the absence of the truth, we will continue to have problems, whether those problems result from lack of food or water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having made my appeal to the Minister, I would now like to point out a few weaknesses on the part of this country's power managers. We are aware that the water used for electricity generation is stored in dams, and that there is a tendency not to desilt those dams or construct new ones, so that enough water can be harvested when the country receives adequate rainfall. At no time have we experienced a shortfall in power supply like the one we are now experiencing. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Minister and his team to think in terms of creating many more dams, so that the storage capacity is retained.

Hon. Members have also complained about the KPLC especially in regard to the Rural Electrification Programme (REP). I would not personally blame KPLC because I know that the entire Ministry is in charge, as the implementing arm of the Government, in the distribution of that national important facility. We know that KPLC has performed very well, and that the management is fine and sound, but I want to appeal to the Minister that in future, when his officers will sit down to distribute that very important facility, they should take into account Habaswein Sub-district. It is a sub-district which does not have power supply. Because of the nature of the place - it is a rural area - we want to benefit from the REP. I would like to appeal to the Minister - when he is considering to allocate funds from REP - to make sure that, at least, the residents of Habaswein Township receive that very vital power because, as you know, that would enable us to start light industries. The economy of the people in that area, and, generally, in the North Eastern Province (NEP), relies on livestock, but we also have the ability to get involved in light activities, if we are supplied with power.

Regarding alternative sources of energy, which the Minister has given considerable attention, we know that in the NEP we have very little water, but we have plenty of sunshine which we can use and it does not cost much. If we could only harness that very important national resource in terms of establishment of proper facilities that rely on the solar energy, we can provide power to our hospitals, schools, mosques and essential facilities that are common. I would like to request the Minister - because I did not see in his statement the effect of that in the NEP and we have solar energy which is in abundance - to consider harnessing that energy for the use of the local population.

The Minister also spoke about petroleum exploration, and that is a very important aspect because we believe that, at least, some regions in this country, especially the NEP, have oil. The people of NEP strongly believe that there is enormous deposit of oil and other very vital energy sources. I did look at the statement and I realised that it is true the Minister has engaged some British companies in oil exploration, and they are concentrated in Lamu and Kwale districts of the Coast Province. At least, we believe so much that we have enormous deposits of oil which, if given the necessary attention by the Ministry, I am sure, can change the economy of the NEP, and by extension, change the income of this country at large. Therefore, I want to ask the Minister to urgently establish certain permanent institutions, especially research institutions, in the NEP in order to identify areas where oil deposits can be found for the benefit of the country and the residents.

Finally, I want to speak about the wood fuel, which is also very important. I want to register my disappointment with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). We have over 200,000 refugees in the NEP, and they rely directly on wood fuel for domestic consumption. You can imagine the effect that has on the environment and to date, the Ministry has not found it fit to send a team to NEP, especially to Garissa and Wajir districts, in order to establish the impact the refugees have had on the environment.

The UNHCR is in a position to develop other cheaper methods of supplying fuel to the residents and the refugees in the camps. Why they find it cheap to destroy the environment and, yet, nothing is being done to preserve it, I cannot tell. This is because they have said that they have got an afforestation programme, but it is not there. I want to request the Minister, through his officers, to prevail upon the UNHCR to find an alternative method of getting fuel to the refugee camps because I am sure in the next few years, we will have a complete desert - we already have a desert. At least now, we have little vegetation which we can feel proud of. But I know that the rate at which the wood consumption is going on, all vegetation will be destroyed, and I am sure that we are waiting for a disaster to happen. Before that happens, I would like to appeal to the Minister to request the necessary agents on the ground to establish alternative sources of energy so that the refugees can continue to get fuel, but not at the expense of our own environment and people.

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

Mr. Kariuki: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to make a few comments on the Vote of the Ministry of Energy. This is a Ministry which is charged with a very enormous responsibility of ensuring that the nation is supplied with energy. It has tried to do a good job, but I think that there are a number of problems that they have not addressed effectively. One of them is that they are very poor planners, in the

sense that the shortage of power that we are experiencing now should not be there, if only there was good planning. There were certain measures in the pipeline that should have been implemented, for instance, by the Kenya Generating Company (KenGen). I understand that the dam at Masinga required to have been uplifted by about two metres. I think there were delays in implementing that project. That could account for the current shortage that we experience in the power sector.

