

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 5th April, 2000

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]*

## PRAYERS

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

### APPROVAL OF 1999/2000 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES AND STATEMENT OF EXCESSES

**The Assistant Minister for Finance and Planning** (Mr. Marrirmoi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motions:-

THAT, a sum not exceeding K£197,853,288 be granted from the Consolidated Fund to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2000, in respect of Supplementary Estimates of 1999/2000 Recurrent, having regard to the proposed reduction of K£201,924,020 therein appearing.

THAT, a sum not exceeding K£29,122,607 be granted from the Consolidated Fund to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 2000, in respect of Supplementary Estimates of 1999/2000, Development, having regard to the proposed reduction of K£152,785,557 therein appearing.

THAT, a sum not exceeding K£20,544,723-1-75 be granted from the Consolidated Fund to meet expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 1996, in respect of statement of excesses No.1 of 1995/96.

*(His Excellency the President has signified  
his consent to this Motion)*

### SELECT COMMITTEE FOR REPARATIONS TO POLITICAL PERSECUTION VICTIMS

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

THAT, noting with great concern the persecution of political dissenters by the Government between 1965 and 1991, when Kenya was either a *de facto* or a *de jure* one party state; aware that some Kenyans were arrested, harassed and detained without trial; this House in the spirit of unity and reconciliation resolves:-

- (a) that the Government should unconditionally apologise to all those whose political and human rights were violated during the period, and a national honours list be prepared accordingly;
- (b) that compensation be paid out to those arbitrarily arrested, harassed or detained without trial;
- (c) that in the event that the person died or has since died, the compensation be paid posthumously to his or her next of kin or as *bona vacantia* to the state; and,
- (d) that a Parliamentary Select Committee to determine the identity of the victims and the quantum of compensation to be paid, be set up, and that the following be Members of the Select Committee:-

1. Hon. G.M. Anyona, MP
2. Hon. P.A. Awiti, MP
3. Hon. M.A. Galgalo, MP
4. Hon. Dr. M. Kituyi, MP
5. Hon. A.N. Kathangu, MP
6. Hon. Wanyiri Kihoro, MP
7. Hon. F.N. Maina, MP

8. Hon. Kiraitu Murungi, MP
9. Hon. J.K. Munyao, MP
10. Hon. Mrs. C.K.M. Ngilu, MP
11. Hon. Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o, MP
12. Hon. Raila Odinga, MP
13. Hon. G.M. Parpai, MP
14. Hon. J.K. Sambu, MP
15. Hon. A.I Shabaan, MP

#### LIVE COVERAGE OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

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

THAT, in view of the fact that the proceedings of the House are open to the members of the public; noting the great interest Kenyans have shown in the proceedings of this House, in particular through "Today in Parliament Programme", and noting further that the resolution of the House of 1991 authorising the working out of modalities for live audio-visual broadcast of proceedings of the House has yet to be implemented; this House resolve to establish a Select Committee to study all matters pertaining to live audio-visual broadcast of the proceedings of the House, including all the select Committees of the House, and that the following shall constitute the said Select Committee on broadcast of the proceedings of the National Assembly:-

1. Hon. Musikari Kombo, MP
2. Hon. Dr. Shem Ochuodho, MP
3. Hon. Dr. Abdulahi Ali, MP
4. Hon. Samuel Poghisi, MP
5. Hon. Ochilo-Ayacko, MP
6. Hon. Kipruto Arap Kirwa, MP
7. Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri, MP
8. Hon. Njeru Kathangu, MP
9. Hon. Josephine Sinyo, MP
10. Hon. Ngenye Kariuki, MP
11. Hon. Peter Maundu, MP
12. Hon. J.B. Muturi, MP
13. Hon. Basil Mwakiringo, MP
14. Hon. Soita Shitanda, MP
15. Hon. Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o, MP

**Mrs. Mugo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motions:-

#### LEAVE TO INTRODUCE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BILL

THAT, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill entitled "Affirmative Action" in order to improve and increase representation for marginalised groups, particularly women, in policy-making institutions.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUMWANI MATERNITY HOSPITAL

THAT, in view of the fact that the medical services in the Nairobi City Council have continued to deteriorate in spite of massive taxation; realising that the fund meant for health centres and other medical services is misappropriated by the City Council, and noting with concern that services at the Pumwani Maternity Hospital have been hampered by corruption, leading to a lot of suffering of mothers, and the resultant deaths of newly born babies; this House calls upon the Government to establish an autonomous Management Board to manage and administer Pumwani Maternity Hospital, and that the City Council grants the Management Board at least, 50 per cent of its budgetary requirements.

**Mr. Wambua:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motions:-

PROVISION OF DRIVERS/  
BODYGUARDS/FIREARMS/DIPLOMATIC  
PASSPORTS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

THAT, in view of the high insecurity being experienced in the country, this House resolves that every Member of Parliament be provided with a driver and a bodyguard of his/her choice, both payable by the Government; a firearm licence and a diplomatic passport.

CANCELLATION OF LAND ALLOCATIONS IN YATTA

THAT, in the light of extensive irregularities evident in the allocation of land carved off the National Youth Service Farm at Yatta, which has resulted in plots being given to individuals who could not have been possible target groups for allocation, this House urges the Government to revoke the allocation thereof, and carry out a fresh allocation in a transparent and orderly manner.

PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS  
TO CIVIL SERVANTS

**Mr. Musila:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-  
THAT, while noting that there are long delays before public servants are paid their retirement benefits, pensions and gratuities after retirement; and that some remain unpaid for as long as ten years, aware that this non-payment of benefits to public servants has caused untold suffering to the retired public servants and their families; this House urges the Government to ensure that all benefits payable to the retiring or deceased public officer's dependants are paid within three calendar months after the retirement or death of such officer.

**Mr. N.M. Nyagah:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motions:-

EXPANSION OF ROLE OF DISTRICT  
HEALTH MANAGEMENT BOARDS

THAT, considering the important role played by health institutions in the country, and being aware of the problems faced by those institutions as concerns the supply of drugs and other related medical equipment, being further aware of the district and the administrative focus of Government since the inception of the District Focus for Rural Development in the early 1980s; this House resolves that:-

- (i) The role and responsibility of District Health Management Boards be extended in order to empower them to control and oversee all health services in the public sector.
- (ii) Names of those to serve in the District Health Management Boards be submitted by the various District Development Committees to the Minister for formal ratification and appointment.
- (iii) The District Health Management Boards be directly involved in the decision making regarding funds available from the district's Ministry of Health votes.

CONSTRUCTION OF FLY-OVERS ON BUSY ROADS

THAT, while appreciating the Government's plan to do reconstruction work on the Nairobi-Mombasa Road and re-carpeting of major roads within Nairobi, considering that there is an increase of both heavy and light vehicles on the roads; cognisant of the fact that there is need to reduce accidents on the busy roads, this House urges the Government to selectively construct, and if necessary, in stages/phases, more fly-overs on the busy roads and additional dual-carriage roads especially those leading into the city centre, within the next ten years.

**Mr. Murungi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following three Motions, on behalf of the Democratic Party of Kenya (DP):-

ABOLITION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

THAT, in view of the fact that corporal punishment is a barbaric, cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, this House urges the Government to introduce the necessary legal amendments to

abolish it forthwith.

#### ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

THAT, in order to enhance the protection of the right to life, this House urges the Government to introduce the necessary legislation to abolish capital punishment in Kenya.

#### LEAVE TO INTRODUCE ELECTORAL CODE BILL

THAT, this House do grant leave to introduce a Bill entitled: "The Electoral Code", to amend and consolidate the laws governing the organisation, management and conduct of elections in Kenya.

#### QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

##### SHOOTING OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

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

(a) Could the Minister give a comprehensive report on the shooting of the two Members of Parliament by unknown people at the intersection of the Jogoo and Outer-Ring Roads on 20th February, 2000?

(b) How many people have, so far, been arrested and charged with the shooting of the two Members?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** First, apologise to the House for not showing up yesterday!

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me apologise for not being in the House yesterday. As you well know, I do not have good roads in Ndhiwa Constituency. But it rained and that is why I delayed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! I did not ask for excuses! I asked for an apology!

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

On the 20th of February, 2000, at about 10.00 p.m., hon. Sammy Leshore and hon. Mohamed Shidiye were travelling in a motor vehicle registration number KAM 460E, a Mitsubishi Pajero along Jogoo Road. On reaching near the junction of Jogoo Road and Outer Ring Road, they collided with a Mini-Bus registration number KAK 670Y, an Isuzu Matatu. In this matatu, there were three people; the driver and two touts. Following this accident, the matatu driver and the tout left the scene allegedly to go and fetch the owner of the matatu, with a view to settling the matter amicably. They left behind the two Members of Parliament seated in their car and the other tout known as Michael Gitau, popularly known as "My Son." It is alleged that Michael Gitau left briefly and returned with two other persons who confronted the Members of Parliament and shot them at close range. The shooting attracted the attention of members of the public, who quickly alerted the police officers who were guarding the Caltex-Donholm Road Information Centre nearby. By the time the police arrived at the scene, the attackers had already fled, having robbed hon. Leshore of Kshs17,000.

The suspect, Mr. Michael Gitau, was arrested on the 27th of February, and will appear in court as soon as the investigations are complete. Mr. Gitau has given some very useful information and we are confident that, we will arrest the other two suspects, one of whom was carrying the gun which shot the two Members of Parliament.

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard the answer given by the Minister in-charge of Internal Security. The shooting was carried out on the 20th. Why has it taken such a long time? Since the 20th, until I filed this Question last week, is when they started fumbling with the papers to investigate who shot them and who was supposed to be arrested. According to the police statement on the 22nd, there were two fellows who were arrested---

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Ojode, give us the month. When you say 20th and 22nd, which months are you referring to? That could be November or December!

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking of February. You are also aware of what I am talking about because the dates were all in the papers.

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I am not aware! Order! Ask your Question!

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to the police statement, in February they arrested two suspects. When the two suspects were arrested, according to the statement which, I can quote--- The Director of Operations is the one giving the statement and it states:-

"On the same day, the police arrested two suspects in connection with the shooting. The police kept

the two suspects in different offices since they gave conflicting versions". Could the Minister in-charge of Internal Security now tell us what kind of these conflicting versions were given and why they did not arrest these persons immediately? Why was this man released? I have more!

*(Laughter)*

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, first, it is not correct that we took no action until the hon. Member brought the matter up. That is totally incorrect. Action was taken as soon as the incident occurred. Those two people who were arrested were just the suspects and in the end we found out that they were arrested at first as suspects were not the people who actually committed this particular crime until we found the right person, this Michael Gitau. In fact, they are the ones who gave the information which led to the arrest of Michael Gitau. Michael Gitau has now given us, as I said, some very useful lead and we are confident that we will arrest these other two but it is not correct, and I emphasise, that the police waited. They did act immediately.

**Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about shooting of not only Members of Parliament but the Whips of this Government. I think you remember that when this matter of security came up last year, this Minister was very vigorous and loud in opposing the proposal that some security arrangements be made for Members of Parliament. Now, can he tell this House when Mr. Gitau was arrested; why he has not taken him to court and he knows the law requires that unless it is murder, he takes him to court within 24 hours? If it is murder, it is 14 days. Clearly, this is not murder.

Why are you holding a Kenyan when you are not able to establish a case to take him to court?

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first, again, let me correct a wrong impression. When the Motion about the security of Members of Parliament came to this House, I did not oppose the question of security of Members of Parliament. What I did say, and I will still advise against it is, the arming of individual Members of Parliament.

**Hon. Members:** Why?

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

**Maj. Madoka:** We will discuss that when the Motion comes in place.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! You cannot arm them collectively. You can only arm them individually.

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, precisely. I have said that I will strongly advise against getting individual Members of Parliament carrying guns around. The suspect was arrested on the 27th of February while the incident took place on the 20th and as I said, he should be appearing in court any time from now.

**Mr. Murungi:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether I heard this correctly. The Minister says that they have been holding this suspect from the 27th of February and today is the 5th of April. Could the Minister tell this House under what law they have been holding this person for more than one month?

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he was a useful witness and we were taking our time to make sure we get all the necessary evidence.

**Mr. Magara:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister to evade such a sensitive question? Under which law is the suspect in custody all this time?

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have said, we are taking the suspect to court.

**Hon. Members:** When?

**Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it would be wrong for this Parliament and for the Chair to allow the Minister to break the law and then come here and refuse to answer a Question. He knows what the law requires; which is 24 hours. He has not taken this person to court. He is holding him illegally. Can the Minister either answer the question or tell this House that he is going to release him until he is able to establish a case against him?

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have taken note of the hon. Member's remarks.

**Mr. Kihoro:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very clear in the Kenya Constitution, Section 72, that you can only hold an individual in this country for more than 24 hours if there are four categories of offences that are preferred by the police which include murder or robbery. There is no case here of holding this suspect beyond 14 days. Can the Minister again and this is the question that is coming from every quarter of this House, tell us under what law in this country the suspect is being held? He has been held for 38 days from the 27th of February.

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, here is a case where the two hon. Members could have died and as I said, we are going to take the suspect to court.

**Mrs. Mugo:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the Minister insinuating that when Members of Parliament are involved, the Government can break the law and is this man being held and tortured so that he can be framed in order to have a cover-up of the real murderers or the people who assaulted the Members of Parliament?

*(Applause)*

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let the hon. Gracious Lady say whether she has evidence to show that this suspect is being tortured.

**Mrs. Mugo:** You are the one to do that!

**Maj. Madoka:** I never said that!

**Dr. Kulundu:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Can the Minister deny or confirm that, in fact, this shooting incident was part of this intense Moi succession on the part of the Government?

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think that should arise. As I said, so far there is no political motive which has been established.

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did ask the Minister the following questions: One, what were these conflicting versions when the first two suspects were arrested? I am asking this because it is being said that the suspect who was first arrested parted with Kshs300,000 which was given to the policemen in order to be released. I want the Minister to tell us the truth. Let him say what were these conflicting versions from the suspects who were arrested first? Could he come up and give us the statements which they raised from these suspects?

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has alleged that Kshs300,000 was given. Maybe he can confirm that and then we will take the necessary action but we are not aware of any Kshs300,000 being given to a policeman.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Minister! If you cannot produce copies of those statements, just say it is not possible because, really, you have no access to them for the time being.

