

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 5th October, 2000

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPERS LAID

The following Papers were laid on the Table:-

Annual Report and Accounts of the Kenya Tourist Development Corporation (Utalii Investments Ltd) for the year ended 30th June 1997 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of the Kenya Tourist Development Corporation (Utalii Investments Ltd) for the year ended 30th June 1998 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Mt. Elgon Lodge Ltd. for the year ended 30th June 1994 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Mt. Elgon Lodge Ltd. for the year ended 30th June 1995 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Mt. Elgon Lodge Ltd. for the year ended 30th June 1996 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Homa Bay Hotel Ltd. for the year ended 30th June 1995 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Homa Bay Hotel Ltd. for the year ended 30th June 1996 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Catering Levy Trustee for the year ended 30th June 1998 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

Annual Report and Accounts of Marsabit Lodge Ltd. for the year ended 30th June 1997 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

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

Annual Report and Accounts of Golf Hotels Ltd. for the year ended 30th June 1997 and the Certificate thereon by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

(By the Assistant Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry (Mr. Ekirapa) on behalf of the Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.248

KILLING OF MESSRS. OGWEL
AND OJWUNGU

Mr. Onyango asked the Minister of State, Office of the President, whether he could inform the

2014

House the progress made in the investigations and apprehending of the criminals who attacked and killed Mr. Silfanus Okumu Ogwel and Domianus Ochieng Ojwungu on 3rd March, 2000, at Githogoro Estate near Runda.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Onyango, I have a request from the Minister of State, Office of the President that this Question be deferred to Tuesday next week.

Mr. Onyango: Mr. Speaker, Sir, but Tuesday is a public holiday!

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; I then defer it to Wednesday next week.

(Question deferred)
Question No.258

REHABILITATION OF MOMBASA
OLD TOWN HOUSES

Mr. Maitha asked the Minister for Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports:-

(a) how much money the Mombasa Old Town Conservation Fund received from the European Union and the Government of Kenya; and,

(b) when the Old Town residents will be given loans to rehabilitate their houses.

The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Mr. Choge): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The National Museums of Kenya, on behalf of Mombasa Old Town Conservation office, received 450,000 Euros (Kshs33,435,000) from the European Union to establish the Mombasa Old Town Conservation Fund. Half of this money will be used to rehabilitate houses in Mombasa Old Town while the other half will be used to rehabilitate houses in the Stone Town of Lamu. The Kenya Government has not contributed any money at all, but has contributed expertise, operational logistics and implementation. Community based educational seminars have also been organised.

(b) The Community Conservation Fund does not operate on a loan basis. It provides a grant of 75 per cent of the total restoration costs while the owners of the buildings meet the remaining 25 per cent. The Fund is already operational and, at the moment, two houses have been restored in Mombasa Old Town. So far, out of the allocated amount of Kshs15 million, Kshs7 million has been utilised in Mombasa and there is a balance of Kshs8 million. Buildings are being identified to meet the criteria for restoration.

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mombasa Old Town was gazetted by the Government as a conservation area hence bringing about conflict of ownership. People owning land or houses in that area cannot use their title deeds as collateral in banks to secure loans! The understanding was that both the European Union and the Kenya Government were going to contribute equal amounts of money towards this project. Why should the Government give expertise instead of money?

Mr. Choge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Government does not have money, then it cannot give any money! We have provided experts, who are paid by the Government, to undertake that project. The services rendered by those experts are more valuable than money!

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that only two Swahili houses have been restored through this exercise and that Kshs8 million is still unutilized and yet, Mombasa Old Town has over 300 houses. I would like to request the Assistant Minister to suspend the conservation exercise so that the people of Mombasa Old Town can have the right to own their houses.

Mr. Choge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said that the owner of a particular house should contribute 25 per cent of the total amount in order to qualify for the other 75 per cent. The fact that some people live in Mombasa Old Town is not an automatic qualification to get this money!

Question No. 491

TRANSFER OF GALANA RANCH

Mr. Shambaro asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

(a) whether he could tell the House what led to the transfer of ownership of the giant Galana Ranch from the previous owners of Galana Game and Ranching to the present Agricultural Development Corporation;

- (b) whether he is aware that since the transfer in 1988/99, the ranch has been operating below capacity with consistent loss of livestock population and is now unable to pay its employees; and,
(c) when he will transfer the 1.5 million-acre grazing land to the residents of Tana River District.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. J.D. Lotodo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Galana Ranch was under lease from the Government of Kenya to Galana Game and Ranching Company between 1967 to 1989. The Government decided to repossess the Ranch for the following reasons: Stem illegal poaching of wild animals in the Ranch as it borders the National Park; carry out research on livestock breeding and diseases, especially tsetse fly transmitted trypanosomiasis and currently, there is a sub-station of KETRI on the farm; act as a quarantine for livestock bought and fattened by the farm from farmers and traders from North Eastern Province; and act as a wildlife conservation and management area, including research.

(b) I am aware that Galana Ranch, just like any other ranches in the country, has been going through a difficult period occasioned by various factors ranging from El Nino rains, prolonged drought, animal diseases and financial constraints. These factors had a negative effect on the running of the ranch, making it operate below capacity. Some of these issues are being addressed by the management and it is expected that when the situation improves, the ranch will resume operations at full capacity.

(c) The reasons for repossessing Galana Ranch are still valid. In essence, the Government cannot transfer the Ranch to the residents of Tana River.

Mr. Shambaro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is telling the House that one of the reasons the ranch was repossessed was to act as a holding ground in that area, and yet the Government had a holding ground in that area which was deliberately taken over by private developers and individuals. Why is the Government handing over the holding ground to individuals and taking over a private firm which was doing very well?

Mr. J.D. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this case this ranch was not taken over by individuals. It reverted to ADC, which is owned by the Government. As a result of illegal hunting, which was banned, the Government had to be strict in movement of livestock into this Ranch.

Mr. Keriri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think there is something that the Assistant Minister is avoiding. The Member who asked the Question said that the Government had some holding ground in that vicinity. The Government allocated the holding ground to private individuals, necessitating the Government to take over this ranch to be the holding ground. The hon. Member wanted to know why that was done to benefit a few individuals.

Mr. J.D. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Dr. Omamo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if it is true that the Government invited ADC to take over the ranch and, if it is also true that at the moment, there is constant loss of livestock population, and ADC is not able to pay its own employees, could the Assistant Minister agree that, that is a sign of failure on the part of ADC? The ADC's function is not to make profit. It is supposed to produce some kind of seed material - in this case, livestock. But if the livestock are dying because ADC is not able to control diseases, what function has ADC got to do on this ranch?

Mr. J.D. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is talking of animals being introduced into the ADC farm, whereas they are not within the ADC farm. As a result of banditry in the ranch and outbreak of diseases, the Government had to take that action.

Mr. Shambaro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think banditry is only used as an excuse in this case. But 1.5 million acres is a very big piece of land. The reason why ADC was initially formed was actually to transfer land from the previous colonial white settlers to the indigenous Kenyans. While ADC is effectively performing its job in other parts of the country - transferring land that it had previously acquired from white settlers, in Garsen, it is acquiring land from Kenyans. Why should 1.5 million acres be taken in the pretext of research, whereas there is no research going on there? Unfortunately, it is lying idle and yet, Garsen and Tana River people are starving because they have no grazing land. Why can he not hand over this land to the people of Garsen?

Mr. J.D. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a procedure of allocating land in this country. Therefore, it is not yet time to give out the ranch to individuals.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question!

Question No.205

IMPLEMENTATION OF NKUBU WATER
SUPPLY PROJECT

Mr. Murungi asked the Minister for Water Development:-

- (a) what happened to the Kshs25 million advanced to Nkubu Water Supply by the Japanese International Co-operation Agency; and,
 (b) when work on this project will commence.

The Minister for Water Development (Mr. Ng'eny): Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I have signed the written reply to this Question, on further reflection, I find that I am not satisfied with the answer. So, I am requesting the hon. Member to let me answer it next time.

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I really appreciate what the Minister has said, but I would like him to know that Nkubu Town has a population of 25,000 people and they have not had any water since January this year. They are really suffering. If the Minister will be ready with an answer on Wednesday next week, I will really appreciate.

Mr. Speaker: Would that be all right with you, Mr. Ng'eny?

The Minister for Water Development (Mr. Ng'eny): Mr. Speaker, Sir, absolutely.

(Question deferred)

Question No.341

CONSTRUCTION OF IJARA

MATERNITY WARD

Mr. Weyrah asked the Minister for Medical Services:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Ijara Maternity Ward which was constructed in 1992 has not been put to use to-date;
 (b) whether he is further aware that a certificate of completion has already been issued to the contractor, despite the fact that the building is incomplete and has multiple cracks on the walls and floors; and,
 (c) what action he has taken to rectify the situation.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Weyrah not here?

(Question dropped)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

WORLD BANK WITHDRAWAL FROM WATER PROJECTS

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

- (a) Is the Minister aware of the announcement on Wednesday 13th September, 2000 by the World Bank Country Director, of the bank's withdrawal from financing water projects in the country?
 (b) What steps is the Minister taking to ensure that the bank continues to finance water projects in the country?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Arap-Kirui): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) I am not aware.
 (b) The financing of water projects in the country by World Bank will continue, as long as those projects are identified as core projects in the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and in the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised to hear that answer from the Assistant Minister. But it is true that on Wednesday, 13th September, 2000 at 8.00 p.m., the World Bank Country Director announced, on KTN Television, that the World Bank had suspended financing of water projects in the country. He mentioned the reason for that as too much corruption that has polluted the Ministry of Water Development. Could the Assistant Minister confirm or deny that there is a lot of corruption in the Ministry of Water Development and that even Malaba-Kocholia Water Project has stalled because of lack of finances?

Mr. Arap-Kirui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, obviously I cannot confirm any allegations made by the hon. Member. But as I said earlier, we are not aware of any pronouncement by the World Bank country Director along the lines stated by the hon. Member. I am not certain that he went on KTN Television. What might have happened is that, there might have been a report by KTN which misquoted the World Bank country Director.

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if indeed the World Bank is financing water projects, why have all the water projects in the country, including Kiareni Water Scheme in Kitutu Chache, stalled?

Mr. Arap-Kirui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while the World Bank continues to finance water projects in the country, it does not finance every water project. In fact, if I may go ahead a bit, the water project in Mombasa which was

concluded last year was financed by the World Bank to a tune of Kshs43.2 million. We are currently in discussions with the World Bank to start programmes beginning July 2001 onwards. As I said, the World Bank cannot and will not finance every water project in the country.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell this House when Malaba-Kocholia Water Project, which was to be funded by the World Bank, is going to be completed? As I speak now, all the contractors have left the site for non-payment. The main reason is that the Government is even unable to sack the Minister for Water Development who was arraigned in court for corrupt deals, and you are not telling us the truth!

The Minister for Water Development (Mr. Ng'eny): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The devil is a very mysterious creature because it speaks through people, to malign other people's names for no reason.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Could we come to the substance? Let us keep the devil out of the House. Proceed!