In my constituency, we are very disappointed. For instance, we have three power generating stations - Wanjii Masco and Tana, and the local people have nothing good to say about the Ministry in the sense that they see power lines passing over the area and they are not supplied with electricity. I think that is very bad and callous of KenGen. That is the same with Masinga, Turkwel Gorge and other projects. You will find that the local people keep complaining about power because they are not even supplied with 1 per cent of the energy that is generated from those areas. The next thing that they will do is cut those power lines, if only we can, so that we can inconvenience the nation and the local people can be considered first before power is supplied to other areas. I think that is a very important issue to be considered. If anything, the Ministry should consider charging KenGen and the KPLC about 2 per cent, to be ploughed back to the local people from which area power has been generated from.

That should be a major consideration. It is only good to be fair to areas which are producing energy, and not to those areas which just look and see power being supplied elsewhere. Otherwise, we will not co-operate, and the Ministry will not be happy with the local people. Otherwise, we will also chase away all these people who are working there. What business do they have to generate power and go selling it for colossal sums of money and the local people are not enjoying any of it? It is very important for policy-makers to consider this aspect. I will bring a Motion to this House not only for areas that are supplying power, but also any other area where natural resources are being exploited, so that local people end up enjoying part of the benefit that is accruing from those exploiters of natural resources.

We should be addressing the KenGen and KPLC to ensure that a portion of the income they generate is paid back to the local people through royalties. That money should be given to the local authorities in which those installations are based. The local authorities should also be forced to ensure that money is not utilised as their revenue, but they should instead help the local people where those installations are based. Otherwise, the local people will become very unco-operative and we can mobilise them and tell them that the KPLC has no business being in Kiharu if they will not listen to us. We will do that if they do not take action because time is running out and we are very bitter about it. This has been talked about repeatedly in this House, but no action has been taken. I am unhappy to see that only one Minister for Energy is here. The other one is not here. I hope the officers who are here will pass the message to him. This goes to OIKaria and other areas where there are similar installations.

I would also like to talk about the aspect of who enjoys the benefits accruing from this installation. The KPLC is Government-owned, but there are still a lot of foreign shareholders. I know it is listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange. The local people should also be given a bigger stake in the running of that company. KenGen should also sell shares to the public so that the public can also feel part and parcel of those institutions. There is no point of the Government doing business. It can only initiate new projects, but thereafter pull out. The same applies to the Kenya Pipeline Corporation or any other organisation that is related to the Ministry. Privatisation is the in-thing here and elsewhere. The Government has no business refusing to privatise or taking too long to do so. Time is running out. I am happy that the World Bank is putting pressure on us to ensure that there is privatisation.

There is also a problem with the licensing of IPPs. These licences are being given very discreetly and for non-transparent reasons. This is why some of the problems we have arise because it is a question of, first of all, choosing who will get those licences before they are given out. If you are going to Nakuru you ask yourself: "Where is so-and-so? Is he here?" There is a lot of canvassing taking place. Why do we not open these things up to the nation for anybody with money to subscribe other than, first of all, placing who is who and politically-well-connected people? This is why we have shortages and we are aware of it.

The other aspect is that Kenya Pipeline Corporation is doing a very good job. It is one of the best run parastatals. We are happy about it. I think it is high time they also considered having a small pipeline passing through Murang'a, Nyeri, Nanyuki and Meru areas. Western Province has been adequately catered for. These other areas ought to be catered for as well because we are also major contributors of National Oil Corporation.

The aspect of alternative sources of energy is also something that should be considered. We always talk about mega projects, but mini projects are also applicable. There are so many rivers in this country that are not properly harnessed. There are so many rivers in my constituency and elsewhere which are not being utilised. We normally talk about the mega projects. Why the mega projects and yet we know that small electricity plants can be installed all over the country? In fact, rural electrification is more expensive than the mini hydro-electric plant. Therefore, that alternative ought to be exploited because by so doing we will have extra supply of electricity that could be exported and sold elsewhere. We are over-relying on hydro-electricity whereas we have a lot of wind and the sun is there for solar energy, biogas and all those. These alternatives are not being properly exploited.