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, but I have said that while investigations are going on about arresting the other two suspects, Members have to make responsible statements. If he has evidence to show that Kshs300,000 was given, then let him prove it!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Hon. Minister, leave the decision as to which questions are responsible to the Chair. You must restrict yourself to answering the questions which Members have asked. But in this particular case, if the Member has asked you to answer an impossible question, you merely say it is not possible; end of story!

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not say that it is an impossible Question, but it has to make sense to be answered.

**Mr. N.M. Nyagah:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since it is extremely clear that the Minister has been put into a corner where he cannot get out, by flouting the Constitution, could he bring information to this House as to when this man is going to be taken to court or could he promise this House and the nation at large, that this man will be in court tomorrow for him to come up with proof that it was not political?

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I will do that.

**Mr. Manyara:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before anybody is arrested, the crime committed must be established and enough information gathered on the basis of the case. On what basis was Mr. Gitau arrested?

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will give full details about this Question tomorrow.

**Mr. Ojode:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like the Minister to include an answer to this question: Where is the statement which was first recorded from the two suspects; where the police said that there were conflicting versions? Let the Minister also bring that statement here!

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think it would be appropriate to bring the two statements here. Whenever an investigation is being carried out, there may be conflicting reports which can lead to getting more witnesses to verify whatever matters have been mentioned. So, the issue of having conflicting reports is not there.

*(Several Members stoop up in their places)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** No! We must proceed! Hon. Mwambua!

**Mr. Wambua:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. As far as far the matter is concerned, the Minister seems to be hiding something and trying to evade the Question. Could I request, if it is possible, for the Chair to direct that this Question be referred to a relevant Committee of the House so that the Minister can tell the truth?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order! This Question cannot be referred to a Committee of the House because the matter is likely to go to court. A Committee of the House cannot turn into a judge and jury at the same time. So, we have to allow the Minister to proceed with this matter to court and, subsequent to that, if the House is not satisfied, then we can do what you are proposing. Yes, Mr. Anyona?

**Mr. Anyona:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is an important matter, we cannot just leave it in abeyance. The Minister says that he will bring the information tomorrow. Under what procedure is he going to bring the information?

Is the Question being deferred, is he going to make a Ministerial Statement or what is he going to do? Would it not be right then to request the Chair to defer the Question, because we want to be able to raise more scrutiny.

**Maj. Madoka:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can bring a Ministerial Statement, but I really believe that I will answer some of the questions which have been asked tomorrow. It will be a bit premature because the matter is going to court and I think we have to be careful not to pre-empt--

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order! Order! The only way you can continue to answer supplementary questions arising from this Question is for the Question to be deferred to tomorrow.

*(Question deferred)*

APPOINTMENT OF MR. MICHAEL MILLS TO  
EXTRA-ORDINARY INSPECTION COMMITTEE

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

(a) Could the Minister explain the circumstances surrounding the appointment of an extra-ordinary Inspection Committee vide Kenya Gazette Notice No.C11 dated 25th February, 2000?

(b) Why did the Minister find it prudent to appoint Mr. Michael Mills, while he chairs Karen-Langata Association which has taken Nairobi City Council to court over collection of water?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is anybody here from the Ministry of Local Government? The Ministry of Local Government is not represented this afternoon, therefore, the Question is similarly deferred to tomorrow.

*(Question deferred)*

Next Order!

**MOTION**

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on 28th March, 2000.

*(The Vice-President on 29.3.2000)*

*(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 5.4.2000)*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Mr. Maoka Maore was on the Floor.

**Mr. Maore:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, very quickly, I want to utilize my three minutes by stating that, the question of poverty in this country has arisen out of the cumulative effect of over 20 years of Government inefficiency; doing the wrong things while talking about the right things. If we can just have the Government departments doing what they are supposed to do, we will not have a problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, very soon we are going to be presented with a Budget in this House. In the light of the last five years when the country has been grappling and suffocating under 30-plus interest rates charged by our commercial banks; the farmers in this country cannot be able to produce anything apart from losing their farms to auctioneers and the banks, maybe, the only farmers who can benefit are those ones who grow bhang in Mt. Kenya.

Another issue is that of the involvement of the Provincial Administration in an attempt to say that they can be able to preside over the poverty eradication committees. There was the Kenya Rural Enterprise Fund (KREF) that came up just before the elections of 1992. The way the Provincial Administration handled that fund, if you wanted it today, you will agree with me that, the DCs can never preside over anything that can ever move this country forward, except that of political control. Let them have the political control, but never anything to do with the development of the country.

On the issue of the Judiciary in this country, you will find cases that have been in court for seven years without having them go through a hearing. Now, when you are having all the departments in the country rotting, it is not possible to eradicate poverty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk of the Ministry of Local Government, the people who are supposed to

produce goods to the nearest market, you will find that they are over-harassed by strange cess fees and collections that usually never end into the common kitty. The corruption that is taking place in the local authorities is unbelievable. You will find places where there are toll stations or barriers where cess money is collected. For example, there is one I know in Nyambene where they collect an average of Kshs50,000 per day, but the money that goes to the account the following day is about Kshs2,000 to Kshs3,000. So, anybody who is sent there to investigate gets part of that money and everything ends there. So, we are talking of very many problems that the Government is facing and which need to be addressed to before we can comprehensively state that we want to eradicate poverty in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we can have every department or every Ministry doing what they are supposed to do, we will not have any problem where the country is suffering under economic hard times. The Government "went to sleep" and now there is noise around and it is not possible to eradicate poverty unless we adopt a new approach. As we were stating earlier, the process has to be addressed afresh for us to know that the Government is serious about poverty eradication. It is not possible after 30 years of stability to start complaining as if we are emerging from war. We have not had any war in this country for 37 years. So, when all of us start complaining, we are just not being sincere. We have misbehaved and unless we come forward and say, "We are now going to move forward in the right direction and, implement the right policies", we need to have a country that is prosperous, create jobs and do everything that needs to be done by a country in the 21st Century.

As of now, we have policies of the pre-Cold War era in a liberalised environment. We do not want to be like the fellows who go to the market to sell a cow, they sell it and they still hold the tail. If you ask the Minister for Information, Transport and Communications, why he cannot release or liberalise the media, he will not answer you.

With those remarks, I do not know whether to support or oppose. I will just leave it there.

**Mr. Sajjad:** Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Speech. The President's Speech to this House covered all the aspects that require to be attended to in order to "up-turn" the economy of this country. I therefore congratulate him for the Speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, poverty eradication is an aspect which requires urgent attention. Poverty in this country is so extreme that if it is not checked, it will lead to major crimes. Unfortunately, unemployment is also on the increase. Part of the reasons for unemployment are that, the liberalization policy and imports from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) are affecting the local industries. The local industry should be given protection. The Ministry concerned should look into ways and means of helping the local industries. Local industries are not able to pay import duty on raw materials while products from COMESA are charged 2 per cent import duty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing which requires immediate attention is the drug menace in the Coast Province and especially in Mombasa. Drugs are being used by youngsters in Mombasa and more especially in the Old Town. The supply is readily available. I do not know why the police or the authorities concerned are unable to stop this menace. How can drugs be readily available---

**Mr. Achola:** You are one of those who brought poverty into this country.

**Mr. Ojode:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Achola to allege that hon. Sajjad is one of those people who brought poverty to this country? Can he explain what he means?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, Mr. Ojode! We are discussing a very serious Motion and you must chose your moments to raise such a frivolous point of order! The Chair never heard hon. Achola say anything! The Chair does not have extensions of his ears on that side of the House. He has got them right here on his head! Proceed, hon. Sajjad.

**Mr. Achola:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. My name has been mentioned adversely and you should give me a chance to clear it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, hon. Achola! You can go and settle that Migori versus Homa Bay politics in Homa Bay but not here. Proceed hon. Sajjad.

**Mr. Sajjad:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member alleged so, I would like to inform him that presently, I employ 3,000 people in my factories and any Member of the Opposition is welcome to come and see the scales I pay them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I before I was interrupted, I was talking about drugs in Mombasa. Presently, our youths are suffering because drugs are readily available. What I do not understand is why the authorities cannot stop this. How can a consignment worth Kshs940 million come into the country and be re-exported? Surely, some people in the authorities are involved and are supporting these drug barons. I request the Government to look into this urgently because the youths in Coast Province are suffering.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other problem in this country is corruption. How do we eradicate this problem? Why is it that people are corrupt? The reason why people are corrupt is because of the poor salaries they are paid, which are not enough to cover their daily expenses. If people are not paid enough salaries, how do you expect them not to be corrupt? They have to find ways and means to make their ends meet. The Government has got to come up with a policy whereby the salaries can be increased, staff reduced and make sure that there is enough income for them so that



they are not corrupt.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing which is bothering me personally is health care in the Coast Province and all over the country. Doctors all over the country turn away emergency cases if patients cannot pay a deposit or pay up-front. What can we do to stop this? These are the issues which we need to address.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, AIDS is "eating" away our society. I do not think the campaign which has been put in place is adequate. People do not understand the effects of AIDS. Ten years later, we will feel the effects of this disease. I feel that it is about time that a vigorous campaign was launched to ensure that people do understand the outcome and the consequences of AIDS.

Thank you very much.

**Mr. O.K. Mwangi:** Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to air my views on the Presidential Speech, delivered to this House on 28th March this year.

I would like to congratulate His Excellency the President for the Speech he delivered. It was the first time in this House that the President delivered a speech which is pertinent to his person and the Government he leads. What is contained in this Speech is not news. What he talked about has been talked about since this country attained Independence. What he should have come up with is what he is going to do to alleviate the problems that are facing this country. He only highlighted on the problems of poverty and insecurity. If the Head of State can decry the poverty bedeviling this country and he holds the reigns of power, which should give the machinery to eradicate that poverty, or at least, alleviate it, then what is the common Kenyan going to do?

*[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]*

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to dwell mostly on the eradication of poverty because I do not believe anybody can eradicate poverty. We can possibly reduce poverty, nobody in the world has ever been able to eradicate poverty even in developed countries. But here in Kenya, we look like we are on a reverse gear because there are times when we have had our economy stabilise and the farmers were able to produce. They were able to market their products. There was employment. Our graduates from secondary schools, universities and other institutions of learning were able to get employment, which is not the case today. I am very concerned, particularly about what is happening to the farmers in this country. We pride ourselves to be an agricultural country when the farmers cannot access any form of credit. Financial institutions have got such high interest rates that the farmer cannot afford to borrow and make ends meet. We need to address that factor, if we are going to talk about alleviation of poverty.

Right now, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very saddened to find that coffee prices are declining while the cost of inputs is rising. I wonder when the President tells us that the Government is working on eradication of poverty and they are not addressing the question of lowering the prices of agricultural inputs and creating a situation where the farmers can market their produce. Right now, the tea industry is begging. The sugar industry has almost collapsed. Then, what poverty are we eradicating? If we talk about the fiscal policy of this country, it is ridiculous when you find that banks are making immense profits and most of them are owned by foreigners. We are not doing anything to check the outflow of money in this country and yet, we are talking about eradication of poverty. I wonder what we are talking about.

We are lamenting that the IMF and the World Bank have imposed conditions on us that we cannot now move ahead, we cannot develop our country. We are crying as if the IMF and the World Bank are our bankers, and then, they have refused to refund our money when we know that what the IMF and World Bank do is to give us loans which are going to be repaid by our children. Right now, we have borrowed loans to the tune of about Kshs500 billion and we are still crying for more from the World Bank, when we actually have not given anything. It is not that I would mind that Kenya gets money from the donors, but if this money is not going to be properly managed, then, why should we take it?

The key point here is on the management of the economy. We have left the management of the economy to people who are not even capable, who are not even qualified. I decry the management of the Central Bank of Kenya today, because we have got a political appointee not because somebody is qualified. People go to the Central Bank of Kenya instead of managing the economy of this country; they start plundering it. I remember that when we started talking about the recovery of the economy of this country, the President in his so-called wisdom brought in the "Dream Team" headed by Dr. Richard Leakey and his team. There seems to be some institutions which are not under the control of that team. That is why I talked about the Central Bank of Kenya because I remember Dr. Leakey saying that he was going to set up a system where every Government officer was going to have one vehicle. Today, if you look at

the Central Bank of Kenya, you find that the Governor himself has got five vehicles at his disposal and one driver. His Deputy has got five vehicles. Out of the 48 vehicles in the Central Bank of Kenya, 10 of them are controlled by two people. The Governor has got the audacity even to use a public vehicle to ferry his vegetables from Eldoret to Grand Regency Hotel. If anybody thinks that I am dreaming, I can quote the registration numbers of the vehicles that the Governor has. These are: KAE 853Q, KAA 297F, KAG 004F, KAK 891E and KAJ 144S, which happens to be a Peugeot 504 and which has been used to ferry flowers from Eldoret.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while that is not even enough, when we started talking about the Y2K Compliant, the Governor had the audacity to say that the computer system in the Central Bank of Kenya was not Y2K Compliant. Therefore, he had to buy a new one for Kshs1.2 billion and yet, we are talking about the recovery of the economy towards alleviation of poverty. The non-compliant computer was donated to the Ministry of Finance. I wish the Minister for Finance was here to tell me whether it became compliant when it went to the Treasury. This is the type of mess that we have in the management of the resources of this country. That is why you find that banks are going to make billions and billions in profit and take it out of this country, while we are crying about poverty. When shall we alleviate poverty? And then, the President comes here and tells us that the Government is very serious and concerned. There is no way we are going to make ends meet. I decry that Kenyans, I think we are cursed. Unless and until we have got rid of this Government; there is no way we are going to have economic recovery.

Let me now turn to the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya, who was also politically appointed. He was appointed by Prof. Mbithi when the latter was the Head of the Civil Service although he was not qualified. The Deputy Governor, Mr. Kithua, is a historian and I believe that is why the Kenyan economy is heading towards the history. I pray that we shall not go to pre-history. It is ridiculous that we can have unqualified personnel to manage the recovery of the economy of this country when we have got qualified people. But because they have got to be appointed on political basis, because the Governor has got to come from the governing tribe; this is why we cannot have---

*(Mr. Sunkuli was stood in his place)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Sunkuli! Order!