Mr. Arap-Kirui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know anything about the Malaba Water Project. I think that is not a question that can be directed to the Minister for Finance. There is a relevant Ministry to answer that.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question!

EFFORTS TO FULFIL DONOR CONDITIONALITIES

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

(a) Could the Minister table progress report indicating the Government's efforts to fulfil the conditions set out by donors?

(b) What is the total emoluments in terms of salaries, house, medical and other allowances, payable to each of the six Permanent Secretaries seconded to the Government by the World Bank and [Mr. Ojode] other donors?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ojode, is it correct that you and the Assistant Minister agreed that we defer this Question to next week?

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he said he wanted to talk to me, but we never agreed on anything. So, let him talk to me then.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, I will facilitate that dialogue. Mr. Kirui, could you make the request?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Arap-Kirui): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know hon. Ojode is an honourable man and he cannot turn back on what we had agreed on earlier. We agreed that we defer this Question because the answer is not ready.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Speaker, Sir, because he is talking to me through you, I will accept that. But let it be Wednesday next week.

(Question deferred)

NON-REGISTRATION OF IMPERIAL SCHOOL KCSE CANDIDATES

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that Imperial Secondary School situated on Park Road, Ngara, in Nairobi (P O Box 72671 and Telephone 766608) has not registered Simon K. Onduso (Admission No.IMP/0132/00 and Index No.401093086) and eighteen other students for the 2000 KCSE, despite collection of Kshs4,000 examination fees?

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

(c) What disciplinary measures will the Minister take against this and all other schools which break the law in this manner?

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

(a) I am not aware that KCSE Examination Centre No.401093 in which student No.086 by the name Simon K. Onduso and 18 other students allegedly paid their examination registration fees belongs to Imperial Secondary School situated in Ngara, Nairobi as claimed. Records held in my Ministry show that Centre No.401093 belongs to Kyuna Academy, also situated in Nairobi. Consequently, what I am aware of is that, Imperial Secondary School did not present any candidate for the year 2000 KCSE Examination and index No.401093086 does not exist in the Ministry's records.

(b) Registration of candidates for Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) examinations, the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination being one of them, is subject to students paying registration fees to the KNEC through their heads of institutions, or schools, which must be examination centres registered with the KNEC. The rules and regulations stipulate that a candidate's entry must be submitted to the KNEC by 31st March of the year in which an eligible candidate intends to sit for the examination. In the case of Imperial Secondary School, no such candidate entries and accompanying examination fees have been received. The school's students will, therefore, not be legible to sit for the 2000 KCSE examination, whose process has already started.

(c) In the case of public schools, my Ministry will take appropriate disciplinary measures against the heads of schools in which the affected students were to be registered. Similarly, in the case of private schools, such as Imperial Secondary School, appropriate action will be taken against the manager and the continued legal registration of such schools within my Ministry will be re-considered with a view to arresting such unbecoming behaviour in future and safeguarding the prospective candidates.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is extremely sad that the Assistant Minister can read here that kind of an answer when he knows that it is not the truth. Let me, therefore, start by laying some documents on the Table as a basis for my supplementary questions.

I have many documents here, some of which show the names of the candidates and the examination fees each paid. In one of these documents is the number that the Assistant Minister says does not exist. Another document contains a list of the names of the students who were not registered for the examination, initially, about whom this Question is. In the process of making further inquiries, we found that all the school's candidates were not registered for this year's KCSE examination. So, I have a list of all the school's candidates, which was prepared on a sheet of the KNEC's letter head. I would now like to lay these documents on the Table.

(Mr. Anyona laid the documents on the Table)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, because the matter is very urgent, the parents, children and I sought audience with the Minister for Education, and he was very kind to me, the parents and students. He admitted that, according to the Ministry's records, the school did not exist. He said that because the school was not registered, the KNEC did not register the students and, therefore, there was nothing he could do. Then I asked him: "What do we do then?" In view of the answer the Assistant Minister has given, could he explain how the Ministry allowed Imperial Secondary School to exist for four years, its management collect examination fees and fail to register its students? Who is responsible? Where was the Inspectorate of Schools when all this was happening?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Karauri, would you like to come to the Table and have a look at those documents?

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have those documents. I am surprised that the hon. Member has raised these questions here. He was given audience by the Minister for Education, hon. Kalonzo Musyoka and the Ministry's senior officials in the presence of the affected students. All these questions---

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure that the Assistant Minister does not know what he is talking about. I got these documents from the parents of the affected students. When I went to see the Minister, and officials of the KNEC, they did not have these documents. They asked me to hand over the documents to them. They wanted to keep them, but I said: "No, give them back to me". So, if the Assistant Minister has copies of these documents, could he lay them on the Table, so that we can compare the two sets of documents?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Anyona, I understand the gravity of the matter at hand, but that does not allow for infringement of the rules of the House. You shall not rise on a point of argument. If you rise on a point of order, let it be.

Proceed, Mr. Karauri.

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member may have received the documents from parents. We sent inspectors to Imperial Secondary School, and they brought us a list of the students who were there but had not been registered for the examination. The existence of a school that is not registered is illegal. But the Ministry does not know of the existence of such a school until, may be, a parent reports it. We expect private schools to display prominently their registration certificates, so that parents and students who go to such a school can see them. So, we will continue with our investigations. As I said, we will punish the owners of schools that are not registered. Schools are not supposed to receive fees from students before they are registered.

Mr. Angwenyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Did you hear the Assistant Minister say that the Ministry of Education lacks the capacity to know about the illegal existence of a school for four years, yet there are education officers at the divisional level? Is the Assistant Minister in order---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Angwenyi, if the Ministry has no capacity to know of the illegal existence of a school, how does that cause disorder in this House?

(Laughter)

Mr. Angwenyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me now be in order. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead this House that our Government does not have the capacity to detect the existence of illegal schools in this country?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Angwenyi, that is a question! I disallow it! Proceed, Mr. Anyona!

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. About 60 children are involved in this matter, and I would like us to be helpful to them. I must say that the Minister was very understanding when we met him. Could we now deal with the remedy to this matter? Could the Assistant Minister accept responsibility on behalf of these Kenyans? I would like him to assist those parents, so that those who are ready can have their children registered for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) examination, which will be sat in January, 2000. For those students who may not be ready to sit for the GCE examination then, could the Assistant Minister guarantee them registration for the 2001 KCSE examination? Let us be helpful. Could the Assistant Minister undertake to do that?

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are, indeed, very sympathetic. The students can be registered for the examination next year, if they will be willing to sit for it then.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I made that proposal deliberately, because I have had consultations with the parents and the children, and they are willing to take those two options. I would like the Assistant Minister to make his officers available for consultations with those children and their parents, so that modalities for their assistance can be worked out. So, could the Assistant Minister give that undertaking?

Mr. Karauri: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already undertaken to offer assistance to those students. I would, however, like parents all over the country to find out whether the schools they take their children to are registered. Most schools admit students who wish to re-sit the KCSE examination after failing in previous attempts. So, I would advise parents to find out whether the registration of the schools they take their children to is proper.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! Let us proceed to Mr. Gitonga's Question by Private Notice.

POLLUTION OF TONG'TONG RIVER

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that Tong'tong River has been badly polluted by an oil spill following a recent train accident between Matathia and Kijabe Stations?

(b) Is he further aware that the water is so badly polluted that it is unfit for both livestock and human consumption?

(c) What immediate plans does the Minister have to clean up this pollution that affects the river and its banks in order to make the water safe for both livestock and the community living along the river?

The Minister for Environment (Mr. Nyenze): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that Tong'tong River has been polluted by an oil spill following a recent train accident between Matathia and Kijabe Stations.

(b) I am also aware that the water is so badly polluted that it is unfit for both livestock and human consumption.

(c) I will inquire and ensure that the Kenya Railways Corporation, who is the polluter, cleans up the oil from the river and disposes of it in the most environmentally-friendly manner. This is enforceable through the provisions of the recently enacted Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act, 2000.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that happened about two months ago, and the management of the Kenya Railways Corporation has been insensitive to the plight of the people along that river. In fact, the Kenya Railways Corporation has not made any efforts at all to try to clean up the messy oil, and the people have been forced to travel long distances in search of water. How soon will the management of the Kenya Railways Corporation go to that place and clean up the mess?

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have started talking with the management of the Kenya Railways Corporation, and, initially, they never showed any concern, and that is a very important river because it serves about 10,000 people. So, we take it very seriously because Mai Mahiu, Kijabe and so many other places are so badly affected. I will not say exactly when but very soon, my officers will be working on that.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that the Minister has pushed the buck to the Kenya Railways Corporation, that it will clean up that pollution, does his Ministry have the capacity to wash out such messes that are found in such areas like Ruiru where we have factories emitting effluent into the Ruiru River and other areas? Mr. Minister, does your Ministry have any capacity of cleaning the polluted areas, or you will be pushing the buck to those

who pollute?

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Ministry has the capacity to clean up pollution, but in that case, the polluter is the Kenya Railways Corporation. In that case, if they drag their feet, we will have the Government cleaning it, and we will bill them. So, we have the capacity.

Mr. Kibicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many rivers in this country have been polluted. What is the policy of the Ministry regarding people who pollute rivers?

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Environmental Management Co-ordination Act is very clear on that. Any polluter is punishable with severe laws, which will make sure that those people are prosecuted, if they pollute and they do not clean up the mess. In that case, the only way to clean up the mess is to scoop out the oil before it creeps into other areas.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, realising the danger that has been caused by oil spill at Sidindi and Athi River, and the number of lives that have been lost could the Minister tell this House how soon the Kenya Railways Corporation will clean up that mess before lives are lost? Could he do that within a number of days instead of waiting endlessly?

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not be specific on the date, but we do realise that if it rains before that mess is cleaned up in Athi River and also in Tong'tong' River, it will affect so many areas and more kilometres of the river will be polluted. So, I will not be very specific, but rest assured that it will be done as soon as possible.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am wondering if the Minister should not take immediate action by invoking that Act so that the Kenya Railways Corporation can be forced to take action immediately rather than waiting for so many days.

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we do not make any headway after discussing with them, and they are not giving concessions, we will enforce that.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Wamalwa has short interest!

Mr. Wamalwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pleased to note that the Ministry is able to clean up that river. Since negotiations with the Kenya Railways Corporation might take a long time and subject the people to undue suffering, would the Minister be good enough to get his Ministry to immediately clean up the river and then just go ahead and bill the Kenya Railways Corporation and the Ministry be compensated?

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will consider that and see what we can do about it.

(Dr. Kulundu stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Kulundu, are you not happy? Can I give you the last one?

Dr. Kulundu: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. River Nzoia is the most polluted river in this country because of Pan African Paper Mills (E A) Ltd. Mr. Minister, what punitive measures have you taken against that factory for polluting River Nzoia since you last visited the company last year?

Mr. Nyenze: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many rivers including Nzoia River have received dirty effluent from factories, including River Nzoia. I am saying that the Act that has come into force is very explicit on the enforcement part of it. So, we are trying very hard, and on 16th October, I will be visiting those rivers in Western Kenya - from Agro-Chemicals to Pan African Paper Mills (E.A.) Ltd. to see how to enforce that Act.