It is high time the Ministry started initiating these alternative sources of energy so that we can supply this nation with more energy other than just relying on hydro-electricity. It is possible to feed ourselves with enough energy other than relying on Uganda or other sources. It would be important for the Ministry to address the issue of these other alternative sources of energy.

On the issue of fuel prices, although liberalisation was brought by the World Bank and the IMF, we should look at it with a "microscopic eye." Some of these policies are foreign and bad for us. Liberalisation has brought problems in this country. Industries are closing down and our people are unemployed just because of the package brought by the World Bank. We should sometimes refuse to honour some of these policies which are not good enough. However, liberalisation as far as the fuel sector is concerned, has helped the local people a bit because the Shells of the world, Caltex, Esso and others had been exploiting the consumer. We have seen a major reduction in oil prices. However, there is a major disparity in pricing which worries us a great deal. If a litre of super petrol is costing Kshs53 in the mainframe petrol company, you will find that in the small new companies you can buy the same at Kshs7 lower. It, therefore, implies that the major multinationals are making a "kill" in this country. It is high time the Ministry considered the possibility of price control. If there is misuse by the big players, why should the Government just sit and watch while we are being exploited? It is high time the Ministry controlled these prices because the multinationals are not behaving well enough. They are just making a "kill" with very huge prices which local people cannot afford. It is totally irresponsible for the Government to just wait to see the local people being exploited by those multinationals. If you do not want them to be exploited, then they should sell some of their shares to the local people so that we can also share in the profits they are making, rather than these profits being repatriated to Europe and elsewhere.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important for the Ministry to have certain parameters. We know how much a barrel of oil is costing in the Middle East. There should be a maximum margin within which those companies should operate. Otherwise, they are passing on inefficiencies to the consumers and it is not good enough for a responsible Government to just wait and watch as local people are being exploited without control. The mushrooming new petrol stations have a very big problem that should be addressed. There should be proper guidelines as to how these petrol stations should operate, where they are located, safety devices and the minimum structures possible. Some of them are certainly going to pose a major health hazard to the local people.

I beg to support.

The Minister for Medical Services (Dr. Anangwe): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to make my contribution.

Let me begin by saying that I support this Vote and the requests being made by the Ministry of Energy in terms of resources required during this current financial year should be duly given by this House.

May I also add my voice to the sentiments that have been raised by my colleagues in this House on the various aspects of energy in this country. However, I do note that the emphasis has been on conventional energy, that is petroleum and electricity. The facts are very clear that 70 per cent, of the energy used in this country is wood fuel. Oil constitutes about 22 per cent while electricity is only 8 per cent. We are talking as if the wood fuel sub-sector is without problems. May I state here categorically and with authority that there is wood fuel crisis in this country because demand far exceeds supply. I know the Minister did mention some figures here, but I have also my own sources of data. I have the privilege of having engaged in the study of this particular area. I can readily say that this country has not woken up to the reality of wood fuel crisis. The demand for wood fuel in this country has been at the rate of about 6.3 per cent per year. In terms of consumption, it is being estimated that in 2002 Kenyans will consume about 47.1 million tonnes of wood fuel against the supply of 16.5 million tonnes. That gives a deficit of 30.6 million tonnes. It is not very easy for this House to appreciate this, because when it comes to problems of wood fuel, I know that the people who bear the brunt of this scarcity and shortage are the women, and in this House, the majority are the men. So, men tend to look at issues from their point of view. They talk about petrol because they will spend more money on their cars from their pockets. The talk about electricity because most of us are really urban elites and we have access to it, and yet, in the rural areas, the bulk of the population cannot access either electricity or oil in one form or another.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you move in the rural areas, it is typical for you to see women trekking long distances, for example, over 2 kilometres with a bundle of firewood. Just travel towards Nakuru and you will see Kikuyu women with firewood on their backs. Go to a village far away from here, for example, Butere, and you will find that, that is what pre-occupies women. May I say that if you put monetary value to the time wasted by women looking for firewood in this country, then you will appreciate that, indeed, we have a wood fuel crisis in this country. The main cause of wood fuel crisis is, of course, linked to the other forms of energy, for example, oil and electricity. Because people cannot afford electricity, they have to resort to wood fuel; because they cannot afford kerosene, they have to resort to wood fuel. This is one particular case where the linkages between the sub-sectors of oil, electricity and wood fuel impact on one another fundamentally. Indeed, the measures taken in order to redress shortages and scarcity in one of these forms of energy, for example, oil or electricity will have far reaching and positive implications on wood fuel.