**Mr. O.K. Mwangi:** Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I understand he also comes from the same tribe!

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to allege that Mr. Cheserem is not qualified to be the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya when, in fact, he has been working for a multinational company outside this country? Is he in order to allege that just because Mr. Cheserem does not come from his tribe?

**Mr. O.K. Mwangi:** I agree he has been working for a multinational company as an Accountant. I wonder why he never became a financial Manager and then, he was removed. If he is that qualified, what benefits have we reaped as Kenyan since he took over? What can we show? What can we be proud of that he has achieved since he became the Governor of Central Bank of Kenya? I do not care where the Governor may come from, but I am talking about a qualified governor, if we are going to realise what the President talked about.

The other day, this House went to Mombasa to attend a seminar on the AIDS scourge. We passed resolutions there on how we want to manage the scourge, but barely one month after coming back, the whole thing has been taken up by the Office of the President. The AIDS scourge is going to be managed by chiefs and assistant chiefs. What do we find? Our people continue to die and the Office of the President cannot do anything but to take the money that is set aside for AIDS.

Thank you.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Mwangi! Your time is up!

**Mr. Mbela:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to contribute to the Motion. I must say that I was very impressed by the Presidential Address. It was extremely good, balanced and full of hope.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have said that the Presidential Address is full of hope because, as a person from the Coast Province, I am aware that many people there are poorer than they were 10 years ago. Most of the industries in that area have collapsed. A lot of cash crops have been abandoned, particularly, because their markets have been destroyed. I am saying that I am full of hope because, on page 10 of the Presidential Address, the President said:

"We will do everything possible to stimulate increased production in agriculture and in manufacturing--- My Government, therefore, will continue to direct more of its resources towards the eradication of poverty".

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am being reminded about the Kenya Cashewnuts Company, which was the pride of many industries, particularly, in the Coast Province as well as the rest of the country. During the peak times of the Kenya Cashewnuts Company, farmers would produce in excess of 30,000 tonnes of cashewnuts, half of which would be processed by that company. The company was directly employing 2,000 people. I remember having been offered a chance, at one time, to run the industry when it was doing extremely well, but with a lot of difficulties and interferences. During its peak, the company wonderfully supported the development of Kilifi Town. During that industry's peak period, one officer joined six other officers and defrauded the local people and, completely destroyed it. I am impressed that the President pointed out that action has to be taken to redress problems associated with the mismanagement of such parastatals, as pointed out by the Public Investments Committee (PIC) in its Reports.

I hope that action will be taken against Mr. Lawi Kiplagat, because we have reached the end of the road as far as "sacred cows" who do not produce "holy milk" are concerned. I am hopeful that the cashewnuts industry will pick up again, particularly because the local people who owned it were defrauded. I realise that loans have been acquired against the assets of the company, and that the company's land has been mortgaged. However, we have been saying that some money will be used to revive the agricultural sector as part of the process of alleviating poverty. Therefore, I believe that the Government, which has put the local people at the Coast in that situation, should put in some money directly, to pay-off those debts and revive the cashewnuts industry. That is a very direct way of alleviating poverty in Lamu, Tana-River, Kilifi, Kwale, Mombasa and Taita-Taveta Districts. In a similar fashion, the Coastal people were defrauded of the bixa factory. Also, Ramisi Sugar Factory, which was in Kwale District, went down the drain due to lack of interest. We hope that through the process of alleviating poverty, the people of Kwale, who also lost a lot of their titled deeds as a result of the collapse of those industries due to neglect, will be attended to.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that poverty is rampant in 80 per cent of this country's land. In the last 35 years, this country has had to feed its people using 20 per cent of its agricultural high potential land. Clearly, although we have succeeded in doing that, the food that is being produced on that land is inadequate. There is an urgent need of ensuring that the remaining 80 per cent of the country's land also produces some food. Those hon. Members who have been to Israel will bear me witness that the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) that we have in Kenya are far much better than that found in Israel, and can produce enough food for local consumption as well as for export. I believe that there is an urgent need to revive the ASAL projects. If this is done, ASAL areas can also be given adequate attention to enable them to produce enough food to feed the people and hence eradicate poverty.

As we discuss the issue of poverty eradication, we need to ask ourselves which of the policies this country has had have made the people more poorer than they were previously? Although the cost-sharing idea was noble, it made the poor people to pay for some of the costs of medical services. The cost-sharing programme has been so poorly co-ordinated that when patients go to public hospitals they are given prescriptions and directed to specific pharmacies from which to buy the drugs, because some medical officers have shares in those pharmacies. It is, therefore, important that we abolish the cost-sharing programme.

In the education sector, something has been affecting the levels of pupil enrolment a great deal. Every morning, a child would go to school and his parents, who would not even have enough food to eat, would be required to pay some money in respect of the school's building fund. However, if you go and check with such schools to establish the work that has been done with that money, you will find that no work has been done at all. It is, therefore, important for the Government to budget for services which have, continuously made parents pay money that is never accounted for by such schools. The Government should abolish the building fund and budget for textbooks, stationery and the watchmen who look after the investments that have been put up by parents. It is also important to ensure that dams are constructed in dry areas. During the rainy season, those areas are flooded. However, in the dry season, people suffer a great deal. All the water drains into the Indian Ocean during the rainy season, as if we have a contract to fill it up. I believe that, if we spend a few shillings, we will construct some dams; they need not be expensive. However, such dams will contribute directly in ensuring that food is grown in those very dry areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another aspect that has worried me is the pensions that we approved for ourselves some time back. I believe that we should have had some second thought about the qualification period of five years for any of us here to qualify for pension. There is no place on earth where one gets pension after serving for five years. Of course, I realise that we contribute towards that same pension scheme, but I think we have overdone the whole thing. We forgot that there are many former Members of Parliament who are living in abject poverty because of the level of pension that they are paid. We also need to look into the welfare of councillors, who are the heartbeat of politics at the grassroots level. We should review their allowances, to ensure that they do not become beggars throughout their lives. They should also be allowed to earn some pension after serving their respective wards.

I would now like to address the issue of staff down-sizing in the Civil Service. Recently, we were made to debate outside this House whether we needed to have chiefs or assistant chiefs. I believe that we need these officers. However, we do not need DCs and DOs. As a matter of urgency, DCs and DOs should be deployed to other areas

where their services are required. You will realise that there is a lot of duplication of duties if you compare the functions of local authorities with what the DCs do with a lot of dishonesty.

I believe that some of the procedures which were introduced recently came about because of lack of transparency, particularly, between the DCs and the officers they supervise.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me that chance to contribute.

**Mr. Omino:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to also contribute to this Motion. I would like to say that most hon. Members are used to seeing me speaking from the Chair and not from this side, so, today, they had better listen.

This year's Presidential Speech, in my view, was a vast improvement on the first one, in as much as it really singled out issues that affect this country and concern this House, and gave us, after a long while, a list of legislations that this House should grapple with. If the President, in fact, merely gave outlines as my colleagues on the opposite side of the House would have us believe, then the responsibility of filling in the flesh belongs to them. This is because, simple civic will teach them that those policy issues are for their party, and on this side of the House, we have no business trying to help them improve on the poor quality policies that they bring forward.

I would like to restrict my comments on only four issues, the first one being insecurity. You do not have to come to this House to know that there is insecurity in this country. Every day you read the newspapers, listen to the radio and watch the television, you see nothing, but ghastly stories of murder throughout the country. But now they are not murders and mayhem perpetrated by pangas and runkus; they are perpetrated by guns. So, we ask ourselves where these guns come from, and the answer is not far to seek. These guns come from our neighbouring countries which have undergone long periods of insecurity.

The countries of this region imposed an embargo on Burundi because there was a military Government in place. Fair enough, but this same Government hobnobbed with Mengistu for many years. They went to parties and entertained Idi Amin for many years, Abacha and Babangida, but more importantly, Siad Barre. But now, in Somalia, there are many military rulers. We have done nothing in that country to help it restore a democratic Government. It is from that country that all the arms that are being used to murder our people come from. Why do the British engineers come here to build our roads when we also have a brigade of engineers? Why can they not also build their own roads? Why do we have the urge to be seen as a good international partner and send peace-keeping forces to Kosovo? We sent those peace-keeping forces to Kosovo because the European Union and NATO had already taken a decision to stop the mayhem in their backyards. We sent peace-keeping forces to East Timor because Australia felt concerned enough to send its own forces to keep peace in East Timor. Mr. Minister, Somalia is next door.

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

**Mr. Omino:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will address the Chair.

*(Laughter)*

**Dr. Kulundu:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it really in order for the hon. Member for Kisumu Town West to speak from the Dispatch Box, when we know that he is not a party leader?

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila):** He is quite in order.

**Mr. Omino:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will forgive his ignorance. I, in my capacity as the Deputy Speaker, can speak from anywhere in this Chamber, but let me continue. We must now show concern for our neighbours first, and make sure that peace and tranquillity return to Somalia which is our primary market.

We have a new phenomenon in this country, that on every issue that Kenyans discuss, some diplomats must comment. They want to give us advice. I would like to ask: "Which Government has Sir Jeffrey James run?" If I will ask for a piece of advice from a diplomat, I will go and ask Dr. Sally Kosgei, because she has been a High Commissioner to Britain and she is now a Permanent Secretary (PS) running an important Ministry successfully. So, these Ministers must learn to say "no" to these people. Every day, we hear some World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) fellows speaking to Ministers. These people do not hold ministerial ranks. They will go to the Minister for Agriculture or the Minister for Information, Transport and Communications and he will deliver to him a decision that affects and binds the Kenyan nation, but they cannot deliver a decision to him that affects and binds the World Bank or the IMF. So, if they cannot operate with him at par, he should send them down the ladder so that they can talk to their equals.

*(Applause)*

It is about time we forgot our political differences and addressed things that affect Kenya. It does not matter which party is in power. I would like to say that when the NDP party comes to power, these people will be shown the door,

day in, day out.

*(Applause)*

There is the new team called "dream team" and I would like to tell this House that they spend their time managing this system by committees. It will not work. They must take decisions and be prepared to hang by the decisions they take. I went to another Ministry the day before yesterday and found that the PS and his deputy were busy in a meeting. So, I waited for two hours for them to be through with the meeting. A Permanent Secretary cannot see the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly because he is busy in a meeting! What about the hon. Members? How long do you wait to see a PS?

**Hon. Members:** Many hours!

**Mr. Omino:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when you have spent huge sums of money to train people to perform certain duties, then fail to give them those duties and responsibilities, you kill their morale. I would like to say that unless the civil servants see that they have a way of rising to the top jobs by merit, they will never perform.

There is yet another phenomenon that I am seeing; that, the Treasury Bill rates are going down, but bank interest rates are up. Why do Treasury Bill rates go down? They should go down because revenue receipt is increasing, or there has been an inflow of foreign money, such as balance of payment support. Are we beginning to see another manipulation? This is because if the Treasury Bill rates are going down, it means that the Government is borrowing less. But is this the case? Is the Government borrowing less? If it is borrowing less, then there will be less demand for money from the banking sector and, therefore, less demand for Treasury Bills. Soon, the Minister is going to lay the Supplementary Estimates on this Table. He must address this issue because there is no reason why Kenyans should be burdened with high interest rates when, in fact, they are being told every evening on television that the Treasury Bill rates have gone down. They cannot go down if the Government is not borrowing less. Simple!

I want to say this on poverty alleviation. Take a sugar farmer. The factory prepares his land and plants sugar-cane for him. It takes 24 months for that sugar-cane to mature. He is charged interest by the factory for the development of that farm. It takes a further 12 months, at least, for him to be paid. Do you really want to know why that sugar-cane farmer is poor? He is paying interest for 36 months. He is receiving no income but his cane has been crushed and the sugar sold. You ask where that sugar went to. Where did the proceeds of the sale thereof go to? We must now face the issue. Poverty eradication means that we have accepted that we are poor.

With those few remarks, I support.

**Mr. Katuku:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am pleading with you to use your powers to extend hon. Omino's time because he is always on the Chair and he is talking a lot of sense. Can you extend his time by five minutes?

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order! Mr. Katuku, you should be serious. We have no time. Mr. Ntimama!

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Ntimama): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to congratulate the President of this land for the very important speech he gave to this Eighth Parliament the other day. He really expounded public policy. In his speech, the President talked about the revamping of the economy, poverty eradication and how to control and fight corruption. If this was not expounding Government policy, what was it? The conference on poverty eradication which was held in the School of Monetary Studies was attended by all the stakeholders concerned with the revamping of the economy in this country; the donors, NGO's, the Government and everybody else who was really concerned about poverty eradication.

In this paper, the Government actually agreed for the first time that corruption is rampant in the public sector and even in the private sector. We were going to discuss a way of fighting corruption in this country. The fact that the Government admitted that there is corruption in this country means that it is committed to fighting corruption and eradicate it in this country altogether. It should be a consolation to the critics because, this time round, they know that the Government is definitely committed to fighting and eradicating corruption. It was agreed that corruption is an impediment to revamping the economy of this country. I think our critics have only got one big option and that is to work with the Government and the people of goodwill in this country to fight corruption.

I want to mention in passing the statement that was made by six hon. Members the other day when they issued an order to evict the Maasai pastoralists by force from the Naivasha and Hells Gate area. Let me say from the outset---

**Mr. Gatabaki:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for a Minister known as a warmonger; the man responsible for tribal clashes in this country; the man who says he cares nothing about fellow Kenyans, to lie to Kenyans about trespassers in Rift Valley Province?

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Ntimama): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I only

respond to people whom I think are sane. I would like to say that I have not even said anything---

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

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Ntimama): Please, protect me, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir!

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Mr. Gatabaki, how do you stand up while hon. Ntimama is on his feet?

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Ntimama): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not even said anything yet. I think he must wait until I have said something. This was a very unfortunate, forceful eviction order. We are in the middle of a very severe drought and we should---

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

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Ntimama): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, please, protect me.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Overruled, Mr. Gatabaki.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Ntimama): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should start being tolerant to one another. These pastoralists, probably, had a problem about grazing and watering their animals, and I think we should be tolerant to one another, at least, until the rain comes.

**Mr. Gatabaki:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Minister said that he speaks to people who are sane. He was referring to the Members of this House as insane. Is it in order for the Minister to use such grotesque, unparliamentary language?