Mr. Speaker: End of Question time!

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

Mr. Speaker: Sorry, I have forgotten your name again. Long recess! Yes, Mr. Katuku!

PROVISION OF SEEDS TO FARMERS

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Office of the President concerning the drought which has affected most parts of the country. My constituency is the most hard-hit by drought, which has made people rely on relief food for the last two years. In most parts of where I come from, it is now the planting season for the short rains, and we would want to know from the OP whether they have set any money aside to assist in providing seeds to those who would want to plant so that they can be able to have seeds to plant in the near future because the rains are about to start. In the next two weeks, we will have rains, but the people in that area have no capacity to buy the seeds because of the drought which has affected them. I would want to know from the OP what they have set aside to assist farmers from my area and other areas to be able to plant so that they are self-sufficient. It is only yesterday that we gave OP money, and I understand that out of that money, there is money set aside for emergency purposes. Can we hear that?

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Is there any Minister from there? Maybe, they will come back to the House.

POINT OF ORDER

MISREPORTING BY THE *DAILY NATION*

Mr. N. Nyagah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first, I would like to declare that I a member of the House Business Committee and did attend its meeting on Tuesday evening, 3rd October, 2000. However to my surprise, I noticed from the *Daily Nation* of 4th October, 2000 a report attributed to it which said that certain members of the House Business Committee staged a dramatic walkout. That was misrepresentation of facts because I sat right up to the end of that meeting and no such thing happened. But to add more injury, the *Nation* Television carried stories about that issue the whole day yesterday, which was later on picked up by KTN, and which was very wrong information being given to Kenyans.

In so doing, one would not stop to wonder as to who misinformed these people about this issue.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Nyagah, you are putting me in a dilemma. As you know, we preside here in the House. When we are in the House, we provide reporters with their seating places and we are able to know from the HANSARD what transpired. A Committee meeting is actually close to the Press. So, they must have reported a rumour. You and the House know my attitude towards rumours; I do discourage them. I ask all hon. Members not to feed the Press with untruths. I also ask the Press to keep the rumours out of Parliament and verify those stories. They may be juicy but they could be wrong. If you do it for too long, you will damage your reputation. I think that is the best I can do. There is not much I can do about it.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to concur with you on the issue of---

Mr. Speaker: Is there "a point of order of concurring" with the Speaker?

Mr. Ndicho: It is on the same issue, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to concur with you on the issue of the Press picking up rumours. This House must also deviate from the way the Government behaves, that is hiding and withholding information thereby forcing the Press to go looking for it. If anything transpires in the Committee meetings, in this House or in any place, let it be said openly. That way the Press will not report rumours.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Ndicho! I have travelled around various countries and I have seen many cases where Committee meetings are held in public which we have not done as a House, but that has not stopped complaints of misreporting from across the world. Let everybody do the correct thing. Please report proceedings of the House and of the Committees of the House accurately. If you do not know anything about it or if you are in doubt, please err on the side of not misinforming. It could be dangerous to misinform Kenyans. Can we leave it at that? I am unable to deal with this thing!

Dr. Ochuodho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of what transpired yesterday, Parliament in its wisdom passed the Freedom of Information Motion. In view of that having occurred could Parliament again in its wisdom be a bit more open, transparent and accessible to the media in future?

Mr. Speaker: Order, Dr. Ochuodho! Can you ask me what is secret or opaque about hon. Members having not walked out of a Committee? If hon. Members of a Committee did not walk out, is it opaque?

Dr. Ochuodho: Perhaps we need to have an information office. I know you have been very open, but be a little bit more open and transparent!

Mr. Speaker: Order! I know you are not being open to the House!

Next Order!

BILL

First Reading

THE ANTI-CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIMES BILL

*(Order for First Reading read -
Read the First Time - Ordered to be read
the Second Time tomorrow)*

The Attorney-General (Mr. Wako): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in accordance with Standing Order No.101(a), the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Bill (Bill No.12) be referred to the relevant Departmental

Committee.

Mr. Speaker: It will be referred.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 10 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair. Thank you, for giving me the opportunity to present the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Before I move the Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, I think it is necessary and perhaps the right time to inform the House about the current food situation in the country. I am sorry that the current food situation in the country is not encouraging at all. Maize production has continued to drop because of the various factors. At the moment the annual consumption is about 31 million bags per year. In 1998, the country produced 27.8 million bags. In 1999, the production achieved was about 25 million bags. This year, because of the various factors which I will mention, we are expecting to achieve only 19 million bags. That means that there will be a shortfall overall on maize.

The main cause of the deficit is the *La Nina* phenomenon which has resulted in a prolonged drought. The situation is that certain parts of our country experience complete crop failure because of the drought. I am referring here to North Eastern, Eastern and large portions of Central Provinces. As a result of that drought, we have this deficit which we will have to deal with at a later stage. The result of the prolonged drought and maize deficit is famine and high maize prices in certain parts of our country. In an attempt to stabilise these prices and provide some relief in terms of making food available, the Government removed suspended duty on imported maize. The other measure that was taken was to lower duty on all imported maize from, 32.5 per cent to 25 per cent. This action was taken in an attempt to encourage inflow of maize, and imports of maize by the private sector from external sources.

In 1998, we achieved 2 million bags of wheat in production. This year we expect to achieve approximately 50 per cent of that level. This is also caused by the ongoing drought. Massive quantities of wheat were damaged by starving animals and birds. This caused substantial physical damage to the wheat crop, forcing farmers to harvest prematurely at considerable loss and cost to themselves. Let me now turn to the specifics of the Ministry's Vote.

Mr. Muite: What about sugar?

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will come to the issue of sugar at a later stage if the hon. Member for Kabete, who does not consume much sugar, can hold his horses. We believe that agriculture will continue to be the engine of economic growth for the Kenyan economy. At the present moment, agriculture contributes about 25 per cent, or slightly over, to the gross domestic product. It provides the country's requirement of food. It provides employment to approximately 70 per cent of our total workforce. It earns approximately 60 to 65 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings and provides between 70 and 75 per cent of all the raw materials required by the industrial sector in this country. There is, therefore, very heavy dependence on agriculture. The performance of the national economy is, therefore, very directly influenced by the performance of the agricultural sector.

This means, therefore, that poor performance in the agricultural sector at the moment, we estimate that approximately 13 million people live below the poverty line. The majority of those people are in the rural areas. They derive their livelihood directly from crop production, livestock and fisheries. This emphasises the point that the agricultural sector will continue to play a critical role in our efforts towards poverty alleviation. We, in the Ministry of Agriculture, see our mission as that of, first, achieving high and sustainable growth in the agricultural sector. Secondly, to achieve self-sufficiency in food. Our third main mission is to try and maintain strategic food reserves at the levels recommended. We also see our mission as that of generation and production of crops, livestock and fish products for use both locally and for export. It is our business to encourage the private sector initiatives, particularly those which are aimed at providing support to agriculture and agro-industries. We also strive to assist in enhancing the capacity of farmers and other private institutions, including farmers' organisations, to perform their roles more effectively.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to achieve those important national goals, we require both financial and physical

resources. I hope that this House will consider our request for funds favourably.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to brief the House on the various measures which the Ministry of Agriculture has taken since the last Budget. First, let me start with food crops. In the course of the last few months, extending beyond the last financial year, we have removed all controls on major food crops like maize. You will recall that the maize sector was largely handled by the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), who controlled purchase, storage, distribution and marketing of that particular commodity. Over the period, the role of the NCPB has been re-defined. Today, the NCPB is one of the many players handling maize, wheat, beans and other commodities. Therefore, the role of the NCPB has now become largely commercial, competing alongside other players in that sector. However, we intend to carry out some other rationalisation programmes. We have not completed those programmes. We intend to reduce the staff levels of the NCPB. We want a lean and more efficient staff establishment. We do not want levels that permit waste of funds. We are also undertaking assets divestiture at the NCPB. It is an on-going exercise. It is also our intention to strengthen the National Food Security Office at the NCPB, so that it can assist in the estimation of food requirements.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the cash crops, let me start with tea. Hon. Members know what we have done together, in liberalising the tea sector. I would like to appeal to hon. Members to leave alone the tea sector, which has now been taken over by farmers themselves. We should not introduce politics which could, most likely, destabilise the sector. At the moment, indications are that the farmers are managing the sector very well. That was the intention. We hope that they will be able to manage the sector more effectively, for the benefit of tea farmers in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on coffee, we are in the process of reviewing the Coffee Act, to bring it in harmony with the liberalised policy framework. The measures are at an advanced stage. Hon. Members will be fully involved initially, through the Agricultural, Lands and Natural Resources Committee and subsequently, when we debate the various amendments to the Act. But we are in the process of reviewing the policy framework. We will come to Parliament with a Sessional Paper which will reflect the views and aspirations of all the stakeholders in that sector. But that is under way.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on horticulture, it is the third most important foreign exchange earner. It has a high potential for growth. For example, in 1999, the sector recorded an increase of 27 per cent in terms of value, or 21 per cent in terms of quantities of produce. That is, indeed, a big success at a time when every other sub-sector within the agricultural sector was declining. It is our intention, with the support and input of all hon. Members, to create a more conducive environment for improved performance of the sector. We are also in the process of formulating policy guidelines and a draft Horticulture Bill 2000 has been prepared. We hope that there will be time to present it to this House for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are also addressing the question of maximum residue levels. We are advising farmers to be very careful. We do not want to have the same experience that we have had before in respect to fish. So, appropriate measures are being taken in conjunction with farmers and farmers' organisations in the horticulture sector, to deal with the question of maximum residue levels. When the European Union comes down with the standards, we will be up with them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we believe that access to the markets for horticultural produce has been one of the major limitations to the growth of that sector. Therefore, we intend to construct cold storages in strategic areas of the country, to assist farmers to preserve their produce, so that it can reach the market in good condition. At the moment, we are constructing a huge godown at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. We are also constructing storage facilities at Sagana, Nkubu in Meru Central, Machakos, Limuru, Yatta, Kibwezi and Mwea under the current Phase I of the programme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on Phase Two, we intend to move and construct a storage facilities in Eldoret, Nyandarua, Oloitoktok, somewhere in North Coast, Lake region, Molo and Kerio Valley. We hope that once these storage facilities are made available, they will enhance the capacity of horticultural farmers considerably.

(Mr. Muite withdrew from the Chamber)

I would like to come to the sugar industry, and I notice that the hon. Member for Kabete has just left the House when I am starting to talk about it.

Mr. Sifuna: Talk about Nzoia Sugar Company!

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has put in place measures aimed at ensuring adequate sugar availability on a long-term basis, while at the same time protecting local producers from cheap imports. We believe that this is essential. We also believe that the sugar industry provides livelihoods to a large number of Kenyans. We further believe that the industry has a potential to create employment opportunities and trigger off many economic activities within the sugar belt areas. Therefore, we see it as our responsibility to protect this

industry against unfair competition from external sources. We are committed to that policy and one way we have demonstrated this is by ensuring that there are reasonably high levels of duty charged on imported sugar to protect this industry. We do hope that sugar-cane farmers will respond to this by extending the acreage under sugar-cane. I am confident that this particular sector has a bright future, because there are various measures we have taken, including the Draft Sugar Bill and Policy Paper, which were developed and discussed extensively with stakeholders. Again, that reflects the aspirations of various players, including sugar-cane farmers. We think that we are really on the right path in this respect, and I certainly feel confident that this sector has a bright future.