Therefore, it is imperative that as we look at the measures to redress energy shortage in this country, we should have an integrated mind, so much so that when we enact solutions for one sub-sector, such as oil, we have also to take into cognisance that there are implications for other sub-sectors, for example, wood fuel.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the consequences of wood fuel crisis in this country are, indeed, far reaching. The first one is, of course, deforestation and soil erosion. Much of what used to be forest land is being depleted and I know that this is the concern for the Ministry of Environment. But by placing this particular issue on the aspect of energy on the environment, it misses the focus. This is because the Ministry of Environment is principally concerned about conservation and ensuring that catchment areas are protected. But here, the issue is about wood as a source of energy, which has also to be addressed in a focused manner by the Ministry of Energy, so that the adverse implications of this crisis do not exacerbate the environment.

Of course, another consequence of lack of wood fuel is the increasing dependence on commercialised energy, such as kerosene. But you know that we tend to import kerosene and so it can also lead to other complications.

May I congratulate the Ministry, so far for what it has attempted to do in terms of coming up with strategies to address this particular aspect - the wood fuel crisis. The Ministry has attempted to promote agro-forestry and mooting ideas of peri-urban plantation near urban areas. It has also been mooting ideas of industrial wood fuel plantations. But I regret to say that whereas some of these ideas are very beautiful, in terms of the actual implementation and actualization on the ground, they have left so much room for haphazard response to this crisis. The main missing link on the management of wood fuel sub-sector is lack of policy instruments. There are no specific instruments that would motivate Kenyans to invest in agro-forestry, peri-urban plantations, industrial wood fuel plants and even rural afforestation. It is high time that this particular Ministry came up with specific policy instruments in terms of incentives, credit schemes and even punitive measures to ensure that some of these strategies see the light of the day. But leaving them haphazardly to extension staff, such as forest officers, you know what we end up getting - non-implementation. Indeed, this particular Ministry, with respect to wood fuel, the performance on the implementation on this particular aspect is very poor. If I was to rate the Ministry of Energy in respect of implementation of some of the strategies on wood fuel, I would give it a very dismal performance.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what we require is a specific wood fuel policy with specific objectives, institutional arrangements and resources to realise some of the objectives and goals that they have put in place, so that these beautiful ideas do not just remain in development plans, but at the end of the day nothing really happens. We would also like to enhance involvement, of course, of the NGOs and groups like the women and youth groups. With incentives, these groups can engage themselves in establishing seedbeds and deliberately growing trees near homesteads and near the riverbeds, so that they can avail wood fuel to communities. Men never feel the pinch in the rural areas, largely because it is the women who have to cover long distances looking for wood fuel. All a man does in the evening is to expect a meal. He does not know the hassles the woman had to go through. If this particular woman had the opportunity to say how she feels walking long distances looking for wood fuel, men would really have the second chance in demanding food without having to go out and also participate in planting trees to help them.

With respect to electricity, I appreciate that this particular aspect needs to be improved. I know that in terms of the number of Kenyans who are connected to electricity, the figures are dismal because the figures are less than 10 per cent. It is estimated to be about between 8 and 9 per cent. So, many Kenyans do not have access to electricity, but it is imperative that they do. With respect to Butere Constituency, we have requested to be considered in the Rural Electrification Project. I have had the opportunity to talk to the Minister for Petroleum Energy and I hope that in this financial year, some of these projects will be implemented so that Butere people can benefit and schools, health centres and hospitals in the area can also have access to electricity.

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

Mr. Maitha: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me, at least, five minutes to contribute.