**The Minister for State, Office of the President** (Mr. Ntimama): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is by implication, but I did not directly mention his name. We should all be fair to one another when we come to this House. We believe that everybody has got his own balanced mind here. I am only saying that we should be tolerant to one another. These people are in trouble. The rains have not come. Even the specialists are telling us that this rain is not coming properly until about June. I do not dispute the fact that these people might have had their papers or were allocated this piece of land. Let us look at history as it is. Who occupied the Rift Valley before the white man came? I do not need to answer that question, but everybody knows that. This land was allocated to the favoured community and some of our communities were discriminated against and left out. We do not even have an acre of land in the whole of the Rift Valley which we formerly owned. How do we explain a situation like that? Even the allocation of this land was unfortunate.

How do you allocate a fragile, dry, piece of real estate to agriculturalists? They have tried to plant maize, but it does not even grow to three feet long. Maize, potatoes and even beans do not even germinate. Why does the---

**Mr. Gatabaki:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for a Government Minister to talk about certain Kenyans as being agriculturalists and others as pastoralists? Is he not inciting Kenyans to tribal warfare?

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Ntimama): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want your protection because unless you protect me I will not be able to say what I wanted to say.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Gatabaki! Please, would you stop interrupting hon. Ntimama? Let him finish his contribution.

**The Minister of State, Office of the President** (Mr. Ntimama): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact, those people whose land was allocated to Maasais were not there. There were no fences and herds because people had run away. This was because they could not produce anything. So, the herders saw the grass and their cattle went on feeding on it. Before the Maasais came to that land, it were the antelopes and zebras which were feeding on the grass. If those people were going to camp, fence, and go on looking after their livestock, then that would be another story altogether. Anyway, I want to say very carefully here that we are not for war, but peace and dialogue. We want to talk to our brothers. People must not make mistakes because those threats for war--- We have the right of defending ourselves very powerfully and with a lot of ferocity because it is the only right given to everybody in the law. It is not numbers that normally win conflicts, but many other factors. Although I am saying here very clearly that we are not for war but peace, and we will work together with our brothers, let it be understood that we were robbed of our land by the whitemen. We do not want an African to become another dispossessor of the already dispossessed people. This is because we are in that category.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when it comes to the writing of the Constitution of this land--- We are waiting to see what will happen because the land issue is the most important item in the Constitution of the land. We are watching and monitoring very carefully the Njonjo Commission on land because, we think the question of land must be addressed and redressed in the new Constitution. This is because we have a claim because we were not compensated and yet, we lost tracts of land. Therefore, we are asking for compensation from everybody; that is, from

the two successive Governments. We want compensation for the repression of our boys, men and people who died during the whole struggle.

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

**Mr. Shitanda:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute on the Presidential Address. The Speech dwelt on three key areas which were meant to help in providing the way forward for this country. In that speech, the issue of poverty eradication featured very prominently. When we talk about poverty eradication in this country, we must bear in mind that about 80 per cent of this country's population lives in the rural areas. They depend on agricultural activities; that is, both large scale and peasant sustainable levels. We have a serious problem when we talk about poverty eradication in the light of agriculture. This is because we have quite a number of problems we need to address. First and foremost, is the question of land policy use. We do not seem to have any land policy use in this country. For instance, Why should we have people living by the roadside and market places while we have some people with tracts of land lying fallow and unused? Why can we not use those farms to produce food for our people, so that we contribute effectively towards eradication of poverty in this country? This country must come up with a land use policy to help us to address this problem. When the colonialists came to this country, they acquired the most fertile land for nothing. Some of that land was given back to the Government or, sold to individuals and companies like EATEC of Eldoret. The land of EATEC was acquired for free. It is, therefore, inconceivable for the Government to sanction the sale of this land to the indigenous people who initially owned that land. This is deprivation of the first order.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a serious of problem in the sugar industry. The farmers of Mumias, Muhoroni, Nzoia and West Kenya in general have problems with their produce. It is high time that legislation on the sugar industry was strengthened to protect the interests of farmers and consumers. Why would a Mumias farmer be paid Kshs1,730 per tonne of cane, while a Kabras farmer is paid Kshs1,500? Why would a Nzoia farmer be paid for his produce two years after he supplied his cane, while a Mumias farmer is paid after 30 days of delivery of cane? This is an area which should be looked into and effective legislation put in place in order to protect farmers. It is the only way we would talk about enabling farmers to fight poverty.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) were very useful corporations to farmers. But along the way, their importance was compromised, their roles twisted and they no longer serve the interest of farmers. They only serve the interest of a few individuals in this country. If the Government is serious about revamping the agricultural sector, then they must start by writing off the loans extended to farmers from the AFC as an incentive towards encouraging them to go back to their farms. What is happening now is that AFC officials are harassing farmers about repaying loans that were extended to them over 20 years ago. Some of the farmers had crop failures; others were invested in animals which, due to poor husbandry, died.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is also a question of equitable of distribution of resources, especially in the development of agriculture. In most cases, the loans have been awarded to the wrong people and for wrong purposes. This is an anomaly that ought to be looked into.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President also touched on corruption in this country. To talk about corruption, I will have to talk about the Kenya National Assurance Company (KNAC). This is the company that went under about three years ago. There was a whole Life Fund Department which was mixed with the general insurance business, making it impossible for savers to get their dues. Right now, the company is under receivership and the Government has been dilly-dallying over addressing the fate of the members of the Life Fund. The Receiver Manager is being paid Kshs50 million every year in managing the affairs of this collapsed company. What is the Government doing about the fate of the pensioners who had invested their money in this company? What kind of assistance, or remedial measures, is the Government going to come up with to sort out this mess? This is because the people who were contributing money to this company are suffering out there as they cannot get their money back, and cannot withdraw their pensions from the Fund, and we are dilly-dallying over the issue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, corruption in this country has attained unimaginable levels. On the average, corruption is not practised by people who earn low pay, as hon. Sajjad would want us to believe. Corruption is practised by the mighty and the rich. Before we appreciate and accept the fact that it is the fat cats who practise corruption, then, we will never come to grips with its realities, and we will never put in place a mechanism for fighting corruption. Look at the carnage that happened only last week near Kericho. We have many traffic police officers on the highway, and all these buses were passing through these roadblocks---

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**The Assistant Minister for Information, Transport and Communications** (Mr. Lengees): Thank you so much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to also join my colleagues in contributing towards this very important Presidential Address by His Excellency the President on 28th March, 2000. I have to take this opportunity in congratulating the President for such a good and very beneficial Address to the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the morning, I heard some of the Members saying that it is not important to exhaust, or, maybe, to waste time congratulating the President. I stand here to say that the President has done a lot for this country, and the Address he delivered on 28th March, 2000, was of great importance to the nation. We have to continue praising him for a lot that he has done for the country since he took over the leadership of this State. He pointed out in his Address so many problems which are facing Kenyans; that is, economically, socially and even politically. He directed us on how to go about them for the sake of the country's unity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that it is important for the hon. Members, and I have said that before, to observe who we are within the Kenyan community. We are a very small fraction. We have 220 Members of Parliament, out of the 28 million Kenyans. We were given the opportunity to be hon. Members with a lot of respect by Kenyans. It is important for us, as Members, to see how we can benefit this country after being given the chance to come and serve them in this very important House.

I thank Members on both sides for the way they behaved during the recent Official State Opening of the National Assembly by his Excellency the President. I think it was the first time, in recent times, that the occasion was very peaceful. It is important for us to set a very good example in this House in this new century, in order to make this House a very important instrument for serving Kenyans who have a lot of hope in their Parliament. It is important that we respect ourselves, Kenyans, and the Head of State because this House belongs to us. This is the only time we can say that we are in a united country and we are able to achieve better fruits for Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me talk a little bit on insecurity, which has become a problem in our country. We thank our Government because it has really tried to do a lot about it. The most important thing is for Kenyans to realise that they face insecurity because of their own conflicts, particularly cattle rustling which exists in our rural areas. It exists among the Pokots, the Samburus, the Somalis, the Borans and so on. It is very important to observe that we, the communities concerned, should sit together and know how we can solve and end this problem. This is because the Government has really contributed a lot. It is also important for those who are being faced by this problem to sit down as elders and find ways of solving it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for instance, I remember that one of our colleagues mentioned about Maasais and Kikuyus in Naivasha. It is not very wise for someone just to order: "Move out or else you will face it." It is important, as an elder of this House, for that person to go back to those communities living in that area, because they have also lived there long before he came to this House, and see to it that they sit and solve the issue amicably and agree on when the pastoralists are going to move out. The Maasais are there because of the pasture which exists there. Maybe, we would agree that some individual farms are found there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with this dry spell, the people, particularly the pastoralists, have had a lot of problems and have really lost many livestock. This time we have really lost many livestock in North Eastern and Eastern provinces and North Rift Valley, and particularly the Samburus who have been living in Laikipia. They came there about ten years ago and had an agreement with the local people in Laikipia. We will not excuse the Government of Kenya for that, but I take this opportunity to say that it was the District Commissioner of Laikipia who did that, and we have lost a lot of livestock. Over 70 per cent of the cattle removed from Laikipia are now dead. The DC made a mistake on that issue. The DC is not consulting the local leaders to discuss how we can handle these people. It is important that we be tolerant of one another, as elders of this country, instead of bringing in issues that can break Kenyan communities. We should avoid tribalising issues and instead solve them in a way that Kenyans will agree with one another and live peacefully.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, some of our areas are not very fortunate in terms of having certain facilities like hospitals, schools and other special amenities. We, therefore, urge our Government to give us a lot of support in terms of provision of health services. We require proper trained doctors in the rural areas, particularly in health centres like Baragoi, in my constituency, and Archers Post in Wamba, Samburu East Constituency. Those health centres should also be upgraded to sub-district hospitals because the population of the communities living around those hospitals is very high, and they require better services than those provided by dispensaries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also have a problem with the provision of water resources in my constituency. The Ministry of Water Resources has tried to help the people, but I would like the Ministry to set up committees that can go around the district to find out whether the pumps, dams or boreholes are being put at the right places. The pastoralists need technical advice on how the water resources should be distributed. As a result of the drought, Samburu District has a lot of problems. In fact, certain areas, for example, North Horr, Baragoi and Archers Post should be declared drought disaster areas. I would like to congratulate the Minister for flying to Loiyangalani which was the most affected area in the North, but he has to find the time and also fly to those other areas I have mentioned here, which have really been affected by the drought.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, cattle rustling has also contributed a lot to adding more problems to the people. Besides the land being dry, bandits take away people's animals, and leave them with nothing to eat. It is



important for the Government to ensure that they provide enough relief supplies to the area. At the moment, we are getting 2,000 bags of maize, and we would like to request the Government to increase them to about 6,000, plus other items like oil and the rest.

With those few remarks, I support the Speech.

**Mr. M.M. Galgalo:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the President's Speech during the State opening of Parliament.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the so-called "exposition of public policy Speech", the President touched on a very important issue, and that is the alleviation of poverty. It is true, as has been reported in various fora, that over 60 per cent of Kenyans are very poor. Poverty cannot be alleviated if the Government is not committed to its own policies which it creates, writes and exposes to the people of Kenya. Ever since Independence, Kenya has never been short of written beautiful policies. Those policies are just there on paper, but the Government has never been committed to them. We have been promised so many things in those policies, including free education and free health services as far back as 1962, but we have not had any of those to-date. This is because of lack of commitment. Money allocated by this House for various services to the people of Kenya is diverted to the pockets of individuals in the Government through corrupt means.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless the Government commits itself to these papers called "policies" which are often exposed to us in this House, we shall not achieve any development, make any recovery to the economy or alleviate poverty. It appears that this Government, in trying to seek or expose policies to alleviate poverty, denies the suffering of its own people. When newspapers reported the suffering of Wajir people as a result of drought, the Minister of State, Office of the President, hon. Nassir, first denied that people were dying in Wajir because of hunger. It is shameful, because Wajir District neighbours Moyale District, and the World Vision serves Wajir from Moyale. In February, when I was with the officers of the World Vision, they told me that the situation in Wajir was appalling. We cannot alleviate poverty among the people of North Eastern Province by giving them food rations. That is not how to eradicate poverty. Even if the people of North Eastern Province continue to be given food by donors, that will never alleviate poverty. It will only maintain lives for some time. What we want is for the Government to, for example, harvest the rain waters that go to the waste in the dry zones of Kenya, so that it can be used both by livestock and for irrigation, because we have plenty of fertile land. This area only lacks water to produce crops.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, to alleviate poverty among the pastoralists, this Government should open the Kenya Meat Commission, so that livestock farmers have an outlet where they can sell their animals. This means that they can also avoid exploitation by middlemen. That will be the only time that we will see that this Government is trying to alleviate our problems as pastoralists.

Mr. Temporary deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of security is paramount in trying to figure out economic progress in this country. We cannot achieve development when there is insecurity in this country. There is insecurity all over this country. If you go to Central Province, people are fighting with the police. If you go to Moyale District, people are being killed by the Government of Ethiopia, and this Government does not take any action to ensure the security of its people. It is true that all over this country, every tribe has guns. From practical examples in Somalia and Ethiopia, this indicates the fall of this Government. The Government is supposed to maintain security and look after the lives of its people. Once that has failed, and because of insecurity, people acquire guns to secure themselves. Once they do that, that is the biggest indicator that the Government has fallen apart. I am appealing to the Ministers to take security more seriously than they have taken it now, because there are a lot of arms in this country. I am sure that this Government is right now in trouble because it has failed to overpower the people who have guns in this country. Cries have come from members of the security forces, for example, in the north and the west, that they do not have arms and ammunition to defeat the cattle rustlers. I am, therefore, asking this Government that if it does not want to fall tomorrow, it should ensure that there is security in this country.

Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker.

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President** (Mr. Gumo): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute on this important Address that was delivered by the President.

The President has sacrificed so much for this country for over 40 years that he needs to be supported. This country is in a state that needs all of us to work together, so that we can, at least, make it a better place. This is not the time that we should have the Opposition and the Government fighting over issues, but it is a time that we should all come together and discuss how we can help our people to prosper, or come out of the poverty situation that we are talking about. It appears as if some of us, leaders, do not bother, but we are more interested in seeing that we come into power through any way possible.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I sometimes get surprised when I hear some hon. Members of Parliament, particularly from the Opposition, talking about prosecuting the President when he is out of office. In some cases, people who talk about corruption are the ones who have already squandered public money, or they are also just

as corrupt. In fact, the white man said that when you live in a glass house, you should not throw stones. Certain individuals have been corrupt to the extent that they have been named publicly, and they could not explain their actions, and yet they are the ones now talking so loudly of prosecuting the President. This is complete nonsense. I do not know whether it is a joke, or whether they are serious.