We intend to privatise Mumias and Chemelil Sugar Companies. Arrangements are under way towards this, but whatever happens in this sector, I would like to assure this House that the interest of sugar-cane growers will be taken into account to ensure that they participate in the growth and benefits that accrue from privatisation of this sector. Muhoroni and Nzoia Sugar Companies will be restructured before they are privatised. At the moment, we do have problems in these two companies, but a lot of work needs to be done to restructure the organisations; improve the face of the companies before we think about privatising them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me come to cotton. I would like to emphasise here that we view cotton as one of the major cash crops and "vehicles" for poverty reduction, particularly in the marginal areas of this country. Sometimes we call these areas ASAL areas. The Ministry is in the process of finalising the Draft Cotton Policy and Cotton Bill, in order to revive this important industry. The intention, of course, is to ensure sustainable growth of the industry. Reforms in this sector will ensure a stronger cotton research, availability of the right variety of seed for planting and high yielding varieties of seeds. The Ministry continues to corroborate with the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) which, at the moment, has been instructed to assist in distributing the right variety of seeds for the various ecological zones within the cotton growing areas. All the ginners have been fully privatised. We have held meetings with farmers and they have been sensitised about the need to go on board on our path towards reviving the cotton industry.

The Ministry, through the limited resources voted by this House, has given out to the various cotton growing districts some amount of money to assist in buying cotton planting seeds, which will then be multiplied by the agricultural extension officers in the various districts and given out to farmers, as I said again, in conjunction with the KARI and the ginners. So, the revival of the cotton industry is under way and I would like to call upon hon. Members of Parliament in this House to support the initiatives in this sector, because we believe that cotton is the key to any growth that we anticipate.

The livestock sector is one area that has been ravaged perhaps more severely than most sectors. In this respect, again, I would like to say that the Ministry has developed a draft dairy policy and Dairy Bill, which will provide the necessary policy and legal framework for the liberalised dairy industry. In this regard, I would like to report that since the liberalisation of this particular sector, we have registered approximately 46 dairy firms which are already playing their role in the dairy market.

We are in the process of strengthening the Dairy Board, which is the regulatory body of that sector. We believe that the measures we have taken in this respect will bear fruits, so that we can tap the potential available within the dairy sector. Again, we believe that the sector can contribute significantly towards poverty reduction, particularly in the rural areas, the family and household levels.

The problems facing livestock farmers, particularly in ASAL areas, are well known to us. As a result of this drought, we know that a number of pastoralists lost their herds of cattle, which was their livelihood and they have been subjected to hardship as a result of this. At this juncture, I would like to say that what we had intended to do by way of mitigating the hardship experienced by farmers has not been realised yet, but the intentions are there. We could not achieve that because of the various difficulties experienced from sources of money we had anticipated, but we still believe that an outlet for livestock is essential to assist the farmers as a long-term measure. So, we are still moving ahead with our programme to privatise the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) to provide an avenue for the livestock farmers. We hope that these measures will be realised at some point in the near future. Again, the intention is to involve livestock farmers and other stakeholders in that sector.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me now point out the main constraints that hinder the growth of the agriculture sector. These can be summarised as high dependence on rain-fed production. This high dependence on rain-fed production must be addressed so that we can rely on other ways of production of our food. In the last few years, we have experienced frequent drought and this means that we are very badly hit when rains fail. We also have incapacity in respect to adequate early warning systems and we are trying to improve that particular aspect.

The condition of infrastructure, particularly of roads, in the agricultural areas of this country have also hampered the growth of this sector. Again, our limited capacity to transfer technology to farmers has also limited our ability to transform the agricultural sector at the rate we would like to. The poor quality and the high cost of farm inputs have also reduced our rate of growth in this sector. Perhaps, more importantly also, lack of credit facilities has

done so. The fact that we do not have institutions that provide credit to farmers is a major bottleneck in terms of expanding our agricultural activities.

The agricultural sector has been hit very severely by the high incidence of HIV/AIDS scourge. We have lost a large number of the workforce. We have lost very dynamic farmers through this pandemic. We hope that the various incentives that have been taken to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS will assist in the growth of the agricultural sector.

We believe that a number of measures must be taken by both the Ministry and all the other stakeholders in our efforts to accelerate growth of the agricultural sector. One of the most urgent measures required, and which we are already undertaking is strengthening extension services. We, in the Ministry are changing our approach in this respect and we would like to see extension services which incorporate farmers. We would like to see farmers involved in finding solutions to problems which face them on a day to day basis. So, our approach to extension services in the future will involve farmers directly. It will be an approach that will be formulated after consultations with the farmers at their own farms.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, following the staff rationalisation programme in the Government, we are in the process of re-deploying members of staff at the division, location and sub-location levels so that our members of staff will be in constant touch with farmers at that level.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

The Minister for Public Health (Prof. Onger): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to second this Motion.

All of us know that agriculture is one of the most powerful tools in our economy. Agriculture is the mainstay and the basic industry that sustains life, and anyone of us, including hon. Members of Parliament, is sustained through the agricultural production. I am sure hon. Members will appreciate the fact that food security is a major ingredient and a policy framework that will entail and require fair distribution to those who do not have food. Today, there is hunger all over the place and the food distribution method which has been put in place to access food to the needy families is highly commendable. This is one area where the Ministry, through its extension services programme, can advise farmers to reduce the dependence on food acquisition from foreign countries by encouraging farmers to grow food for consumption. I am sure hon. Dr. Omamo is looking at me because he knows that without good fish, one cannot enjoy high quality proteins and without specific ingredients in the dairy products, one cannot enjoy good quality proteins. Obviously, carbohydrates in the form of maize, cassava and potatoes must be grown to increase the nutritional contents of our foodstuffs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a specific interest as the Minister for Public Health. It is important that we offer our society a balanced diet. This is very important, indeed. Therefore, in our daily pursuits and admonitions to farmers, we should advise them to grow foodstuffs that would give a balanced diet and in the process, we mitigate against some of the undesirable diseases that we see around us. I must say at this juncture that the HIV/AIDS has compromised our farming sector. The zero prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS infections, currently on the average, if we look at the centennial surveillance figures, is about 14 per cent. If you look at the age group that is affected of between 15 and 49 years of age, you will realise that this is the most productive group in our society. If you look at agriculture as a contributor to our gross domestic product (GDP), you will see that its direct and indirect contributions to the GDP are about 27 per cent and 43 per cent respectively. The vehicle towards this productivity is the human resource. If the human resource is compromised in delivering this basic service to themselves and the whole economy, then the whole economy will obviously be at stake.

Therefore, nutrition is a major ingredient in tackling the problem of HIV/AIDS. People who have good nutritional status can be able to mitigate and prolong their lives effectively through the use of good and proper nutrition. So, that is the major contribution made by the farming sector to the human existence, all of us included. Therefore, we should commend the farmers for producing food.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second factor is the one of workforce. If you look around in our tea, coffee and pyrethrum industries, and in others like floriculture and horticulture industries; they are all labour intensive. You need an adequate labour force to effect this services properly. If you have HIV/AIDS inflicting most of these labour force, then sooner than later we will have a dwindling labour force which will not be able to effect what we want them to. It is, therefore, important for us to have this mind.

I must commend the Ministry of Agriculture for employing extension workers. But I would like to see these extension workers visiting individual farmers and giving them advice individually on what must they must do in order to increase productivity in our agricultural sector. We have various coffee and tea farming areas. I am happy the Minister has comfortably reassured this House, and I believe that he is going to redeploy all extension workers to locational and sub-locational levels. herefore, hon. Members' fears should be allayed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the only addition I want to make at this stage is that, while looking at the cash crops that bring a lot of foreign exchange to this country--- I am glad coffee has been mentioned. I would like the Ministry to look closely at giving valued added provision to the bananas grown in various districts in this country.

An hon. Member: Not forgetting Kisii District!

The Minister for Public Health (Prof. Ongeru): Of course, mostly in Kisii. It is important that we give value added to bulk bananas that are transported to Nairobi at a very high cost making farmers to get absolutely peanuts for the efforts they put in producing that particular crop. Banana is a good foodstuff which should be given high attention by the Ministry and other groups that are involved in its production.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to see improvement of infrastructure, particularly in tea, coffee and pyrethrum growing areas because these are high contributors to our foreign exchange earnings. The STABEX Fund which is normally available should be used directly in improving the infrastructure system in these areas in order to ensure both the quantity and quality delivery of these products. These are critical products for our economy and, therefore, they should be accorded a very high priority. Of course, cotton is one of the few items that will bring change to this nation. I am glad that the Ministry has made provision in giving out high quality cotton seed that can be provided to the farmers so that they are able to grow cotton.

Industry is one of our areas that can increase the potential for employment and it can also increase the potential for high earnings to the farmers. Therefore, if cotton industries and ginneries are promoted, I am sure farmers are going to be very happy and enjoy being in the Republic of Kenya. They will not be listening to a lot of rumours or other stories being told around. It is important, therefore, that alongside these provisions, we also avail credit facilities in the form of Guaranteed Minimum Returns (GMR). Maybe, we have reached a stage when we should restructure the AFC and bring back the format of GMR in order to access credit facilities to farmers. There are small-scale farmers who need these services. Their access to bank credit is very difficult and sometimes it hinders them. They cannot be able to express themselves in terms of securities and other requirements and, therefore, we should access these credit facilities to our farmers, particularly, the small-scale farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I would want to see in the area of fish production is that, we should be able to create good landing bays for our fish. From our side, as the Ministry of Public Health, we will ensure that these landing bays are adequate in terms of health facilities. From the Ministry of Agriculture's view point, they will ensure that the fishermen and the other methods employed in catching fish are credible rather than the awkward methods that bring disrepute to the fishing industry. We shall be able to support this venture because, I believe Lake Victoria alone is capable of churning out fish fillet to be sold to the European Union at very good prices. Therefore, we should be able to increase the earning capacity of a fish farmer in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can see my time has run out. I would have talked about the various aspects of access to funds. I have mentioned about the cash crop economy and the effects of liberalisations.

With those few remarks, I beg to second this Motion.

Thank you.

(Question proposed)

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Ndwiga: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity.

I want to take this opportunity to make a few comments while supporting that the Minister should be given the money that he is asking for. In supporting the Motion, I want to revisit a few remarks that the Minister made.