First of all, let me thank the Ministry for doing a good job, especially in Kisauni which has big tourist hotels. They have done a good job and high power generation is being co-ordinated in the area and complaints by hoteliers have now gone down. A lot of development has been done on power in that area, as the biggest consumer of power. That is where Bamburi Portland Cement and other important institutions which require a lot of power are located.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the Kenya Oil Refineries (KOR), which is under the Ministry. It has got a problem. The Minister should come up with a Statement assuring the Mombasa people that the problem will not recur. One month ago, there was a big fire which broke out at the KOR. It was a big threat to the whole of Mombasa Town. The Town could have been burnt to ashes, were it not for the quick intervention of the Provincial Administration, police and other institutions concerned with fire-fighting. There has never been a report from the Ministry to tell us why that fire broke out, and what measures they have put in place to ensure that no such fires will occur in future. In any area with such a problem, the Ministry should come first to give us

first-hand information. We are threatened by the refineries and the Ministry should tell us why the fire broke out. That way, the residents could rest assured that no fire will recur again.

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

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

The other thing is that, apart from the good job being done by the Ministry, I am happy that it has come up with generating stations in Kenya. Those stations do a very good job. But my complaint is that, some generating stations have been taken as special. In Mombasa, there is a generating station called the Westmont Company. It is taken as a special project in this country. I do not know why it is given special treatment. We understand that there was a faulty agreement between the Government of Kenya and Westmont Company. That has made the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) lose a lot of money. We have a lot of problems with that company. I do not know why the Kenya Government cannot come up and tell us why that company is important.

We have evidence that the KPLC is paying for a capacity charge, apart from the inner charge, contrary to other generating stations. We have evidence that dues paid by the Westmont Company to the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) are not enough. There is evidence that the tanks used by the company are not carbolated by the SGS. Even at the time of installation, they did not have the SGS or Kenya Bureau of Standards (KBS) certificates on the carbolation of those tanks. Many fuel companies have complained of loss of oil. When a tank is not carbolated, once you put fuel and dip in, you will find that, at least, one or two litres are not there. The person supplying fuel to that institution will have to complain. There have been a lot of losses and complaints against the Westmont Company. We have evidence that the KPLC is paying heavily on the blackstand generator and water injection. It is not available in that company. We have evidence that the company is giving invoices to show they pay the KPLC for the jet fuel, which is given free to generating companies. That is wrong! We must treat everybody the same way. The other generating stations are treated differently from the Westmont Company, which seems to be treated as the prodigal son, or a special generating station. It is an isolated institution that no one is allowed to enter. We do not know what is happening there. They are paid in pounds. The KPLC is losing a lot of money. The Minister should explain why a lot of money is lost through that company. Why should that company steal a lot of money from our country to their country? I know that the Minister will always refuse, but I know those people have been going round giving a lot of money to big people. We have evidence and we will bring Motions before this Parliament to prove that Westmont Company is a failure in this country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Hon. Members, I will now call upon the Minister to reply.

The Minister for Petroleum Energy (Dr. Masakhalia): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

I would like to begin by thanking hon. Members who contributed to the debate on the Ministry of Energy Vote. I listened very carefully. They made very useful contributions and observations. Those observations will definitely benefit us in our planning and development of the sector and also, improve on the management of the sector. It will not be possible for me to react to all the observations made by every Member who spoke, but I have selected some salient contributions and issues that I would like to react to. I will begin with oil exploration. Many Members made contributions, including the Vice-President here, and emphasised on the need for the Ministry to re-double its efforts towards oil exploration. I would like to assure every one that, we are doing everything we can to promote oil exploration efforts.

The country is divided into 19 blocks. We have advertised internationally for oil exploration companies to come and explore oil in the various blocks. We engaged in discussions with the kind of terms to give the explorers and, as I indicated recently, signed a contract with a company by the name of Star Petroleum. It is true that several oil wells have been drilled in the country. The more promising ones are in Turkana. There have been manifestations of oil in the wells that have been drilled. However, I should hasten to say that, those countries that extract oil today, have sunk very many wells. Drilling the hole is a very expensive affair. It costs upward of US\$1 million to drill a single well. Certainly, the Government, and some other private sector organisations in the country would like to do that. But they might not just have the resources to sink down 100 wells, to determine whether what is underground is commercially viable, and that you can work with the deposits which have been found.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when hon. Musila was making his contribution, he remarked that we sent junior officers to Mwingi District where we have established that there are coal deposits. I would like to assure him that we sent some of our senior geologists, who are backed by other geologists who have established themselves as leading

experts in the area. So, those young men he saw there are not very junior.