For the last ten years, the IMF has not assisted us and I do not think it has any intention of assisting us. It is time that we looked for money from other sources because this idea of waiting and waiting is not good. We might wait until we are not able to wait any more. Each time we expect the IMF to assist us, it comes up with a different thing. This has been going on and on. For that matter, I would request the Minister for Finance to source some finances from other sources so that, at least, we can finish some of the projects that have stalled for nearly four to five years. We have so many projects that were stopped halfway. There are many organisations which are ready to lend us money, but we are not asking for it just because we fear that if we do that, the IMF will react negatively. In fact, some countries, for example, South Africa, are borrowing money from all over, and even from Libya and Saudi Arabia, yet, here we are, saying that we should not ask for money from elsewhere because if we do that, the IMF will penalise us. We should forget about the IMF and go ahead.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another thing that I would want to talk about is the gutter Press. The gutter Press in this country has gone out of control. Most of these gutter Press publications are not even registered, and nobody knows who their owners are. They write a lot of material about leaders, which includes good and bad material. If we allow this to go on like this, this gutter Press will destroy us because some of us do not even know where these gutter Press publications are written from. Even if you take them to court, they have no money to pay the fines. It is high time that we took serious action and had these gutter Press publications completely cleared from the streets. These people should be arrested, particularly if their paper is not registered. Some of us are politicians and we will not allow this gutter Press to write about leaders and abuse them while we sit here and watch. If they do not stop this, then they should be dealt with accordingly. They are paid by some people and told: "Go and write about honourable so-and-so". They even talk about families, girlfriends and so on. Who does not have a girlfriend in this country, or even in this world? But that is private. If they will expose people like that, then I am very sorry about it, and I will not tolerate it. For me, I do not think I will tolerate it any more!

**Mr. Mwenje:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. My colleague and good friend in Nairobi happens to own one of those publications. Could he clarify whether that is in order? He is one of the owners of those publications!

**The Assistant Minister, Office of the President** (Mr. Gumo) Shut up! I do not own any of them! Hon. Mwenje knows about it! He is only trying to pull my leg.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have always talked about corruption. Everybody has talked about corruption. All the civil servants have talked about corruption. This is the only country where people talk about corruption. We talk about it so much that, all over the world, people think that Kenya is the only corrupt country. We have talked about it so much that I do not even know what corruption is! We might try to talk about it and yet, in the process, we might end up the losers. I think it is high time we stopped talking about corruption and acted. It is something that we should act on, rather than talking about it endlessly. This has spoiled the name of our country instead. There are so many ways of stopping it. Let the police go ahead and stop it. Let us stop talking about it because I do not think it will help us.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at the budgets of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), which are trusted by the donors, you cannot tell where money is taken. A lot of money is coming in through the NGOs. When you look at what they do or what they have done, it is almost nothing! Yet, the donors have said that they will channel most of their money through the NGOs. You will find one single Mzungu getting almost US\$5 million for a particular project, which never comes up. In fact, the money is siphoned back to their home countries. We should have a particular body to audit most of the NGOs. That way, we shall be able to know whether they put the money in the correct projects or not. Even the organisation which give us a lot of problems every day, and which is called the National Convention Executive Council (NCEC), has been soliciting a lot of funds from overseas, but when you ask them to account for the money, they cannot do it. They should be audited. The Government should form an auditing body to audit the NGOs and give a report to Parliament.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I finish, security in this country has become a big problem to the extent that people are killed almost every day. Even policemen are killed. The worst hit are the watchmen who perform guard duties in Nairobi nowadays. They only carry runguns and nothing else.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Keynan:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. A number of issues have been raised in the Presidential Speech. It is worrying to note that what is contained in the Speech is a repetition of what we have been hearing for the last three years! The issue of insecurity has just been mentioned. We know that security is an

important filler in development. I was a bit dismayed when I heard a number of people talking about Somalia. The Somalia crisis is being used as a scapegoat for our own home-grown problems. In fact, today, there are more guns coming into Kenya from Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda than Somalia. We only talk about Somalia because we know that there is no organised government which can effectively respond to some of those wild allegations. It is a reality that today, anywhere we go in this country, there is insecurity. The other day, we witnessed members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) militia group take over one of our police stations here. Was that Somalia? It was not Somalia! As much as the civil war in Somalia has contributed to the insecurity in North Eastern Province, I would disagree that it is the entire country. I think we should get that point right. If we care about the security of Kenya, let us have the SPLA and the Oromo Liberation Front out, and then, let us close the border with Somalia and have the able-bodied individuals in the name of worshippers from Uganda out of the country. That is the only way to improve security in Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, right now, we have an amnesty which the President gave to those Kenyans with guns. That has failed to work in the past. What we need is to admit that Kenyans, because of insecurity, have got illegal arms. In my opinion, the only way is to ask the people to declare and register their illegal arms and keep them. This is what has been done in Ethiopia, and it has worked very effectively. Let the people with illegal arms declare that they are in possession of the guns and keep them. They should go to the nearest police station and declare and register them. Let the Government know that so-and-so, who had previously owned an illegal gun, has a legal gun. That is the only way. The issue of amnesty will never work because, everywhere in Kenya, there is insecurity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of poverty alleviation, there is a lot of hypocrisy. Let us take the issue of bursaries offered by the Ministry of Education. There was over Kshs400 million which was meant for pupils from marginalised districts. But did that happen? A district like Mandera got Kshs200,000 a year; Wajir got Kshs300,000 and Garissa got Kshs300,000 out of Kshs400 million! Are those areas not the most disadvantaged in Kenya? It is time those lop-sided policies that have failed Kenyans are done away with. It is not lack of resources or the IMF. It is because we do not plan. Those who came with the concept of bursaries had a very noble idea. It was tailored to benefit children from marginalised districts, but that is not the case. The same money is ploughed back to the children of the advantaged regions. Those are some of the things that have implanted a culture of hopelessness and waste in the minds of Kenyans. Unless some of those disparities are addressed, I think we will degenerate into the old nation states where we had the Somali State, the Kikuyu Nation State, the Kalenjin State and all that. Let us not imagine that we will not go back to those states because the same is being experienced all over. The same is experienced in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and Uganda. This is because we have failed to address the very problems that touch on the social fabrics of our society.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Livestock Marketing Division has deliberately been "killed". There was Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) and the same has happened to it. Right now, people are dying and the next thing we will be seeing is the total--- We will be going to extremes, and this is one thing which we have to guard against. Therefore, while we cannot eradicate poverty, but we can only reduce it, I think it is high time that a lot of resources were directed towards assisting the marginalised people of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is the issue of famine. You must have heard that so many districts are right now hard-hit by famine. First of all, famine is not the creation of the Government, but it is a natural calamity. However, one thing that pains is the way the Government responds to this particular problem. To date, the Government has not responded properly to the pleas of Wajir people. The people concerned went there and they saw everything. The only answer we got from these people was that those people were dying of malaria and anthrax. I want to challenge hon. Dr. Anangwe whether he is aware that there is an outbreak of malaria in Wajir. I want to challenge hon. Obure whether he is aware that there is an outbreak of anthrax in Wajir. That is not the case. There is no malaria in Wajir. There is no outbreak of anthrax in Wajir. The people of Wajir are dying because of hunger-related diseases. So, whatever hon. Nassir says, that the people of Wajir were dying of malaria, is not true and I want to challenge hon. Nassir to visit Wajir to see for himself. We are not going to accept a stage-managed visit where, from the airport, you go to the District Commissioner's house. The next venue is the distribution centre, then the public baraza and then come and report back that all is well. We are not going to accept that. We are ready on the ground. We want him to go to some of the centres where people have died as a result of hunger.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is some of these things that have given Kenyans a feeling of hopelessness. They ask themselves: "Are we really a part of Kenya?" In other parts of the country maize is just rotting. In those parts where we come from, people are dying. If the Ethiopian Government had the guts to appeal to the international community for assistance, why has the Kenyan Government failed? We think this is a deliberate attempt to kill our people. We have suffered as a result of massacres and drought. Now, we are suffering as a result of stage-managed famine. The international community is willing to assist our people. Why has the Government failed to

respond? Why is the Government in a hurry to block those who are willing to assist, instead of assisting its own people? Is it not a deliberate attempt? Is it not discrimination of the highest order? What kind of constitutional review are we talking about when our own people are dying; when every day we are asking for the basic rights. Those who are now clamouring for constitutional review, I think are of the highest type of--- We are still crying! We do not have food and water. We have nothing.

I am repeating that I want to challenge you, and I will avail an aircraft to fly hon. Nassir and his team to Wajir, if he does not have the means of transport, to see for himself the dying people of Wajir. I do not take pride, and neither does anybody else take pride, in the death of his own people, but this is a reality that must be accepted. It is shameful for the Government to say that people are not dying while they have not got even the facts on the ground. Chiefs were there and they admitted it. The local administration admitted it. Everybody did so. It is not an issue of party politics. Why do we introduce cheap politics on issues which affect the lives of Kenyans? This is one thing that has killed this country. I must say that very soon, this country is going to disintegrate because if you have denied a whole region the right to eat and live, then what do you expect from them? This is a serious issue! We are asking ourselves: "Are we really part and parcel of this nation?" When there was the Turkana issue, the whole nation responded. We are still waiting for Kenyans of goodwill to come to the rescue of Wajir, Garissa and Mandera people. That is the only way we will get some sense of hope.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have talked about this issue of corruption. As much as I want to agree with the colleague who suggested that--- I think this issue is just being blown out of proportion. There is corruption everywhere. What we need to do is to stop this lamentation year in, year out, and really address the key areas where we feel that there are perpetrators of corruption.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, many people have talked about the "Dream Team". If only these people are given a chance to deliver, I think they will deliver. However, because of the kind of structure we have, I do not think they will do anything meaningful for Kenyans. The only thing is that they will earn good salaries and go away when their terms expire. We have continuously been at war with the Bretton Woods institutions. The question is: Does Kenya really need assistance if we stop plundering our own resources? The answer is: We certainly do not need assistance from IMF and the World Bank. We have ashamed ourselves in the eyes of the international community. Can we manage the little resources we have? That is the only way I think we can address some of our problems.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Keynan!

**The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation** (Mr. W. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Speech by His Excellency the President during the State Opening of this Session of Parliament.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, many things have been said and, in my view, I think it is time we all changed. It is time we stopped talking and politicking. It is time we went back to the drawing board and discussed the issues affecting our people. In the President's Speech, he did mention the pertinent issues that affect the lives of our people, which include the economy, health and education, among others. These are the issues we all should take time to see what best we can do collectively, so that we can alleviate some of the problems that are facing our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very easy to talk ill of the Government, but let me say this: In a country like ours, for things to move, it takes all of us; that is, those of us in the Government, and those of us not in the Government. Citizens of all walks of life should come together and think as Kenyans and solve problems as such. The biggest problem which I think Kenya is facing today is the question of this blame. We do not want to address issues as such. We are all the time looking for something to blame the Government, the President and Ministers for. If we want to look for a mistake from everyone, that is something very easy, and we can always get it. So, we should stop this and look at things positively. We should now be very patriotic. We should look at Kenya and compare it with other countries. Why are other countries succeeding? Why are we not succeeding? This is so that we can collectively address these issues. This is because if, on the other hand, the Government is putting in place policies that are workable and the others are out there undermining these same policies--- If those in the Civil Service, who are supposed to articulate the policies that could help the Government move to assist the people, are there to sabotage these policies, I can assure you that we will continue talking like this for years and years, and we will not be achieving anything. It is true that there are problems that are facing wananchi, but we must learn, first of all, to teach all of our people to be very patriotic and start with ourselves as leaders. The bad publicity we give this country out there, and even within, is so negative to the extent that we do not expect anyone to favour us because of the picture we are trying to paint.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we talk of the unfortunate situation we witnessed in Kericho the other day, it is true that it was a very unfortunate thing and we hope that will be the last one for us to see. However, it is not enough for every leader to wake up now and say: "It is the mistake of the Government". This is because there are a lot of factors which contribute to problems like this one of the road carnage. First of all, as leaders, we must ask our

people to be responsible. We have to educate our people not to board buses if they are already full. I think, in that way, we would be helping to alleviate this problem. Secondly, we should also be talking to the drivers in a way that we educate them to understand that they are carrying the lives of people and not to drive as if they are competing. This is because if they kill these people, after all, who will they carry next and make their money from?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not good to say that the Government did not do this and that. After all, the Government will not be able to do everything in a single day. It should take time, particularly, with the meagre resource we have today.