First, it is about the food situation in the country. It is true that food production has been dropping for the last three years. The reasons given by the Minister are not the real reasons. First, drought is not to blame. The Minister said that there is drought in the North Eastern and Eastern Provinces. Those provinces are never famous for producing maize. Maize is produced when there is no rain. Even right now maize can be grown. In the Northern Rift, there is no drought but famine is here with us. The real reason why production is falling is due to lack of support. Indeed, as the price farmers are not getting support from this Government. Today, maize farmers are not able to produce because they cannot sell their maize. The cost of producing one bag of maize is about Kshs1,000. What are the market rates right now? How do you expect a farmer who spends Kshs1,000 to produce a bag of maize to sell the same bag for Kshs800? The policies of this Ministry are upside down and something must be done. We must support the farmers and the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) should be used as the price pace-setter so that, at least, the farmer can get Kshs1,500 per bag and the other buyers in the market will follow suit. A farmer will, therefore, be able to produce more maize. The way the situation is now, we are expecting 19 million bags this year, but I can assure that, next year, we will be down to 9 million bags, if the situation continues as it is now.

The Minister has also talked about the possibility of building cold storage facilities for horticultural products and I commend the Ministry for those ideas. However, this can be done faster. Why are we not using those National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) godowns which are all over this country? Why do we not convert portions of those godowns into cold storage facilities? That should be the way forward. If we are talking about building new storage facilities, that is going to take five years. However, if we use the facilities which we have got now, it will save the Ministry both money and time and the objective would be achieved faster.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, talking about the area of food production, we would want to see the Ministry moving away from the norm. I was expecting that the Minister would tell this House and the nation that we are now going to encourage growing of more traditional foodstuffs like bananas, yams, cassavas, arrowroots and sweet potatoes. Kenyans have no business starving to death because cassavas grow virtually everywhere. There are plenty of bananas from where the Minister comes from and also from where I come from. This should be encouraged. We must encourage our people to move away from the areas of commercial food crops. That does not mean doing away with the production of maize, beans and so forth. He should also move into the area of traditional food crops such as the ones that I have mentioned.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister should have a specific food policy. The nation has been waiting up to this day to listen to the Minister. This is because rains are coming. We are experiencing drought. We do not have food. Indeed, we have consumed even the seeds. Where are we going to get the crop the Minister expects if farmers are not given seeds? Where are the seeds? This situation is going to be a vicious circle. Now, we have drought and famine this year and also next year, even if the rains come. There will be no food because there are no seeds. Could the Minister move with the utmost urgency and source for good seeds. Districts should be given sufficient seeds, so that farmers can plant them when rains come this month.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I am still talking about seeds, the nation has been shocked to learn that the Minister has not said anything about the disappearing research land. Two weeks ago, there was an hon. Member of this House, who is acquiring 1,000 acres of land belonging to Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). The policies we see here reflect the thinking of this Government. The Minister and his team may be okay, but this Government is not the one which can deliver Kenyans from this poverty.

We are going to continue languishing in poverty. How does the Minister of Agriculture keep quiet, when 1,000 acres of research land is being grabbed? How? It is unheard of! What kind of a Government are we having? We expect a statement from the Minister or his boss on what is happening. This is unacceptable. Actually, maybe, this is, perhaps, the only piece of land that is remaining now. I wonder where we are going to get seeds in the future. This is because all the "fat fish" have---

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

Mr. Ndwiga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish this gentleman would just stay put. Mr. Minister, please, I do not have enough time.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Continue, Mr. Minister.

The Minister for Medical Services (Dr. Anangwe): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard the hon. Member of Parliament allege that one hon. Member in this House has grabbed 1,000 acres.

Can he substantiate his claim and state which hon. Member is this?

Hon. Members: It is hon. Gumo!

Mr. Ndwiga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, these are the kind of things that I keep saying here. These new Members come here and become Ministers and yet they really do not know that some things are so serious that---

The Minister for Medical Services (Dr. Anangwe): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It does not matter how long one has been here.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Dr. Anangwe): Order, Dr. Anangwe! Hon. Members, it is not going to be an exchange of words like that. I think every hon. Member has a right to speak. The hon. Member who is asking for substantiation has a right to ask for it. So, if you have the substantiation, do so.

Mr. Ndwiga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, any literate Kenyan who reads newspapers knows that hon. Fred Gumo is the one and, in fact, as we are talking here now, fighting is going on in Kabete.

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

Mr. Ndwiga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, please protect me because this House---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Dr. Anangwe, if that is a point of order, then make it.

The Minister for Medical Services (Dr. Anangwe): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard the hon. Member use newspapers as a basis to substantiate. Do you know what the Standing Orders provide? You must

produce a document here to prove that hon. Gumo has grabbed the parcel of land.

Mr. Ndwiga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, part of the problem that we are facing in this country is that, sycophancy has reached certain levels.

Mr. Sifuna: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Ndwiga, do you need the information?

Mr. Ndwiga: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Sifuna: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my point of information to my hon. friend is that "substantiation" according to Humphrey Slade's ruling is either you saw, read or heard. So, if you read a newspaper, that is enough. If you saw, then you saw with your own eyes and so, substantiation is there.

(Laughter)

Mr. Ndwiga: Thank you. I thank my friend since he has more patience. We want the Minister---

The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Mr. Sumbeiywo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Ndwiga: When am I going to contribute?

The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Mr. Sumbeiywo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not very sure whether you will let hon. Ndwiga to get away with his allegation. He has made a very serious allegation that hon. Gumo has grabbed 1,000 acres of KARI land and he has been asked by hon. Dr. Anangwe to substantiate and the rules of this House say that one must substantiate. You cannot let him get away with that.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Ndwiga, it is about substantiation, but you should also know that you are dealing with a hon. Member of this House and all we have in this House are hon. Members. If you want to discuss the conduct of anybody including hon. Gumo, you should bring a substantive Motion here.

Mr. Ndwiga: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The issue here is on KARI land where right now, a KANU office stands. What further evidence do you need?

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Ndwiga, you know, you are going to get all these interruptions.

Mr. Ndwiga: Mr. Minister, I did not interrupt you and you are my friend. Let us now turn to agriculture and--

The Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Mr. Sumbeiywo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Ndwiga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, turning to the agricultural sector, anywhere in the world if you want to turn round the performance of agriculture in any country, there must be ways of subsidising the farmer. The farmers today cannot produce, no matter what you do. Even if you bring Jesus Christ down here, the farmer will not produce until you subsidise. The cost of inputs are too high. It is not possible for farmers to produce high yields until and unless the Ministry seriously considers ways of subsidising the farmer. It happens everywhere all over the world where agriculture is taken seriously. The various governments subsidises their farmers. It is shocking that we get fertilisers from donors for free but what happens? The farmers do not get them. We would wish the Minister to make a statement on this issue. We get a lot of fertilisers free from donors. But what happens to it? It does not end up with farmers. Instead, it ends up with the Asian traders in this country and yet, ours is an agricultural country and we want our farmers to produce. It will never happen. In fact, I would expect the Minister to come to this House to seek enough funds to purchase fertilisers and pesticides for our farmers. I am very sure that this House would give the Minister the money to do so.

In the future, we expect the Ministry to have a vote on the purchase of farms inputs. I am very sure that this House will support that vote. We must assist farmers in this country. As it is now, the farmers have nowhere to borrow money. As we are talking now, the Co-operative Bank which was started by farmers--- In fact, it is the sharks who have killed the agriculture sector in this country. For example, you can imagine the farmers in the coffee sector who went to the Co-operative Bank to borrow money two years ago in Nyeri, Meru and Embu at a commercial rate of 28 per cent. What has happened? After the annual production, the cost of coffee did not go up by 28 per cent; instead, it went down. How do we expect to have a coffee industry in this country, given such a situation? The farmers have no money and their children are not going to school. Why? This is because the bank they started has killed them. That is what has happened. The Co-operative Bank now makes fat profit, but the farmer who actually started it cannot send his children to school. That is a fact.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year we challenged the then Minister for Agriculture to tell this

House what has happened to the STABEX Fund. Today it still stands at Kshs4.6 billion. The tourism industry benefited from this fund. Why has the agricultural sector not benefited from this fund and yet it was meant to assist in growing of cash crops like coffee? Why can the Minister not utilise these funds this year by getting two ship load of fertilisers and let it go to farmers? We are not saying that the money should be given directly to the farmers, although that would be the ideal situation. All the farmers in the coffee societies owe the Co-operative Bank huge amounts of money, let us use the STABEX Fund to bail them out. That is the only way we will revive the coffee sector in this country. Without doing that, we will have beautiful Sessional Papers, but there will be no production. The country and our people will continue to get poorer and unemployment will continue to rise because, as long as the agricultural sector is not performing, nothing else will perform in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy now that we have a new Sugar Bill. But even with the Sugar Bill, I do not think we are going to have harmony in the sugar sector. We need better policies in the Ministry. The Minister has said that farmers will own Chemelil and Mumias sugar companies. That is very welcome. In fact, when the Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources Committee visited those areas, it was the wish of the farmers to own those companies. I think that is the way it should be. But we still want to hear the fate of Miwani Sugar Factory. This was a factory which was build by taxpayers, but it was given free of charge to an Asian. That Asian did not pay a single cent and here we are with sugar problems. For example, unemployment in the sugar belts is acute. But I wish you could see that Asian in Dubai. He just sits out there, and waits for a cheque from that company. It is a big shame. We feel that the Government must act with utmost urgency to get this factory back to its rightful owners; these are the sugar farmers in Miwani.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the Minister has talked about the revival of the cotton industry. This country has lost billions of shillings by importing cotton from Tanzania. We used to be a cotton exporting nation. What has happened now? Right now, we are importing cotton from the neighbouring countries. It is a big shame because our farmers are capable of producing very high quality cotton. So, again, this is unlikely to happen if the Ministry leaves it solely to the private sector. There must be Government input. It is not possible that we leave the private sector to revive this industry. That will not happen. Again, with regard to some of these issues, let the Minister come back to this House and we will lobby everybody here to give him money to do these things. We have got a lot of money in this country. Indeed, you just need to look at what Asians have been stealing from our coffers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish now to touch on the livestock sector. Today, in Nairobi we see animals grazing all over the place. Why? This is because Maasais have moved from where they live to come to Nairobi to look for pasture. It is a pity that they are grazing their animals on tarmac roads. This is because the KMC where they used to run to in times of drought like this, is not operational. The Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources, together with the Minister visited KMC. In fact, Kenyans are being made to suffer and yet, KMC is functional. All you need to do is to put electricity there and press the button and the mills will start rolling. That is the fact. We were there with the Minister. What is happening? Why do we have to wait and talk about privatisation? Why can we not privatise while we are producing, so that we can assist poor Kenyans? First of all, let us make KMC operational, then we can now talk to the stakeholders in the livestock sector. Again, this reflects bad policy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at Head 324, the Minister wants to be given money to run holding grounds. Where are they? Could the Minister tell us where these holding grounds are? This is because they are non-existent. All of them have been grabbed. In fact, we would want the Minister to tell this House whether the holding ground we saw in Athi River exists? If it does, we want him to show us title deeds of that holding ground. That is the only way we are going to believe that it exists. This is because we have been told many times that the other holding ground is there, only to go there and find buildings standing on the land. Kenyans are waiting eagerly to know when you will open KMC. The Minister told this nation that they were going to open KMC in August. Maybe, the Minister did not specify the year, but we all believed it to be August, 2000. If he meant the year 2001, that is something else because we believed him to mean August, 2000. However, KMC is still closed. This Minister has a lot of credibility with Kenyans, so could you, please, make November, 2000, your August and open KMC.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other area which the Ministry must consider very seriously is that of awareness. Farmers are made more aware of what is happening in various areas through agricultural shows. But what has happened now is that all agricultural shows have virtually collapsed, including Nairobi International Show. Yesterday, the President had to order that the gates be opened so that Kibera residents could go in and see paratroopers. The Ministry must take charge now. We do know that the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) is a private entity, but until and unless the Ministry holds that steering wheel, there would be no agricultural shows in this country. In fact, right now the Central, Eastern and Western ASK are non-existent. I do not know whether we had one in North Eastern Province, but we must have them everywhere around this country. The Ministry of Agriculture must take charge. If

that does not happen, we will keep talking about reviving the agricultural sector, but nothing will happen.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other area is that of extension services. I am happy the Minister has said that this time round extension services are going to be offered all the way down up to the sub-locational level. But now that we are going to give the Ministry money - I support that they be given the money - where are these extension services? We have not seen them. Is it really true that we are going to get extensive extension services? When? In institutions where they used to be trained, like Embu Agricultural Institute, this kind of training is no longer offered there. Where will the manpower come from if we are not training more people, and some of them have already been retrenched? We want to be told the truth. Could the Minister in his reply give us the actual figures, that we are going to have so many extension officers per district and from where? Fresh ones are not being trained and the ones who were there have been retrenched. This country is eager to know the truth because this is one area which will help in revitalising the agricultural sector.