Several hon. Members expressed dissatisfaction with the planning of the development of the power sector and its management. In this regard, I would like to make a few remarks: First, it is the policy of the Government to develop various sources of power generation, particularly, hydro-power, geothermal power and thermal power. To date, power generation has been concentrated in the Seven Forks Basin on the Tana River. The explanation for the current shortage partly arises from the concentration of the production capacity in one region. In fact, 60 per cent of our hydro-power generation is based in the Seven Forks Basin. It is our aim to develop hydro-power potential in other parts of the country, especially on rivers to the West of the Rift Valley. We have rivers such as Nzoia, Sondu-Miriu, Yala, Nyando and others. I would like to inform the House that there are already a number of hydro-power projects being proposed on these rivers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Munyao referred to a two per cent revenue allocation from the activities around the Seven Forks Power Generation Project, being made available to the area which hosts the Seven Forks Power Generation Complex. This, I must say, is something which we need to research and find out where that covenant is inscribed and why it has not been executed before we respond to it.

In the geothermal area, as I had indicated in my speech yesterday, we have a very large potential. If we could, in fact, harness the estimated 2,000 MW of power that could be generated from the geothermal resources that we have established, Kenya would not be facing the current power shortages. Still in the planning area for electricity, hon. Keah did point out that there is need to relate power generation development to the industrialization process. This is a good proposal and I do not know whether we really have blue-prints for industrialization. We have set a target for the year 2020, but I do not think that we have precise and very well laid out blue-prints for the industrialisation process by the year 2020.

However, in the energy sector, we have a 10-year blue-print and I would like to indicate here that we have adopted the strategy of a least cost development plan. This has been found to be a sound and reliable basis for the development of our energy sector. We have made an attempt to diversify a way from the overdependence on the Seven Forks Power Generation Complex, as I indicated a little earlier.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, still in the power sector, I would like to indicate further that, we are not only concentrating on the development of indigenous resources for the generation of power; but we are also attempting to co-operate with our neighbouring countries. Under the East African Community, we have agreed that we would develop collectively - that is, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya - an East African Power Master Plan. As you know, we are already connected to Uganda by a 220-KV transmission line. We are currently importing up to 40 MW of power during the non-peak hours. We are also carrying out a study on the connection of Nairobi to Arusha. Our aim is to connect into the Tanzanian grid because next year they will have about 50 MW of power to spare which could be transmitted to Kenya. We are also involved in discussions with the Tanzania and Zambian Governments aimed at having the Zambian transmission line connected to Tanzania so that we are linked to the South African Power pool. This will stabilise our grid. If we are short of power in Kenya, we should draw it from our neighbours.

The South African power pool has surplus power and they have an advantage because theirs is cost-effective power and, therefore, it is cheaper. We are not connected to their power line and that is why we cannot draw from their surplus power at a time like this, when we are short of power. When we will get connected, hopefully, in the not too distant future, we should draw power from that relatively cost-effective source.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me address the remarks made by hon. Members on the Rural Electrification Programme. The Rural Electrification Programme has been on for over a decade and half and we are committed to it. Our problem is availability of resources. We are short of resources and, therefore, we cannot implement all those projects which are proposed to us by the DDCs. We cannot implement all the community projects which have been submitted for implementation because we do not have adequate resources. However, you will notice that, in this Budget, we have almost doubled the amount of resources available for rural electrification.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at the previous estimates, you will observe that, we have been outlaying an average of Kshs500 million to Kshs600 million every year. This year allocation is Kshs1.2 billion. This year the implementation, allocation is Kshs2 billion, which is double what we used to have. However, this will not solve our problems because we now have a very large number of projects in the pipeline. We cannot cope with the backlog of projects and there will be delays.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to very quickly indicate that the criteria we apply for the two categories of rural electrification projects; that is, the DDC recommended projects and the community projects, is to target the social amenities like schools, health centres, boreholes and such facilities. There are entities and applicants who could, in fact, pay the whole bill and I would like to encourage them to get the relevant resources. I think the implementation capacity is there, if the financial resources are there. We have a lot of contractors in the country now who when contracted to carry out the implementation, have the ability to do so. So, our brothers who incessantly