The other issue which we should address collectively in a different way is the issue of corruption. I am fed up with the issue of corruption because this is something that was identified many years ago. The Government has been open about it and has said that, this is a problem affecting almost everybody, and it has involved wananchi themselves, and businessmen, and said that, "here is the problem." So, if corruption has been identified as a problem, why do we have to go back and talk about it again and again to remind ourselves that it is a problem? The best thing we can do for the country now is to come out with solutions for this issue of corruption. So, I am suggesting that, from now onwards, instead of blaming the Government, we should do something else. Could we educate the people against involvement in corrupt activities? Could we talk at the top of our voices and tell the people not to bribe the policeman because it takes the giver for someone to receive? If we can tell our people not to give bribes; if we can strongly tell the people that they should not buy the services, and that these are their rights; I think we shall have done something very good, and we shall have moved forward in alleviating the problem of corruption. I know we do not want to do this because all the time we are looking for an excuse to blame the Government. We want to look holier-than-thou all the time.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for instance, we know some of our friends who moved from this side to the other side; when they were in the Government, they did not help much to put anything correct. Some of the problems we are having today emanate from some of them when they were in office. It does not mean that if one crosses the Floor, or when one falls out of favour with the Government, he is a "Mr. Clean". All I am saying is that, it is time we stopped this useless talk and we came back together and supported the Government collectively. The Government must be supported if it has to achieve its objectives and properly serve the people. That is what we want.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that people in other nations that have succeeded do not malign their motherland. You do not hear them talking ill of their motherland outside; you do not read bold headlines about their ills out there. But what do we do ourselves? We are doing this day in, day out, and that does not help us. We have done it over the years now, but we have not seen that assisting us in any way. So, I am saying that, we should now look at issues and see what is good for our people. Whatever matter will assist our people, it will also assist development in this country, and we should support it. It does not matter where the idea originated from.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me talk about the problems that affect my own people. I have said this many days before. I wish to thank the Government for some of the infrastructural facilities it has put in place in my constituency, although it is far from assisting the people. As you may be aware, I come from a very dry area. Last year, we had no harvest; now we have no water, and people depend on very few boreholes. So, I still urge the Government to look for ways of assisting my people; to look for those friends who can assist my people come out of this problem.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we depend on livestock and to this end, I want to support those hon. Members who have spoken before me that, the livestock industry should be revisited with a view to finding useful markets for the livestock products. We have not addressed this industry which, definitely, forms a very good percentage of the revenue that this country gets. This is because we have a tendency of looking upon tea and coffee which are historical foreign exchange earners of this country and everybody knows that Kenya is good for tea and coffee. But while doing something about tea and coffee, which you already know, we should also look at other areas which can be tapped for the good of this country. So, I am urging the Minister for Agriculture to look at the issue of livestock so that our people can be supported. We should look at the parameters that affect the livestock industry, which include the provision of water for livestock; support on good pastures and, above all, to create market for livestock products in order to assist people who keep animals.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me once again emphasise the fact that we need to address issues collectively. Let us not simply apportion blame; let us not simply look at the Government, but, instead, we should urge our people to work very hard so that before it is too late, we stop depending on others.

With those remarks, I support the Motion.

**Mr. Omamba:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to His Excellency's Presidential Address.

There are key problem areas which the President touched on, such as poverty. Now, when I talk about poverty, I mean what to eat, dress, where to sleep, how to move from one place to another, and so forth. Western Kenya is favoured by the climate along Lake Victoria region, and it favours cotton industries where our people get cash from the sale of cotton to the cotton industries. It might be that there was no political will, but now, as I have

observed, I have seen that, there is a good political will. So, I urge the Minister concerned to revive this important cash crop so that our people do not starve.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, likewise, the fish industry is dead because it is in the hands of Asians. I do not know why the Asians are enjoying our God-given gift. Could the Minister concerned see what the Government should do to improve the fishing industry? I know that the blame has been put so much on the Government, but if you neglect your wife; if you do not visit her all the time, she should complain. So, blame is not abusive; it is only a voice of somebody crying because he has been neglected. So, negligence has made the people complain. They are not abusing the Government, but they are complaining because they have been neglected.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from Uriri Constituency, which is a very productive region. Uriri is an area which is between the two rivers; River Yani and Migori River, but in that vast land, there are no natural rivers. During the colonial time, so many dams were constructed, but we rarely use any of them because they dried up due to drought. Could these dams be rehabilitated? We are not blaming the Minister concerned; we are crying and urging him to focus his attention to these Kenyan taxpayers.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, how can we be expected to work collectively with the local people, yet the Government has got all the machineries? If the Government wants to do the practical side of it, it has all the tools; there is money, manpower and machineries to construct dams.

Why do you blame us when the ordinary man is so impatient? Even if it is your wife who has been hurt and you do not even say "sorry" to her; is that really good? So, we need clean drinking water because for instance in my constituency, there is no clean drinking water. How do you expect our people to go on praising the Government when all these things are happening?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am worried about the state of the roads in my constituency. Even if I invited you for a Harambee in my constituency, you will not be able to reach there. If you ever manage to reach there, your vehicle will have developed a lot of mechanical problems. In fact, my constituents are blaming me because the roads are impassable. I think we should put a Parliamentary Implementations committee in place in order to enforce what the President always says. The Minister concerned should look into all these problems. We suffer immensely because we are neglected by the Government. The roads in my constituency were destroyed by the *El Nino* rains, but since then, nothing has been done. So, when our people complain, they are justified. The dams which had been constructed there were washed away by the *El Nino* rains. What happened to the tractors which the Government had since the colonial days? Did the colonial Government go away with the tractors which were used to construct these dams? We in the NDP are co-operating with the ruling party, but we do not see the fruits of this co-operation. Does the Government really value us? We are really embarrassed! The Minister in charge of our roads should address this matter very urgently. He was here, but I do not know where he went when he saw me standing to contribute. One day, I went to his office, but I was not given a chance to see him. It is really hard to reach him in his office. In my constituency, we have got two roads. There is the one which stretches to the Rift Valley through Migori. I was told that this road will be rehabilitated, but nothing has been done. There is also another road from Oyanimalo and passes through Ndhiwa. There is no indication that this road will be rehabilitated.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally I wish to comment on employment. Whenever there is recruitment in the districts, the District Commissioners are biased. During the recruitment of police constables, some people were taken from Kisii to Migori for recruitment. There should be a balance in recruitment so that every constituency gets its fair share. We are wondering why this had to happen. Is it because there is a Minister who influenced that recruitment?

With those remarks, I beg to support.

**The Minister for Vocational Training** (Mr. Kones): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to add my voice to the debate on the Presidential Speech.

I would like to congratulate the President for coming up with a very inspiring speech. I think the main issues afflicting this nation were actually addressed. The main issue which touched me was the poverty eradication strategy. We have been talking about this, but I think it is time that we took action. Poverty is real in the countryside. Actually, one can feel it because it is there is a big way. The number of children who drop out of school; the number of schools that go without adequate teachers; the number of children who go to school and have no materials to read or write on; and the number of children who go to school with tattered clothes are enormous. This is a reality. We do not understand why the funds that are constantly given through the District Treasury never reach the people. To be able to focus seriously on poverty eradication, we have got to develop a different strategy of making sure that those funds get to the people. We are not going to eliminate poverty unless we come up with a strategy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President mentioned the issue of corruption in his Speech, but I think the avenues for corruption have been created by ourselves. The funds disbursed to the districts by the Treasury end up at the District Treasury and I do not think it goes out of that place. If ever it goes out of that place, then it goes to people's pockets. Something must be done about this. Every Member of Parliament represents a constituency and is answerable to the electorate in his or her constituency. Sometimes we cannot answer simple questions, for example, why a pothole has not been filled for the last one year. We will not have any answer for that because money is supposed to have gone to the district, but it did not go towards sealing those potholes. I am proposing, as an emergency strategy, that the District Treasury should be converted to constituency treasuries so that every Member of Parliament can sit with the development committee and decide which projects are of priority in his constituency and supervise them. In a situation where we have to get ten Members of Parliament meeting under the chairmanship of a District Commissioner who cares less about what is happening in the constituencies, nothing will ever work. We know the needs of our people and we know how much we need to at least make a difference. We are not saying all the roads in this country must be tarmacked or murramed. We are saying that where there is an obvious pothole, manhole or culvert that has been washed away by rains like the *El Nino* rains, it should be put back. That will involve little money. Unless we address these things in a much more positive way, and these hon. Members are given the responsibility and accessibility to that fund, we will go on singing here and come the next general elections, all of us will be voted out because nothing has been happening; when in the real sense, we had nothing to do with it. We go to the District Development Committee meetings, come back to Parliament and after one year nothing happens. In fact, sometimes we get tired, so that we keep on repeating these things; you go there, read the previous minutes and confirm them although nothing is happening. I think, we have got to be a bit more serious. The President is actually asking us to focus on these things and everybody recognises the problems we are having, but the machinery to get there is lacking. I think, this is a proposal that I would like to make, so that at least, the Presidential Address would meet some percentage of success because he is concerned. We could see him talking and he is really getting concerned. However, we must get there. To get there, we need to do away with these District Treasuries and decentralise them into constituency treasuries and things will work. That way, money goes from the Treasury and it goes straight into every constituency. I think, somehow, things will work out there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have talked about retrenching chiefs and assistant chiefs. I think, we need chiefs and assistant chiefs. There are certain members of the Provincial Administration that we do not need today, we will not need them tomorrow and we have never needed them before. We want the chiefs because they mobilise the people. They are actually the source of security in a village. They actually sit out there to arbitrate over small quarrels, for instance, when a husband quarrels with his wife, somebody has to come out there to arbitrate. That somebody is the chief. Without a chief in a location, there is no life. So, we need these chiefs and assistant chiefs. But there are some other people we do not need; they have done nothing. I am not going to be critical about the Provincial Administration because I am always known to be factual, but where they are not giving us results; we must say so. There are those of them who are not giving the results. They just want to be around, be driven in a Land Rover and have some security around them while enjoying a lot of comfort. But they do nothing at the end of the day. Some of them have not been able to call a leaders meeting for the last two years because they fear. They cannot face these leaders. What is their role? They just want to say that they are in charge of a district. How? They are doing nothing. We have to get a structure that works. A structure that works is the one that is accountable, responsible and answerable to the Member of Parliament.

*(Applause)*

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the roads, I would like to send my condolences to the families of those members who lost their lives in the two accidents which occurred in Kericho and Kisii. The pothole that killed those people, especially in Kericho; I use that road almost every week, has been there for the last one year. I keep on evading it every time I go through that road. It is dangerous and it is obviously, dangerous. It has been dangerous all the time. All we are saying is, if somebody was serious, he could have taken a lorry load of murram with a tipper and dump it on that side and cover it up with some bitumen; at least, for two or three weeks and then do it again, or get some ballast and cover it and it would have saved many lives. There are simple things that can be done, to avoid these accidents. We did not have to lose those people. It is just a simple pothole and it is not that people do not see it. It has been there for a long time. These people who are charged with the responsibility of repairing these roads, for heavens sake, should move out there and do something. It is not good. Every time, we are saying, we have lost 10, 30, or 100 people. This thing is worse than AIDS; let us address it. Let us not hear of other deaths again tomorrow. What killed those people is the pothole and not overloading. Overloading worsened the situation because more people died. However, if the pothole was not there, these people would not have died. So, let us be serious about it. We would like

the officers who are charged with this responsibility to rise up and do something about it, especially on this main road. Something must be done on the road from Mombasa, right down to Malava. These are busy roads. When you try to evade these potholes, you either crash head on with a big bus or a lorry and we have seen these dangers. Every time we go down that road and I think, this happens every week---

**Mr. Munyasia:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not know how serious this House will take this Minister because the roads he is talking about are roads that went bad during his time as the Minister for Public Works and Housing.

*(Applause)*

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): So, what is your point of order, Mr. Munyasia?

**Mr. Munyasia:** Do we believe him? Is it in order that he should begin telling us about shortcomings that he, himself was responsible for?

**An hon. Member:** He has defected!

**The Minister for Vocational Training** (Mr. Kones): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, whether or not I was the Minister for Public Works and Housing, potholes must be filled. It does not help, for me to keep quiet about it because I know it was a problem. I used to say it was a problem all along, anyway. It has not stopped being a problem whether I was a Minister or not. I am not blaming the Minister here; I am only saying that those officers, who are charged with those responsibilities, must take up their job serious.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Your time is over! Yes, Mr. Galgallo.

**Mr. Achola:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. How can you give two Members from that side a chance to contribute?

**Mr. M.A. Galgallo:** Sit down!

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order! Mr. Achola, I am in charge.

*(Laughter)*

**Mr. M.A. Galgallo:** Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on the Presidential Address. Most of the problems that this country is experiencing were caused by leaders from both sides of this House. From 1963, when we attained Independence, we have gone through 37 years of parliamentary democracy. We had Parliament and leadership all along and we have never had problems from outside. So, we should have corrected these bad things.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about poverty; poverty in this country was caused by problems we, ourselves created. We had tribal clashes which were instigated by leaders, be they from the Government or the Opposition and still, we are pursuing that kind of behaviour, like the recent threat to the Maasais by six Opposition Members of Parliament. The Maasais had moved there because they had no water and pasture for their livestock. When they use vulgar language and intimidate the Maasais, those leaders should have sought for ways and means of addressing that problem amicably, because Maasais are also Kenyans instead of intimidating them. I am a pastoralist and I feel so much for the livestock.

The problem is that we have destroyed our agricultural base. When we talk of those problems, we had cashewnuts, bixa, Kenya Meat Commission, Bura Irrigation Scheme, Hola Irrigation Scheme and they have all disappeared because of mismanagement. Some of those leaders who have contributed to this mess are Members of this Parliament. There is a lot of insecurity. We have cattle rustling and banditry in Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa and everywhere in this country. You cannot move at night. There is no potential for tourism. Apart from tea and coffee, that was the only industry for the Coast Province. Tourism is no more because of insecurity. We must tackle this problem jointly as a nation. You just do not pass the buck and say that the Government is responsible; no, let us sit together. There can be no investments in this country because of insecurity. Tourists would like to come and visit this country, but if they are being shot in the national parks, if they cannot move freely at night or day-time because of mugging, it is too bad. I would like to call upon the Minister in charge of Internal Security, even if he requires extra funds for training the Police Force, or if it means employing paramilitary police; we must tackle the problem of insecurity. I also want to call upon leaders of political parties to make sure that these senseless tribal clashes end, so that people can go back to their farms.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, research is very important. We have been told that all the land that had been set aside for research has been given away to a few people, and that is too bad for this country. I am, therefore, calling upon the Government to strengthen research institutions in the country, so that we may have the best crops and



livestock breeds.

Another problem that I would like to talk about is that of souring bank interest rates. With the very high bank interest rates, nobody can borrow money from any local bank now. As hon. Omino, the Deputy Speaker, said, if interest on Treasury Bills (TBs) has gone down, why do bank interest rates not fall also?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to call upon hon. Members to treat everybody in this country as Kenyans. It does not auger well for this nation if some hon. Members continue referring to people by the names of their tribes. I am among those hon. Members who visited Botswana recently. What we saw there is a leadership that has nurtured harmony, honesty, and national discipline. Why can we not do the same in this country? Why must we refer to Kenyans as belonging to tribes? Let us create harmony among the people of this country. In my constituency, some people are being denied national identification cards (IDs). Those people are now suffering; they have become refugees in their own country. So, I would like to ask the relevant Minister in the Office of the President, to ensure that Kenyans are issued with IDs regardless of their colour or social background.