Finally, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya is an exporting country, but it is very sad because our Agricultural Attaches at our embassies are not doing their work. I think they go out there to do their business. They are not assisting the agricultural sector in this country at all. That is why poor Kenyans have been left at the hands of Asians to do their marketing. But we have a Ministry and yet we are paying those attaches to live in London and Paris and all over, but they are doing nothing to assist the Ministry. Could the Minister check on this issue?

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Maundu: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to make a short intervention on this very important Motion which touches a very important Ministry; where once upon a time I had a privilege to be in.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the Ministry that in many ways guarantees food for the nation, for internal consumption. It also guarantees the production of other commodities related to agriculture for export. I must say that for the time we have known this Ministry, it has had fairly competent Ministers. In fact, I must with respect, remind the current Minister that the policies he has carried out have been developed over the last seven years, particularly policies related to the tea and coffee industry. The only problem is that those policies have been pursued and they have moved fairly slowly to the detriment of farmers and many Kenyans, who consume products like tea and coffee. The Minister should now hasten to fully liberalise the tea and coffee sector and give it to the farmers. Sometime back, in about seven years ago when I was chairing a very important committee in Africa; it was quite clear to us that many other countries in the world were getting better pay for their coffee than Kenyans were. The level of bureaucracy in terms of payments and mismanagement of resources within the coffee sector was amazing. Smaller countries that were very small producers were making money out of coffee, but our Kenyans at the time were not, and even up to now, they are not. I believe in the world today, there is an association of all coffee producers in the world. When we did launch that particular organisation in Brazil, it helped to stabilise coffee prices and that has given a lot of advantage to many countries. But that particular benefit has not accrued in our country, because the system has not been fully liberalised. We would like to ask the Minister to liberalise the sector, so that smaller Kenyans may benefit, particularly those who produce coffee and tea on a small-scale basis in the rural areas or those; who are eking a living out difficult circumstances. We plead that the policies related to the full liberalisation of the coffee and tea sector be pursued and concluded, so that Kenyans are not exploited by middlemen.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one area that Kenyans are complaining about, in so far as food production is concerned and making water available, is the drought monitoring system within the Ministry of Agriculture. It does not seem to be accurate at all. Whenever they predict a drought, there are floods. Whenever they predict rain, there is drought. Therefore, Kenyans are unable to plan their own system for purposes of planting and even harvesting. We would like the Ministry to strengthen its drought monitoring system so that Kenyans know very well that when it is rain time, it is about rain time. When there is a drought, Kenyans are prepared well in advance like other people in many other countries do. Small countries do it successfully.

We are more qualified than most of our neighbours and countries in Africa, but we are unable to make sure that this particular aspect is carried out successfully. We would like to ask the Minister to look into this and make sure that, if he is going to assure food security for the country, the drought monitoring system must be accurate. This is a time when Kenyans are expecting the short rains in many parts that have been affected with drought. There have been predictions, but they have not been specific. They are talking of "above normal, below normal" and so on. There is not even a system that guarantees localised areas of an accurate prediction for purposes of planting and other means. We want this to be done. What arrangements do we have now that the short rains are about to come, with regard to seeds? Kenyans have gone through a drought. They are being feed on famine relief food in many parts of the country and the short rains are expected soon. There are no arrangements on the ground to ensure that planting seeds are made available for purposes of planting. Does the Minister have a programme? What intervention measures is he taking to make sure that people are ready and there is going to be proper seed for planting purposes that will make sure that we

produce food and not produce anything else? You will recall that, some time back, farmers were supplied with seeds. The Ministry colluded with some farmers, who ended up producing bad seeds. We would like the Minister to assure us that, this time round, farmers will be supplied with seeds at a reasonable price.

My colleagues have touched on the issue of the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). People from my area - the North Eastern Province - and others from arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) region benefitted immensely when the KMC was operational. However, all that we have seen about the KMC is empty talk; there is a lot of talk about the KMC being revived "next month", even by people in very high positions in Government.

I wonder whether the Government is, really, committed to the revival of the KMC. I do not think there is need for taking people on a joy ride. If the Government intends to revive the KMC, let it do so; if the Minister does not find himself in a position to revive the KMC, let us know. We have been told that some people waited until the facilities of KMC were fully renovated, so that they can buy it when it is a going concern. The Government is not interested in ensuring that farmers benefit from the KMC.

In the process of privatising the KMC, some people in the Government would like to sell it to some people at a throw-away price as a non-functional factory, yet a Committee of this House has assured us that the equipment at the KMC is functional. Therefore, we would like the Minister to confirm to this House that the KMC factory will be functional. Failure to do so, the people who live in that area will take some measures to ensure that the factory becomes functional. Efforts by Kenyans to revitalise the KMC are still frustrated. Farmers have made several attempts to buy the KMC, but they have been denied the opportunity to do so. We would, therefore, like this done.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are some non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which undertake agricultural activities in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture. However, there is absolutely no co-ordination between the Ministry and those NGOs, to the extent that policies being implemented by those NGOs are haphazard and ineffective in promoting agriculture in this country. For example, the Danish Development Agency (DANIDA) is undertaking some agricultural projects in Makeni District. Our assessment of those projects, however, is that Kenyans' money is being wasted. We only see big cars being driven around the constituencies by people saying that they are teaching Kambas how to farm and make terraces. We were taught how to carry out such activities by the colonialists more than 50 years ago; we know how to go about them. We would now like to see the NGOs carry out activities that benefit the local people.

The DANIDA has so far spent a lot of money on agricultural activities in Makeni District. Last time, the NGO announced that it had spent over Kshs50 million in that district's farming sector. However, you could not see even a single stalk of maize growing as a result of the NGO's effort, and this was very frustrating to the local people. We would, therefore, like the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to ensure that NGOs which spend money in the name of assisting our people, do so and do it well. We shall not be taken for a ride. We know that we will, later on, pay back this money, and do heavily. We should always be conscious that whoever brings money to this country is, in essence, investing for his own people to benefit at the some stage or another. If such money is not used prudently, Kenyans will be over-burdened and will not be able to get out of that debt burden. We would, therefore, like to urge our brothers in the Ministry to ensure that the issues raised here regarding the operations of NGOs are taken very seriously, and that co-ordination of agricultural activities in this country is done properly.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the agricultural sector, being the Government's core activity in terms food production, is not being financed at all. Farmers all over the country are crying about the unavailability of finances to enable them plant crops and make returns. The Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), which used to loan farmers money has been looted beyond redemption. So, the question of whether the AFC can be revived and become a viable financier to farmers should not arise.

I am happy that one of our colleagues here has drafted a Bill, which, if approved, will, among other things, check bank interest rate levels. If that is done, it will affect positively production in the agricultural sector. So, we would like to be told a clearer story about the AFC.

Mr. Muite: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the former Assistant Minister for Agriculture to say that the AFC has been looted beyond redemption when he knows perfectly well that the corporation is being run by a nephew of the President?

Mr. Maundu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not see clearly the relevance of the hon. Member's point of order with regard to what I have said. However, I believe that this matter is serious. If every Kenyan can ask for a little money from the AFC to develop his small *shamba*, that would be of very critical assistance to them.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Order! Order! I needed to say that the hon. Member's point of order was frivolous. So, you may continue.

Mr. Maundu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not want to say that to a very learned colleague of mine because we understand the provisions of the Standing Orders of this House.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghiso): Your time is up, Mr. Maundu. Could you proceed, Mr.

Donde?

Mr. Donde: Thank you Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion on the Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

I was rather surprised by the way the Minister for Agriculture initiated debate on this Vote. I was impressed that the shadow Minister for Agriculture reminded the Minister that, during the last sitting, he told this House that the KMC would be operational in a matter of weeks. It is high time that the Ministers and Government officials took this House seriously. How can Ministers come here and make such pronouncements and get away with it? What surprises me most is that, this afternoon, the Minister, once again, decided to talk about the KMC without even referring to the promise that he made to this House last time; I find that to be very unfortunate. If we are serious about putting this country's economy back on its feet, those responsible for the management of the economy must rise to the occasion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, right now, there is misery all over the country. A Minister came here and told us that the KMC would be opened in a few weeks' time, but several months have passed since then. He now comes here again to seek some money from us without bothering to explain what has become of his previous promise to this House, until his shadow colleague reminded him about it. So, I do not think we should take him seriously on any of the things that he told this House this afternoon. It is very unfortunate that important Ministries such as Agriculture and Rural Development should be run in the way it is being run at the moment. Although the Minister said that he is seeking the approval of Kshs7 billion, according to the figure I have here, he is asking for just over Kshs5 billion. A close scrutiny shows that most of this money is intended to be used on recurrent activities, namely, administration expenses, among others. The Ministry does not have any programme for farmers activities.