approach us and say: "We have certain projects which are delayed", that is my challenge to them. That is, get the resources and we will get the projects implemented.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another issue which was debated relates to petroleum products prices. Members have expressed misgivings about the helplessness of the Government in relation to containing the prices of petroleum products. In 1994, we liberalised and said that the petroleum sector would not be de-regulated. Prices therefore, were to be determined by the market forces. It would be unfortunate for us to return to a regime of price controls. However, there is an escape route. Although we feel that we should continue with the policy of prices which are market-determined, we are sensitised to the need that these prices should not be outrageously high and competition is the answer. We are encouraging many players to enter the field of distribution of petroleum products and I am glad to say that we have a large number of indigenous companies which have entered this market. We are constrained in certain aspects that we cannot procure oil and other products easily, particularly in a large market like Nairobi. It is for this reason that you will find in the estimates, an allocation for the establishment of a loading arm facility. It will be implemented by the National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK). This will help in facilitating the small players who recently entered the oil sector to have access to petrol and compete with the multinationals.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, some Members expressed misgivings about the reforms that have been undertaken in the energy sector. We have restructured, but we have not completed the process. We have restructured with the establishment of the Electricity Regulatory Board and KenGen, separating it from KPLC. This has been motivated by the desire to get the entities to engage in core-functions. That is, KPLC will focus on the distribution of power and KenGen will deal with the generation of power and the Electricity Regulatory Board will be involved in tariff citing and related aspects. I think it would be a retrogressive step again, to revert to a situation where some Members suggested that KPLC again, be integrated with KenGen and go back to the stage where we began.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my last point relates to rationing of power. I went to pains yesterday to enumerate the measures that we are taking to increase the supply of power in our grid. In Karen, we have the 105 Emergency Power Project which has three components.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is also the Aggreko Plant at Embakasi which generates 45 megawatts, the Cummins and Jutes Quetz each generating 10 megawatts in Ruaraka area. By the end of this month, it will also be possible to put into production, the steam turbine at Kipevu which will generate 30 megawatts. It was recently returned after conditioning from South Africa. That volume of electricity is about 135 megawatts and it should make a difference. Of course, Iberafrica will add another 12 megawatts.

So, we have taken measures that should lead to the amelioration of the current tight rationing situation. What we should pray for are now the rains. We had in our projections expected about half the average rainfall during the short rains. The short rains were supposed to arrive in earnest in the third week of this month. We were just about there. I hope that they will come and help us to reduce rationing to a very minimal level.

With these remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

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

IN THE COMMITTEE

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

Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy

The Minister for Energy (Dr. Masakhalia): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:-
THAT, a sum not exceeding Kshs171,593,850 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2001 in respect of:-

Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy

(Question proposed)

VOTE R30 - RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 300 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

(Heads 428 and 429 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 300 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 301 - RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

(Heads 430 and 433 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 301 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 302 - ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT

(Heads 435 and 436 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 302 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 303 - PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND SUBSTITUTION

(Head 427 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 303 agreed to)

(Vote R30 agreed to)

VOTE D30 - DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 300 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

(Heads 428 and 429 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 300 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 301 - RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

(Heads 430, 433 and 434 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 301 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 302 - ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT

(Heads 435, 436 and 444 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 302 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 303 - PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND SUBSTITUTION

Head 426 - National Oil Corporation of Kenya

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Head 426, Item 533 on Nairobi Terminal Road Tankers Loading Facility, there is a sum of Kshs100 million in the last financial year and Kshs70 million for three subsequent years. Is the Minister satisfied that this facility is worth the money that it is being provided with?

The Minister for Energy (Dr. Masakhalia): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, those provisions will give

us a medium size loading arm facility. We could, in fact, have gone for a much more elaborate loading arm that might cost double that amount or about Kshs500 million. Instead, we have gone for a medium size facility because of the financial strains. To answer the question raised by hon. Raila, the facility that is to be developed deserves all that money we have allocated for it.

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, arising from the answer given by the Minister on the loading arm, when is this facility likely to be used by the National Oil Corporation of Kenya and the other companies which are not associated with the multinationals that now own the loading arm in Nairobi?

The Minister for Petroleum Energy (Dr. Masakhalia): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that consultancy work has already begun and designs have already been prepared. We will be calling tenders from contractors. It should take about 24 months to establish that facility.