I am convinced that in order for this country to cope with the rest of the world in this era of globalisation, the Government must accelerate the privatisation process of State corporations. It is useless for us to allocate money every year to State parastatals which will neither make profits nor sustain themselves. The Government has no business keeping 10 million acres of land, where it is neither growing crops nor rearing livestock. For example, in Tana-River and Malindi Districts, the Government owns over two million acres of land ranches, but less than 2,000 animals are being kept therein. The Government has no business trading; it is supposed to provide services to the people, develop infrastructure such as roads, provide security, make regulations, among other functions. I am calling upon the Government to speed up the privatisation process and sell all the State corporations, if it can make money out of their sale. The Government is not supposed to compete with private entrepreneurs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, lastly, I would like to call upon the Ministry of Medical Services to improve the provision of health services in this country. Immunisation is very important, but most parts of Tana-River District are not covered during immunisation drives due to bad roads and insecurity. Secondly, that district does not have enough teachers. Schools are closed when learning is supposed to be going on because of the so-called "insecurity".

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order! Mr. M.A. Galgalo, your time is up. Could you proceed, Dr. Kulundu?

**Dr. Kulundu:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion on the Presidential Address. I must say rightaway that I found the Presidential Address much less inspiring than has been expressed by my colleagues on the Government side of this House.

In fact, the Presidential Address was more or less a litany of lamentations and platitudes that, really, have no bearing to the reality on the ground. I believe that, in future, the President should devote some time to analysing the contents of his Address of the previous year. In order for us to take his Address seriously, he should tell us what he accomplished among the pledges he made in his previous Address. In this particular Address, the President did not say anything about the pledges he made in his last year's Address. I can, therefore, safely, say that none of last year's proposals made by the President has been implemented to-date.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Presidential Address should be SMART; it should have specific objectives, which are measurable, attainable, realistic, and there must be a time-frame within which those objectives are to be attained. The Presidential Address was grossly lacking in all these aspects. However, to the credit of the President, I must admit that, so far, he has not contradicted himself over his Address. This House will recall that, in the recent past, the public has been treated to some kind of circus where the President's senior officers would one day say one thing, but the President would say a different thing the following morning. In fact, I can authoritatively say that a situation where the decision making process seems to go in circles could be a symptom of a much deeper problem in the management of public affairs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Constitution talks about certain conditions that would make the President leave Office, one of them being mental infirmity. However, the same Constitution is silent on who should initiate the process of having the President's mental status established.

**The Minister for Information, Transport and Communications** (Mr. Mudavadi): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to continue discussing the person of the President when there is no substantive Motion?

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Certainly, the Dr. Kulundu is not in order, and I would like to draw his attention to Standing Order No.73(1), which reads as follows:-

"Neither the personal conduct of the President nor any conduct of the Speaker or of any judge, nor the judicial conduct of any other person performing judicial functions, nor any conduct of the ruler or the Government or the representative in Kenya of any friendly country shall be referred to

adversely except upon a specific substantive Motion moved for that purpose."

Specifically, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to Standing Order No.73(3), which reads as follows:-

"It shall be out of order to use offensive or insulting language whether in respect of Members of the House or other persons."

Dr. Kulundu, in this respect, you are out of order, and you should refrain from contravening the provisions of this Standing Order.

**Dr. Kulundu:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. With due respect, I was not talking about the President, but about the management of public affairs where there seems to be contradictions.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order, Dr. Kulundu! I heard what you said very well.

**Dr. Kulundu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to withdraw that statement.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Dr. Kulundu, I heard you very well and you will have to obey the orders of the Chair.

**Dr. Kulundu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Constitution talks about some of these things being done by a resolution of the Cabinet. In my humble view, given the nature and history of Cabinet Ministers that this country has had since Independence - I am not necessarily now talking about the current ones - I think it is dangerous to leave that kind of decision to the Cabinet. Parliament must be empowered to order that a President, and I am not talking about President Moi for God's sake, or this country, must undergo certain tests, if in the opinion of the National Assembly, certain things tend to indicate that he could be mentally sick.

*(Applause)*

**The Minister for Medical Services** (Dr. Anangwe): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**An hon. Member:** It is not President Moi!

**The Minister for Medical Services** (Dr. Anangwe): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think the hon. Member is being clever. We are talking about the President's Speech, he is making references and allusions which seem to suggest that His Excellency the President is mentally infirm and this should not arise. The hon. Member is still playing games and he should stop making those allusions.

**Dr. Kulundu:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that the hon. Minister is a spin doctor for the system and he has just said it.

*(Applause)*

I am not talking about a specific person here, but I am talking about---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order, Dr. Kulundu! I think it is obvious that you are referring to the current President because you are not talking about--- If you wish, you can look at Standing No.73(4) which says:

"No Member shall impute improper motive to any other Member except upon a specific substantive Motion calling in question the conduct of that Member."

Dr. Kulundu, if you wish to debate the conduct of the President or any other hon. Member, you are at liberty to bring a substantive Motion to this House. Otherwise, I again order you to refrain from dwelling on that matter.

**Dr. Kulundu:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I was only referring that as part of the constitutional review process which the President mentioned in his Speech.

Let me now move over to the question of poverty. A lot has been said about poverty eradication. A little while ago, we used to hear about social dimensions of development and so on. In this country, poverty is not a new phenomenon. As a matter of fact, the KANU Government, right from Independence, in 1963 recognised poverty as one of the three major enemies facing Kenyans; the others being illiteracy and disease. So, this hullabaloo about poverty reduction should be seen in its proper context. Poverty eradication has been the Government's pre-occupation for 37 years. Now, for them to wake up this year and begin to produce wonderful papers about how poverty will be alleviated by this and that year is misleading Kenyans. They must tell us what made them fail to contain this poverty which they were committed to eradicate right from Independence up to now when, in fact, as a conditionality of the World Bank and the IMF, they have now produced nice papers about how poverty will be eradicated. My prediction is that these wonderful papers that we have been going through are just window dressing. There is no commitment whatsoever on the part of the Government to address the question of poverty. If the Government is serious in eradication poverty or reducing, it should take the first opportunity to sack all the Ministers and senior officers who

have been implicated in irregular financial deals in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is on record of this House that there are some hon. Members of this august House who obtained loans from some financial institutions and they have not repaid them. If the Government is serious about this programme of eradicating poverty let us see some action being taken against the culprits.

On the question of HIV/AIDS, I am proud to say that the Committee which I chair played a pivotal role in organising a symposium for hon. Members, and I wish to congratulate the hon. Members for their wonderful participation in that symposium that culminated in certain resolutions being passed by them. I wish to record my gratitude to the President for declaring HIV/AIDS a national disaster.

*(Applause)*

You see I can also say something positive about the President, but a national disaster declared---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order, Dr. Kulundu! Your time is up.

**The Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry** (Mr. Sankori): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

May I take this opportunity, first of all, to thank the Almighty God for bringing us back to this august House in this Century. May I also congratulate all the hon. Members of the Eighth Parliament for being hon. Members of Parliament for two Centuries; that is the 20th and 21st Century. No any other person would have this opportunity apart from you people.

The Speech of His Excellency the President really dwelt on many things. He has given hon. Members of this august House time to think on the solution to the problems that he highlighted in his Speech. It is up to us to think and suggest ways and means of trying to solve those problems. Kenya being a growing nation - 37 years after Independence, those are not many years as other people think. America is 300 years old. We still have got a long way to go. If you want to measure Kenya with the American development, I am sorry to say that not even our grand, grand children will reach them.

While we are fighting all the ills, we must start first of all with education. Having come from a rural area - people who were left behind by the colonialists that is in Kajiado, Maasailand or the semi-arid and arid areas, we are sorry to say that we need to be considered more than any of the tribes that had an opportunity to excel in education. Why am I saying this? If you go to Turkana, Moyale, Narok and Kajiado, you will find that most of the teachers there do not come from those areas. Sometimes they find life difficult when they are sent to the interior schools. Then you will find that children who live right in the deep rural areas suffer a lot because either teachers are always absent or schools are understaffed. I know that the Ministry of Education has put a hold on employment of teachers, but I would like to request them to consider these arid and semi-arid areas and employ the already trained teachers from those areas so that they can go where other people cannot go because they were born there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a lot of insecurity in this country. It is not the making of the Government but the spirit of insecurity in the country is around us and a lot of arms find their way into the wrong hands. We must congratulate the police for what they are doing. We should give them all the necessary support instead of saying: "Why should they kill eight people?" Surely, did you want them to be killed? I think that was a well-done job by those policemen. The security of this country is in everybody's hands. We should always congratulate whoever will go a step ahead in trying to eradicate insecurity in this country. On the question of poverty, in each and every area God has given us some of kind of activity that we know best. The Luos have got Lake Victoria where they can catch fish and export them. The Luos and Luhyas have got sugarcane. The Kikuyu and the people from Kericho have got coffee and tea. The Maasais have got cattle.

The most important thing is the market. The Ministries concerned should get a market for all those products because we have got them here in Kenya. It is unfortunate that KMC is not operational. You will find the nomads have nowhere to sell their cattle. If we had a market to sell our cattle, goats and sheep we would go a long way to assist ourselves and we would not need famine relief. Equally, if the Luos got a market for their fish definitely this would go a long way in alleviating their problems as far as poverty is concerned. Whoever is concerned should see that all these areas are really taken care of. All these things depend on the leaders. When we talk of security, the leaders must show the way. It is really pathetic to find a leader inciting people just for the sake of getting a few votes for the year 2002. I am shocked by some of MPs who went to Naivasha just the other day to incite people who are staying peacefully just because they do not come from that community. It is very unfortunate. Waswahili husema: "Asante ya punda ni mateke."

That area belongs to the Maasais. We can as well go to the highest court in this world to reclaim back our land. We can even reclaim Nairobi if need be. We have got cattle now in Langata and, as far as South C. We are not claiming Nairobi. We only need grass for our cattle. If it rains today we will go back. Why does a man like hon.

Gatabaki need to go all the way to Naivasha, just to incite a few Kikuyus?

**Mr. Gatabaki:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Assistant Minister to claim that the entire Kenya belongs to the Maasais when anybody else like those from my community who live in Rift Valley and have title deeds which they bought on willing buyer willing seller basis are entitled to that land? Is it in order for him to talk in that inciting language?

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila):** Your point of order has been taken. Hon. Sankori, proceed.

**The Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Sankori):** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we did not go to Githunguri. The day we go to Githunguri, we will not incite the Githunguri people.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila):** Order, hon. Sankori. Hon. Members, I believe the Chair has ruled in the past that you should avoid making any statement that would appear to incite any communities in Kenya. Therefore, hon. Sankori, you will continue with your debate and refrain from uttering any word that can be construed to be incitement.

**The Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Sankori):** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to tell the hon. Members that Maasais are not pushovers and we are not disabled. Leaders should show a good example in all ways. I am saying this because it was said it was reported in the media and we cannot just keep quiet when we appear in headlines for nothing.

**Mr. Gatabaki:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for this Assistant Minister to keep on pointing and looking at me so menacingly, instead of addressing the Chair?

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila):** I do not think there is anything wrong with looking at an hon. Member.

**The Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Sankori):** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not looking at Mr. Gatabaki. If I am looking at him he should know that I can be more fierce when he incites me.

The question of roads has been mentioned. The Emali-Loitoktok Road has been on the drawing board of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing for the last 15 years. Loitoktok is a high potential area and if that road is tarmacked, a lot of business will really crop up especially both in tourism - because they will be going to Amboseli - and equally agriculture. It will also be a shorter route to Mombasa through Taveta. It is unfortunate that we have been singing this song for a long time. I would like to tell the Minister for Public Works and Housing that it is high time that he really became a bit serious and tarmacked Emali-Loitoktok Road.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mr. Achola:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I was not here when the President made his speech because I had gone to Botswana to witness the real example of a country that is being run properly in the continent of Africa. I would like to point out from the start that having read what the President told this House, I think it was much better than what we heard last year. For the last seven years that I have been in here, this year's speech was markedly much better than all of them. Whoever wrote the speech for him, tried this time because at least there were some issues there. It did not quite expose Government policy, but there were some issues there which, given time someone would have expounded on. I am going to talk off the cuff without reference to anything because there are so many mistakes in this country that you do not really need to read anywhere to make a speech.

I will start by talking about corruption. You heard the President saying that he is very committed to eradicating corruption or at least trying to eliminate it, but he is great in making contradictions. That same morning when he was addressing the KANU Parliamentary Group meeting he actually warned certain "watchdog" Committees here that they were really being an affront to his Ministers. I think he must have been referring to the fact that his son had been mentioned in some of the corrupt deals which the Public Accounts Committee had highlighted.

**Hon. Members:** Shame! Shame!

**The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Wako):** On point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is not true that the President in the KANU Parliamentary Group meeting referred to his son. What the President said in that meeting, is not what Mr. Achola is saying. What is he alleging is not true.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila):** Order! Mr. Achola, you were not in that meeting. Why do you have to say what you heard as if you were in that meeting? If you were not there, why do you not talk of what you know?

**Mr. Achola:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was not here when the President made his speech, but it was all printed. If you allow me to continue, I would appreciate. If the President is going to leave any legacy to this country, I would really like to appeal to him to show some commitment in eradicating corruption.

(Applause)

This is because when I look at the five issues raised by the President in his speech, all have linkages to corruption. Look at the road network in this country? Every hon. Member has talked about it; our roads are impassable. When the colonialists left this country, I think, we had passable roads. However, 37 years later, our roads are impassable! When we go to our constituencies, wananchi are telling us that they will not elect us again because roads are not passable. How is a hon. Member supposed to tarmac roads in this country? It is the responsibility of the Government to make sure that our roads are passable. Let me give you an example of what we witnessed in Botswana. When the colonialists left Botswana in 1966, there were only 9 kilometres of tarmacked roads. As of last year, there were 4,000 kilometres of tarmacked roads because of good governance and corruption intolerance. That is why I am appealing to the President to do this country a favour by being committed and ensuring that, corruption is eliminated by firing people who have been mentioned in corrupt deals in the Government. I hate Ministers who are capable, like hon. Dr. Anangwe who could get jobs elsewhere, but stand up and just sing even when mistakes are being done. I think these are people who are taking this country a stray.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President talked about the problem of HIV/AIDS in Kenya. It was great when we had a HIV/AIDS symposium in Mombasa. We thought that was something that was going to be expanded countrywide. As usual, the recommendations of that symposium ended in Mombasa. We left Mombasa saying that all hon. Members were to be given bicycles or other things were going to be issued to them, so that they could educate their constituents on the dangers of AIDS. It is a shame that, that was the end of it. One amazing thing is that when the Office of the President knows that money will be given for any project in this country, they would always like that money to be channelled through the Office of the President and we know why?