Currently, farmers are experiencing an acute shortage of the inputs they require, so as to produce. For example, farmers in Siaya District have land which is quite fertile. However, they lack quality seeds and fertilisers, but the Government does not have any programme in place to assist them, so that they can produce more food for themselves and some for sale. So, if we continue pretending to be solving the problems of this country and continue behaving the way we are doing, I am afraid to say that we will put this country into further misery. Kenyans are looking upon us to offer solutions to their problems. They pay taxes in billions of shillings. It is up to us to manage that money properly and try to uplift their standard of living. It is not very difficult to learn from experience. For example, the European Union (EU) was formed with agriculture in mind. In fact, 70 per cent of its operations are concentrated on agriculture.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the officials from the Ministry of Agriculture can go and look at what kind of protection they gave to the farmers, and then borrow some of those things and see how they can help our farmers. Up to now, the EEU is still spending 70 per cent of its income in promoting the farming community in Europe, either in the livestock or cereal sectors. In fact, it is so simple; they need to take somebody to Europe and just look at how EEU was formed; what kind of protection they gave to the farmers. Here we are pretending that everything is okay and that since we are liberalised, people can do this and that, although that is not possible. If European farmers who have money are being assisted by their Government in their operations, what about our farmers here? I feel saddened to note that although we depend largely on agriculture, when you look at the way these things have been presented to this House today, and there are top Government officials who are supposed to be running this Ministry--- I mean, they should advise the Minister on what to tell this House. They do not just come here and think that we enjoy listening to promises which they know very well will not be met.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, look at how we have treated our sugar and cotton industries, and all those things that the Minister is saying are things he knows very well cannot happen. Let us not pretend because there is no programme for them to happen. With a Budget of Kshs5 billion, nothing can happen. So, I would urge from the bottom of my heart that we must look seriously into ourselves if we want to bring this country together. We know that 85 per cent of our people live in the rural areas and we budget only Kshs5 billion for them and then we spend Kshs40 billion to pay Treasury Bills on interest rates. Then, you give farmers Kshs5 billion. If you look at this year's Budget, there is Kshs67 billion, out of a revenue of Kshs155 billion, for salaries and wages, and the next highest expenditure is Kshs42 billion for paying Treasury Bills, and the Ministry of Agriculture is being given Kshs5 billion. That is a mockery and a joke, and we must be serious if we want to change this country and help the people of this country. I feel that it is a sad day because we should not be here just making this House look like a talking shop by giving promises which we cannot accomplish and expect people out there to feel that we are trying to move this country forward.

In my humble submission, I would like something to be done in terms of helping some particular sectors of the economy. I would have expected something to be said about the irrigation scheme in Bura. I was in Bura on Saturday to do an Harambee in Tana River district and what I saw there made me feel very painful. There is a project which took Kshs12 billion, but if you go there now, there is nothing left. People are just there sitting without knowing what to do next. This Government is giving its Budget, and nothing is being mentioned about the Bura Irrigation

Scheme. You could see the place is dry and it was supposed to be a cotton irrigation area and nothing is happening. People were made to go and live there, from all parts of the country. I have heard that some people from my constituency are also there, and they do not know what to do and they are just asking us: "Can you please tell the Government to do something for us? We can be able to work for ourselves." There is nothing at all being mentioned about it. I would like the Minister to talk to some of the senior officials sitting at the Civil Servants bench to go back to their drawing boards and see how they can sort out the issue of Bura Irrigation Scheme. It is important that we help those people.

I would also like to talk about the livestock sector. We know that many of our brothers rely on livestock and it is not difficult to build dams in areas where those people keep livestock. Just build simple dams which would store water when it rains. Those people can be able to have water for their livestock. The reason why animals are walking all over this town is because they are looking for water. Here is a situation where the Ministry of Agriculture can build dams in strategic areas where those people keep their animals and that water can just be stored naturally in those dams and at least we can help our people to have some water for their animals. These are simple things which do not require a lot of money; they just require a bit of initiative and a bit of being mindful of others in our society.

I would also like to talk about the sugar industry. I believe that if you take the total amount of money being owed to sugar farmers and all the sugar factories, it is not over Kshs800 million; it is not much money. I was wondering whether it is possible for the money which we are getting now from levy of sugar imports, and I understand that today they just paid another Kshs61 million for taxes on sugar--- I know that during the sugar shortage, there will be nearly Kshs400 million in terms of taxes being paid out on imported sugar. I would request the Minister to make a decision in using that money to pay off sugar farmers in Nzoia sugar company and Muhoroni sugar company. It is not much money and I know that you will make it during this time of importation. Just pay them off so that those people can be able to use that money in their farms and produce more sugar. It is not something much to ask for. I believe that if we agree in this House, I do not think that there is anything difficult about that. Already, the amount of money which is being obtained from sugar taxes within the next two weeks will be running into Kshs200 million. That will be real money which we have just received out of those taxes and that can be injected to help those farmers get on their feet and be able to look after themselves and their families and also produce more sugar for this country. There are things which we can do and which we can manage with the reasonable income that we have now, but nobody ever thinks about them.

Cap. Ntwiga: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of this country. In fact, I may say that it is the mother of all battles, simply because all the hon. Members who have just talked before me have stressed one point of action; that, the Ministry takes action on policy papers which it has from time to time made, but their implementation has been very difficult all the time. What the previous speakers have said is a matter of the Ministry taking action on the policies on the ground. I must say that action should be on the ground, but not on paper. This is because where I come from, I believe that it applies to all the hon. Members - my people depend mainly on coffee, tea, and a little of subsistence farming and livestock. Nothing, as I speak here, has taken place there. Although when it is now a planting season, farmers are hungry as a result of the drought which has been there. The famine situation is too severe and they have nothing to plant. So, what will happen is that we will be talking about famine as a vicious cycle.

Something must be done by the Ministry of Agriculture to provide farmers with seeds so that we may stop talking about food problems every time in this House. We are calling for something called incentives to be given to the farmers because if we have to come out of that cycle of poverty, we have to improve or give incentives to our farmers so that the agricultural sector can come out from where it is now. I believe that we are in a mess as far as this sector which carries 25 per cent of our GDP is concerned. We are calling for a way of giving our farmers fertilizers so that they can improve our crops.

We are also calling for the merging of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, which has the Water Development section because I believe the two Ministries should work together. They are inseparable Ministries because you cannot talk of producing without water, whether it is rain, irrigation or river water. For that matter I am calling upon the Ministry of Agriculture to liaise on very serious matters as far as water harnessing in this country is concerned so that we can have small-scale micro-irrigation schemes in our country and avoid crying for food now and then. The co-operative movement has mismanaged the farmers' initiative in the rural areas to an extent that in many cases they have given up as far as coffee production is concerned. They have instead started selling their coffee to private buyers at buying centres because the loans advanced by the co-operative banks fetch high interest rates such that they are actually unable to repay them.

There is also the aspect of service money by the European Union. This money has been advanced to this Government for the purpose of helping farmers to produce more coffee. In my area, the same money was given through the Co-operative Bank for the electrification of coffee factories in order to reduce the cost of processing coffee

berries. Since this money was given, the electricity power line has never been supplied to these coffee factories. There are 49 coffee factories which have done the wiring and at the moment they are considering paying the loan for services which have not been delivered to them. We are calling upon these co-operative banks and the Ministry to look into this matter so that our farmers do not continue suffering like this. I am also calling upon the Ministry through the extension officers to advise our farmers accurately. For that matter, we are also calling for the revival of the Ahiti Centre and Embu Centre so that our farmers can be advised accordingly by the extension officers. Things are very bad on the ground. Unless something is done by this Ministry, we will lose this sector completely and yet it carries everything as far as human survival is concerned in this country.

The farmer down there in the rural area is miserably in need of the revival of this sector. He has given up hope in the sense that he cannot afford school fees for the children, food, health facilities and so many other things. We are calling upon the Ministry to revive its policies properly and to look upon this sector which is very vital for the survival of our country. I also take this opportunity to appeal to the Ministry to consider constructing a cereal depot in my place which is Meru South for the purpose of taking care of Meru South District as well as Tharaka District. At the moment, we have got a depot at Meru Town and it is very far from our area. I am also calling upon the Ministry to utilise this money. Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are stealing so much from this country that we shall be left with a lot of debts in the future to repay. The NGOs write very good papers, present them to the Ministry, but when they go down there on the ground nothing takes off. I am calling upon the Ministry to do a lot of supervision upon these NGOs so that we are not cheated out of the money which we will pay in the future. I am talking about small-scale micro-irrigation schemes especially if I consider my constituency which is on the eastern slopes of Mt. Kenya where there are so many rivers, the land is fertile and yet they are not utilised. They have got natural gorges and valleys and the water can be harnessed for irrigation to provide subsistence food. Just the other day, the President visited the killer Nithi Bridge and he asked me what I was doing about the water. I could not answer him because it is a lot of work to build a dam on a river like Nithi. For that reason, I am calling upon this Ministry to consider that one as a very serious matter so that in the future we can irrigate our land.

I beg to support.

Dr. Omamo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to thank the Minister for introducing the Ministry's Vote and bringing quite a strong team of officers to note what the Members of Parliament are saying.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I speak as one who is really involved as far as this Ministry is concerned. My constituency is very rural and for the very good of my constituents, we have to depend on sugar-cane and rice. We have some sheep and goats, but the main cash crops are sugar-cane and rice. It is true that there has been a decline and some messes almost in every sector. For example, the coffee sector has had its problems. The important question to ask is: What caused the problem that we face today in the coffee, tea, sugar, rice and milk sectors? If we find answers to these problems, we have hope of finding a solution. This is why I suggest that the time has come now for the Ministry to seriously think of coming up with a revision of our food policy. We want a revision of our food security. Let us look into the policy and up-date it.

I, therefore, suggest that there should be a task force to look into the reasons why this has happened and what caused it. Take the example of cotton. What has caused the decline in the production of cotton over these years? Is there any hope of salvaging cotton as a cash crop? We would like to know these answers. We would like to get those answers. Right now, we are in a lot of trouble with regard to sugar-cane. Why is every factory, starting with Mumias, Nzoia, Chemelil, Miwani and Muhoroni, having a shortage of cane? The factories have teeth. Most of them have teeth, but they have nothing to bite. If you do not have food in your mouth, and you use your teeth, the teeth would be doing nothing! That is what is happening. The factories do not have the cane to crush! The great Mumias and Chemelil have been improvised after harvesting cane which has not matured, much to the detriment of farmers. That is not ideal. What has caused the shortage of cane in all the factories? There are reasons for that. Let the Ministry put in place a task force to find out the reasons. For example, Muhoroni Constituency is teeming with factories. There is Miwani, which is 49 per cent owned by the Government. There is Chemelil, which is over 90 per cent owned by the Government. There is Muhoroni, which is over 99 per cent owned by the Government. We have Agro-Chemical and Food Company, rice factories, and others. It is full of factories. But there is trouble. Why should Muhoroni factory pretend to function when cane which was delivered in March, 1999 has not been paid for? Why should the Government allow Miwani, which is one of the oldest factories in the country, to go to the dogs? The nucleus estate is going to the dogs. The factory also is going to the dogs. The buildings are going to the dogs.

An hon. Member: And the "co-operation"?

Dr. Omamo: I am not talking about the "co-operation" because that word can be badly misunderstood!

An hon. Member: It has gone to the dogs!

Dr. Omamo: If you think "co-operation" has gone to the dogs, we will catch and tame the dog!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like to find out the reasons why there is cane shortage. That way, we shall have hope. Let me give another example. Again and again, in House Committees and seminars, we have implored the Ministry to try a deliberate policy to convert from rain-fed agriculture to irrigated agriculture. Let us make an effort.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on more than one occasion, I have given an example of the many little hills along the shores of Lake Victoria. A little hill is called a hillock! There are many hillocks along the lake-shore hinterland. Those hillocks could be used for initiating minor irrigation projects. You can pump the water from the lake to the top of the hillock, and the water will gravitate to the crops. Why has that not been included in the budget? I would really like to persuade the Minister to take those suggestions seriously.