Head 427: Petroleum Exploration

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 427, Item 191 - Aerogramatic and Seismic Surveys, the Minister said here that the Government has signed a contract with a British company for oil exploration and yet, we are seeing this provision in the Printed Estimates.

Can the Minister relate the money that is provided for here with the contract for oil exploration? Is there any relationship? What is this money for?

The Minister for Petroleum Energy (Dr. Masakhalia): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Kshs40 million requested for under petroleum exploration will finance work on the coal deposits in Mwingi. The contract with the British firm does not call for any counterpart funds from us. The money is for the exploration of coal.

(Heads 426, 427 and 709 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 303 agreed to)

(Vote D30 agreed to)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Resolution to be reported without amendment)

(The House resumed)

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

REPORT

Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy

Mr. Musila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am directed to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Resolution that a sum not exceeding Kshs171,593,850 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2001 in respect of Vote 30 - Ministry of Energy and has approved the same without amendment.

The Minister for Petroleum Energy (Dr. Masakhalia): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Wamukoya) seconded.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Minister for successfully steering this debate in the House. However, I hope that the Minister and his team have taken note of the views that have been expressed by hon. Members of this House. We are very concerned that there should be a proper and

comprehensive policy on energy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, secondly, at the time of severe energy crisis that we have experienced in this country, our people expect less bureaucracy in dealing with issues of energy. For example, we have the Electricity Regulatory Board (ERB) which should be a regulatory organ. Either we agree that we are going to liberate the sector or continue to have bureaucracy. We cannot have both.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): You are opening debate now, Mr. Raila!

Mr. Raila: I am not opening debate, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. At this moment in time there should be less bureaucracy and the Minister should ensure that all the views and suggestions that have been raised by Members on the Floor of this House are implemented.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Murathe: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion. However, it should be noted that the energy sector, particularly the KPLC has been one of the efficiently run parastatals in this country despite the difficulties that have been experienced. Whatever is likely to happen in the liberalisation process, a lot of caution must be taken so that we are not pushed to split this critical sector at the whims of the multinational companies.

With those few remarks, I beg to support

Mr. Mbela: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to congratulate the Minister for the achievement has made this afternoon and plead with him that there is need for his Ministry to give more attention to the over-charging for petrol by multinational companies. If they are left to continue operating as a cartel, they can sink the economy of this country.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Ms. Karua: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Motion, but I would like the Minister to note seriously our complaints about the Rural Electrification Programme. He should go into the criteria and devise a better way of policing the manner in which the KPLC is implementing that programme, so that it becomes all-inclusive and not a personal fiefdom. We also want the Minister to take note and ensure that there is no deadwood at the KPLC.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Angwenyi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. While I support the Motion, I should urge the Minister to support independent dealers in petroleum products, so that they are not ruined by the cartel of multinational companies. He should also support the National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK) so that it can intervene in the market to have affordable fuel for our people. He should also support the Kenya Pipeline Company so that it can transport oil efficiently to upcountry areas like Kisii and others.

Thank you.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to make one comment. Now that we have passed this Vote, I would like the Minister to consider next year equitable distribution of rural electrification.

In this budget, he has allocated Kshs11 million for every district, but there are some districts which already have electricity. There are others which have none. So, next year, the Minister should be good enough to consider equitable distribution rather than equal distribution of the Fund.

Thank you.

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may not have many good words for the Minister. This is because, my constituency, which is in Suba District, does not have even a single meter of electricity. Staff at Suba District Hospital use candle light while working at night. So, there is not much that I should thank the Minister for.

However, more importantly, I would like to inform him that, in Mbita Constituency, there are people who have the capacity to generate electricity; they are called "ICIPE". They are, however, not allowed to sell that electricity to people in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Electricity Regulatory Board, whose current Chairman is Mr. Wetangula, cannot license people to generate and sell electricity. We would, therefore, like the power sector either liberalised or controlled.

We cannot tolerate people who tell us that there is no power, but who cannot license other agencies to produce and sell that commodity.

Thank you.

Mrs. Kittony: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while supporting this Motion, I would like to urge the Minister to ensure that projects that have been started are completed.

Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Hon. Members, it is now time to interrupt our business. The House, therefore, stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 26th October, 2000, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 5.55 p.m.