**An hon. Member:** Robbery without violence!

**Mr. Achola:** The Office of the President is the hub of corruption in this country. It was the same thing that happened with the *El Nino* funds. Instead of putting those funds under the Ministry of Roads and Public Works for maintenance of roads in the country, it was taken to the Office of the President, so that they could loot it at will.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the *El Nino* rains were here in 1997. Today, we are in the year 2000 and those funds have not been disbursed to any district. We still have bad roads all over the country because those funds have not been put into proper use. In fact, it is a rumour, but I do not want to talk about rumours that, US\$390 million has been "eaten"---

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Achola. Do not talk about rumours in the House. Continue, Mr. Achola.

**Mr. Achola:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me talk about liberalisation in this country. We are talking about poverty eradication, but I do not think we will achieve this goal in our lifetime with this type of Government. It is a pity that we are working for other countries. For instance, the sugar industry which most people in Western Kenya rely on, employs more than 2 million people. However, we have embraced liberalisation and we knocked our people out of business. Today, even just a small green pepper is imported from South Africa. Who are we killing? We are creating job opportunities for people in other countries, while denying our people employment. Liberalisation must be guided. You cannot liberalise and hope that it will work, when you do not have industries that will produce those things at a competitive price. Therefore, those who are able to import commodities will just knock us off. That is precisely what has happened. We import cheap rice from Egypt at the expense of rice from Mwea and Ahero irrigation schemes. We also import cheap wheat from Austria. Liberalisation ought to be guided. We should not just follow what the IMF and World Bank are telling us blindly. Look at what happened in the petroleum industry, after it was liberalised. The Government removed price control, but pump prices are all the same. Therefore, in what way has liberalisation helped the consumers in this country? Instead of letting petroleum industry control itself and determine what margins they are going to charge, I think, this is where the Government should come in and dictate terms, so that we could buy petroleum products at affordable prices. If you go to Nakuru Town, all the pump prices are the same. That is a wonderful example of where liberalisation has not really worked. I have so many examples where liberalisation has failed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, some hon. Members talked about district treasuries. District treasuries are supposed to be the centres of disbursing the Appropriations-in-Aid vote. That is where you have the real looters and that is why the money does not reach the grassroots level. We have been approving money in the Budget to the districts, but none of it, really, reaches its intended purpose. This is because officers at the district level are masters of their own and they do what they want with the money which has been voted.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, many people say that a fish starts to rot from the head. If we clean corruption from the top, then this country will move forward. I did not see why Botswana should be any better than Kenya. It is the size of this country, but if you go there, you feel ashamed to be a Kenyan because they are doing well

in all aspects. They have a free medical system. You can undertake an open heart surgery operation without paying a single cent. If you went for a heart surgery at Kenyatta National Hospital, I can guess, you will not come out alive.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Botswana, education is free up to university level. The citizens of that country are black people like us. If they can do it, why can we not do it here? It is all due to corruption.

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development** (Mr. Ruto): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Achola:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think the hon. Member is informed enough to inform me.

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development** (Mr. Ruto): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order, Mr. Ruto! Your point of information was not accepted. Therefore, will you sit down?

**The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development** (Mr. Ruto): He can go to Botswana!

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order! Mr. Ruto, you have to respect the Chair.

**Mr. Achola:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is trying to inform me, but he is very ignorant and he has nothing to tell me. He is talking about the population of Botswana. It is only 1.4 million people; so what? Yes, they are 1.4 million people, but with better facilities. We ought to do better than them. The fact that they are 1.4 million people, means that their workforce is also less. So, it is just the mess that this Government has put this country into, that is stopping us from doing what we should do.

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

**The Assistant Minister for Health** (Dr. Wako): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Address delivered in this House on 28th March, 2000.

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the President for very the splendid speech. It touched on every aspect of the policy of the Government and it indicated all that the Government is doing to revive the economy of this country. It is very opportune for all hon. Members to see that the Government is trying so hard to revive the economy. It is also incumbent upon us, as the stakeholders in this economy, to forge a unity between the Government, leaders, wananchi and the civil society. It is very unfortunate that when the Government is trying very hard to revive the economy, our politicians and a few members of the civil society are inciting wananchi to violence. In other words, this kind of incitement will destabilise our economy. This is because no investor will come to this country when respected hon. Members are issuing threats. They threaten other ethnic groups and all that. That actually contributes to the falling of the economy, and it is not only corruption *per se* which actually contributes to that. We, in Kenya, should actually check on how we talk, because it makes a lot of difference. This is because people who are going to invest in this country always look for a place which has stability. The way we talk contributes a lot to that. Coupled with that, the tourism industry is important, because tourists normally go where there is security and stability. Therefore, we should actually get into the culture of stabilising our country, because the newspapers are writing negative stories about Kenya. That also contributes to the detriment of the economy of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having said that, I would like to point out that it is very good that a few of our Members, who are in the Parliamentary Select Committee on corruption were in Botswana and talked in this House about very sweet things they found there. I think, first and foremost, it is good to have a country which is working and has a good economy. However, what we should realise is that in Kenya, the population is about 30 times that of Botswana. Fifteen years ago, Kenya was actually able to give free medical and education services. Some of us have actually gone through our education system without paying fees.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, so, it does not make a lot of difference when the population of Kenya is rising at 4.5 per cent. Such a population rate is a headache to any country. That is why developed countries keep their population rate low. About 10 to 20 years ago, the rate of unemployment in Kenya was low. The number of students who were graduating out of the universities were low. So, they could easily get employed. Between 15 and 20 years ago, all the students who finished their Form Four education could acquire employment. When we are talking, we should note that it is not only corruption *per se* which has actually contributed to the reason behind the present situation in Kenya. There are several factors which actually should be taken into account.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, therefore, when we still talk about corruption, I think hon. Members and the whole country should know that it is not the Government alone which can fight it. It is upon each one of us to fight corruption, because it is becoming a cancer in the society. Therefore, when we are dealing with this cancer, we should all be bold enough in reporting it in order to track it down. This is because regarding what happened ten years ago, it is as if we were not in Kenya and were not even talking about corruption. For the last three years, people have been talking openly about corruption. In the last two years, we have seen a lot of prosecutions and other things going on. So, we should actually look at the positive things which the Government has also done. There are many people who have

already been taken to court because of corruption. Therefore, it makes a lot of difference.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about insecurity in the country. It is unfortunate and we all know that security in this country is something which needs to be attended to urgently. This is because, first and foremost, you will find that the number of guns which have actually come into this country are many. We congratulate the Government because as one of the African countries, Kenya has taken a bold step to talk about the problem during the Small Arms Conference held in Nairobi. The Government was able to do that, because the level of insecurity currently being experienced in Kenya is a result of instability in other countries. That is what has actually made people to bring arms into this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is in view of that, that the Government should actually look into this issue and see how to contain the refugees in this country. Although we Kenyans are talking so negatively about our country, Kenya is one of the countries which has the highest number of refugees because of her stability. That is one thing that we should realise; that the number of refugees from Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and the rest of the countries is very high. Unfortunately, our neighbours bring small arms into the country which have actually terrorised most of the pastoralists in the Northern Districts. Today as I am talking, in Garissa, there is a high rate of insecurity, because of warlords who have actually come into the country and are destabilising the area. As we are talking, insecurity is being experienced in Isiolo, because of warlords who have been hired from other countries to come and fight the people of Isiolo. I think it is the high time that Kenya looked at the registration of people as Kenyans, because we think that Kenya is registering many aliens, especially from Somalia, Uganda and even from Burundi. That is actually reflected in the 1999 Population Census, which indicates that North Eastern Province had an increase of 123 per cent. We think that most of them are refugees and are contributing to the insecurity situation in our country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we congratulate His Excellency the President for closing the border. However, individuals who are working in the security sector and the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) have to be more careful, because today at the Port of Mombasa, KRA has become efficient in trying to collect taxes. But the tax evaders have "reshipped" their activities to Somalia. It is through Somalia that uncustomed goods are coming into the country. It must be that most of the lorries which are passing through Isiolo, Wajir, Mandera and other places have been carrying those goods and guns to Kenya. Therefore, we have to be careful.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). We would like to appeal to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and as the President has said several times, that KMC should be revived. It looks as if certain individuals in the Ministry are actually trying to sell KMC cheaply. That is very unfortunate when we are talking of corruption. Mitsubishi Corporation alone has brought goods and equipment worth Kshs400 million into KMC. Somebody in the Ministry is trying to undervalue KMC and sell it for Kshs300 million. That is gross misuse of office. Actually, it is going to be very bad if that takes place. We, the pastoralists, require the services of KMC.

**Mr. Achola:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is Dr. Wako not an Assistant Minister? He has alleged that someone has undervalued the equipment from Mitsubishi Corporation. I would like him to substantiate by telling us who that person is.

**The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Wako):** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not like to give the names, but certain individuals in the Ministry of Agriculture have been doing that.

I beg to support.

**Mr. Thirikwa:** Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to make a few observations and comments on the Presidential Address.

Before I do that, I would like to comment on an issue which has featured in this House since yesterday. This is about a meeting that took place in Naivasha. As much as we would like to advise other leaders not to incite their communities, we should not come to this House and do the same. I agree, it is arrogant for anybody to go to Naivasha and declare himself a field marshal. But for sure, we should know that the Kikuyu and the Maasai in Naivasha have lived together for years. If there are any two communities that understand each other, it is the Kikuyu and the Maasai. We should not start debating over a small dispute in Naivasha.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should also take cognisance of the fact that, it was the Member of Parliament for Naivasha, who held the meeting and not the Kikuyu *per se*. The Kikuyu cannot hold a meeting at Naivasha. Nobody should stand in this House and claim that there is a war between the Maasai and the Kikuyu, because, you cannot take all the Kikuyu to Naivasha. The Member of Parliament for Naivasha, has a responsibility over his people. That is a simple border dispute between the Maasai and the Kikuyu who actually share the border at Naivasha. I am sure, those people are able to solve that dispute at Naivasha. That small issue should not be misconstrued for a very big issue in this House. We should stand out as leaders, sober up and try to preach peace. I would also like to warn, that leaders should not use abusive language while commenting on the issue. Incidentally, I would look stupid to go and tell the Maasai that I am a field marshal. That is nonsense.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, turning on the Presidential Speech, most hon. Members have stated, that there is nothing new in it.

**Mr. Koske:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is very unfortunate, that---

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

**Mr. Koske:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am trying to give the background.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): No! No! Mr. Koske, you stood on a point of order!

**Mr. Koske:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Member in order to state that the issue we were commenting on is a boundary dispute, whereas we know that it is a matter of refusing to agree that the Maasai should be given free access to grazing land, now that there is drought in this country?

**Mr. Thirikwa:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, all I was trying to say is, that we cannot take the whole Kikuyu community to Naivasha. I would like to repeat that the Kikuyu are not in Naivasha alone, they live all over the country. So, when we talk about the Kikuyu and Maasai being at war, it is not correct.

**Mr. Oloo-Aringo:** On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I know hon. Thirikwa would like to go on with his speech, but

[**Mr. Oloo-Aringo**]

are you satisfied that what has been raised by hon. Koske is a point of order? If we allow these trivial issues to be raised in order to interrupt another speaker, it will make a mockery of the debate before this House.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order! I allowed Mr. Thirikwa to proceed.

**Mr. Oloo-Aringo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we expect you to make a ruling, if it is nonsense, and not a point of order.

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order! Mr. Oloo-Aringo, you are a very experienced Member of this House, and you used the word "nonsense", whereas you certainly know that it is not in order to use it.

**Mr. Oloo-Aringo:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to withdraw the word "nonsense". However, could you make a ruling that he made a frivolous point of order?

**Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Order! Sit down! Proceed, Mr. Thirikwa!

**Mr. Thirikwa:** Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the future, I hope the new Members of Parliament will learn what a point of order is, so that they do not continue interrupting others.

Several Members of Parliament have stated that there is nothing new in the Presidential Speech. I would not like to water down what the President said, but only state that we have repeatedly heard these statements year-in-year-out, till Kenya has been rendered a country of talkers. We are only good at talking. If you enumerate the number of seminars and symposiums that take place in the country, you would understand what I am saying. All we do is discuss and come up with very good policy papers, but we never think of implementing them. I think it is high time we sobered up and realised that this country belongs to all of us. It neither belongs to KANU nor the Opposition. It is our country and we should start putting things right. We should not tackle one another any more. I think we have tackled one another for too long. When this country tumbles it will not do so for KANU but for all of us. We all have a collective responsibility to put things in order.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, nevertheless, we must accept that we have a Government that has been given the responsibility of managing this country, and they cannot escape from that reality. As an Opposition Member of Parliament, as much as I have an obligation over my people, and I am a leader in my own

right, this Government must manage the country on behalf of Kenyans. Last year we went to Mombasa to discuss how we were going to jump-start our economy. We came up with very good resolutions, but I would rather say, that we wasted three days in Mombasa discussing what we were going to do, including contributions from our friends. Because, later on, a subsequent meeting took place at Mbagathi, all to out do one another. Where are we going to get with this? I think it is time we realised that Kenyans are suffering.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like us to ask ourselves how many companies are going under every month in this country. How many companies are being liquidated monthly? How many people go without getting their salaries every month, because those companies do not make profits? The Government ends up losing in terms of revenue collection. What we should do is to create a favourable environment for everybody and accept our mistakes. I wish this Government would wake up and made good of its mistakes. Positive criticism is not acceptable by



this Government, simply because it is from the Opposition or from without the Government circles. We are a country of great talkers, but we should turn this into actions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, several hon. Members have stated that it is only the "politically correct" persons who lead institutions in this country. I would like to state that Kenya has the best brains in Africa. In fact, there are very good brains among our Ministers, but the question that always rings in my head is whether they are allowed to do what they are supposed to do. I think, it is high time this Ministers came out clean and asked for a free hand to do the job they have been given. Why should you be made a Minister and then get directions from elsewhere? Then the person giving directions is the Minister. You are just a figure head.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Temporary Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Musila): Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until 6th April, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.