An hon. Member: What did you do when you were the Minister?

Dr. Omamo: Somebody has asked me what I did when I was in the Ministry of Agriculture. I was in the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday, but I am talking about today!

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to persuade the Ministry to take the research aspect of our development a bit more seriously. The Ministry should intensify research. If I may give an example of sugar-cane, we have examples in other countries where sugar-cane planted today, is harvested within 12 months. It is ready because of quick growing varieties. We do not have those quick growing varieties in Kenya today. Why not! Let us intensify research, just as we should intensify research in areas of horticulture. We want correct flowers for Western Kenya, and other varieties for dry regions. Some of the flowers from dry regions of the country, if harvested, could stay very long in the shelves before they dry up. I could give the example of the desert rose. If you harvest a desert rose, it can be taken to Timbuktu, Moscow and Tokyo while still very fresh. We want research in every aspect, including all our indigenous foods. That way, we shall have better sweet potatoes, pulse and vegetables. Let our researchers be persuaded to bring in materials and conduct applied research, so that when we have a research material, we first of all, africanise it, then Kenyanise it, then localise it and then indigenise it! That way, we hold it and will become ours. That is what our research officer did on the Ruiru 11 coffee variety, which is now very popular as an indigenous research material.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Haji): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to contribute to this vital and important Vote.

From the onset, I would like to support the Vote. I consider the Ministry of Agriculture to be the mother and father of all Ministries. As we sit here as Members of this House, together with others who are outside, many of us would have been able to come here on foot to attend these important deliberations. I believe that many are here this afternoon because it was not necessary for them to take drugs. I believe that, each one of us, before we left our homes, had something to eat.

Human beings cannot survive without food. We can survive without roads and we can even survive without medicine because God has given us defensive mechanism within our bodies to fight many diseases. It is very unfortunate that day in, day out, we tend to lament. I would like to say that lamenting and crying will not help us. As a nation and leaders, we must have foresight. We must see the way forward. We must use all necessary options that will assist our country to survive. Right now, we are going through a very difficult period; we have drought which is compounded by poor economy. I think we went wrong in the first place when we subdivided all the productive land in this country and made it uneconomical to farm. There is no way we can expect somebody with one or two acres to produce sufficient food for this country. It is uneconomical; the farmers cannot borrow money, and if they borrow money, they cannot break even in spite of the drought that has caused havoc to our farming system. If you visit markets all over the country, you will always find one mad person, who does not have to be educated or clever, but always has something to say. It would be very unfortunate, if we behaved like mad people; all the time criticising and crying. We must come up with solutions to our problems. I would like to highlight some of those solutions.

Now that we have subdivided all the land, it will be very difficult to ask our people to amalgamate this land so that it can be viable agriculturally and economically. We should now look up to the North Eastern Province where there is huge unused land. Nobody can tell us that we cannot produce food in North Eastern Province. If Israelites can produce food on rocks; people in Saudi Arabia can produce wheat, I do not see the reason why we, Kenyans, cannot produce food in North Eastern Province. Last time we had the El Nino rain there was plenty of water, but today we do not have it. It has all drained to the Indian Ocean. I was in Tana River a week ago, and I would like to say that people are crossing this river on foot. If it rains in the highlands today, tomorrow, it will flood over 50 square kilometres on all sides of the river and yet, we do not have any plan to harness its water. We should look for ways and means of

pumping this water to practice small irrigation scheme. I would like to inform the Minister that people in North Eastern Province have lost their livestock. They are now trying to turn to farming; they are starting farming from "abc" and, yet, there are no agricultural extension staff. As I speak here today, there is no single extension staff where I come from. How do we expect people in that area to survive? If this situation is not corrected, we will find ourselves here in Nairobi and we will eat in all the hotels here without paying a penny, because we must survive and we cannot survive without eating. We see the Maasai cattle roaming the City today simply because there is no grass in their areas to graze their animals. Tomorrow, you will find human beings coming to Nairobi and they will want to eat in the big hotels and, yet, they do not have money. We do not want to wait for a situation like that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very disheartening to see that there is no single pound in the Budget of this Ministry for the KMC. We know that the KMC has been the lifeline for livestock owners, not only in North Eastern Province, but in the whole country. It is very bad that the Ministry can forget such an important and vital industry for this nation. I agree that it is not necessary for the Government to be a money-making institution, but there are certain institutions which are important and vital, like the KMC and the NCPB, which the Government must spend money on without making a penny to make sure that Kenyans survive and eat. I would like to see a situation whereby the Ministry corrects this anomaly at once, because failure to do that will be unforgivable.

We have camels which are very important animals in this country, but there is very little research done to improve their breed. I will pass on a paper to the Minister which I came across the other day while travelling on the Kenya Airways. In Morocco, it has been discovered that camel milk has rare protein and it controls diabetes. It also helps to reduce cholesterol and yet, we have so many camels in this country, which are not considered as animals by the rest of Kenya. It is very unfortunate. I would like to appeal to the Ministry to set up a research centre for camels. In Morocco, there is a very big farm where camels are reared and I am told that even the supply of milk and cheese in Europe cannot be met. Why can we not take the opportunity of this market which is readily available in this country? Is it because many of our researchers and decision-makers do not come from North Eastern Province and, therefore, they care less? Is it so? I would like to pose that question. If it is not, I would like the director, who is here today and the Minister to immediately initiate research on how we can utilise the resources that are available in this country without going to overseas to buy them. We can even sell them to the Middle-East and here in Kenya because there are many people who use cheese. If they know that there is cheese which can cure them from many diseases, I am sure that even my colleagues on the other side of the House like the hon. Member of Parliament for Kabete would like to test that milk.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Karume: Ahsante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipatia nafasi hii ili niongee machache kuhusu ukulima. Wakati tulipigana na Mbeberu tukiwa wananchi wa Kenya, tulipigana hasa ili tufanye mambo zaidi ya yale aliyokuwa akifanya, hasa katika ukulima. Ningependa kusema kwamba Wizara hii ni ya maana sana kwa sababu kitu muhimu kwa binadamu ni kupata chakula. Wakati umefika ambapo tunafaa tujiulize kama tunaendelea mbele au tunarudi nyuma kwa kilimo. Ninafuraha kwa sababu tuna Waziri ambaye ninafahamu ana bidii. Ninafahamu vile Waziri alikuwa akifanya kazi wakati alikuwa upande wa biashara, lakini sijui kama ataendelea hivyo akiwa Waziri katika Serikali yetu. Ninafikiri atajaribu.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa hivyo ni vizuri tujiulize kama tunaendelea mbele au tunarudi nyuma. Mimi ninaona kama tunarudi nyuma kwa sababu viwanda vya ukulima vinaendelea kufungwa. Kwa mfano, huko Mkoa wa Pwani, upande wa Kwale, kulikuwa na kiwanda cha sukari cha Ramisi na watu wa huko walikuwa wakisaidika sana. Walikuwa wakipata mapato yao kutoka kwa ukulima wa miwa. Hicho kiwanda kilifungwa na Serikali haikufanya chochote kuwasaidia na sasa watu wa huko hawapati chochote. Wengine hata hawawezi kuelimisha watoto wao. Waziri ameongea kuhusu ukulima wa pamba. Tulikuwa tumeanza kukuza pamba na ikafanya vizuri, lakini sasa imefifia. Bw. Waziri amesema kuwa ataangalia vile atasaidia ukulima wa pamba.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa upande wa ng'ombe, sana sana ng'ombe wa nyama, ni vizuri Waziri aangalie kiwanda cha nyama cha KMC na akisaidie ili kianze kufanya kazi tena. Kiwanda hiki kilikuweco hata wakati wa ubeberu. Tumekuwa tukiuzwa ng'ombe wetu huko, lakini kilifungwa miaka mingi iliyopita. Nilikuwa nikifikiri kuwa badala ya kufunga KMC baada ya miaka 30 ya kujitawala, tungekuwa tumejenga kiwanda kingine kama KMC katika Mkoa wa Kaskazini Mashariki ili watu wa huko wapate mahali pa kuuza ng'ombe wao. Jambo hili lingewasaidia kuchinjia ng'ombe wao huko, kuziweka nyama kwa mikebe na kuziuzwa katika nchi za nje. Baadala ya kufikiria kujenga kiwanda kingine kama hicho, tulifunga kile kiwanda ambacho tulichukua kutoka kwa wabeberu. Hii ndiyo sababu ninauliza kama tunaendelea mbele au tunarudi nyuma katika mambo ya ukulima.

Tulikuwa na kiwanda cha Uplands Bacon Factory ambacho kilikuwa kikichinja nguruwe wengi sana. Wakati huo tulikuwa tunauza nyama ya nguruwe mpaka Zambia. Hiki kiwanda kilifungwa. Kiwanda hiki kilikuwa kimeajiri wafanyakazi kama 6,000 na kusaidia familia 30. Watu waliokuwa wakulima wa nguruwe, wote sasa hawana la kufanya. Kwa hivyo, ningependa Serikali ifikirie kubadilisha mwenendo wake ili hayo mambo yarudishwe kama

yalivyokuwa zamani.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, tunaweza kulima mchele wa kutosha huko Mwea katika Wilaya ya Kirinyaga na katika Mkoa wa Nyanza, hata kama hatutauza katika nchi za nje. Kama vile mhe. Omamo amesema, viwanda vya sukari nchini vinaweza kusaga sukari ya kutosha kama Serikali itawasaidia wakulima wa miwa. Hii itatuwezesha kupata sukari ya kutosha kwa matumizi yetu na hata ya kuuzia nchi za nje. Hii itatusaidia kupata pesa za kigeni. Ukiangalia nchini sasa, utaona kwamba hakuna sukari ya kutosha kwa sababu Serikali haiwasaidii wakulima wa miwa. Imesemekana kwamba sukari imekuwa ikifichwa ili watu wachache walete sukari kutoka ng'ambo na kuwafanya wakulima wa miwa maskini ambao hawawezi hata kusomesha watoto wao kwa sababu watu wawili wameleta sukari kutoka nje. Wengine wanaleta humu chini hiyo sukari kutoka nje bila kuilipia ushuru. Kwa hivyo, ni vizuri Waziri aangalie vile atavyokomesha haya mambo.

Kuhusu mambo ya kahawa, ninafikiri kuwa miaka ijayo, Kenya haitakuwa na kahawa. Hii ni kwa sababu bei ya kahawa imepungua sana na wakulima wa kahawa hawapati chochote. Ie kahawa kiasi kidogo ambayo wanauza kwa KPCU inakuwa ni vigumu kupata malipo yake. Mara nyingine wakilipwa, wanapatiwa hundi ambazo hazina pesa. Ninajua kwamba Waziri anajaribu sana kuangalia mambo ya Coffee Board of Kenya na KPCU, na ningemwuliza aingilie haya mambo zaidi kwa sababu sasa watu hawana pesa za kulipia gharama za ukulima wa kahawa. Mashamba mengi yatauzwa kwa sababu waliochukua mikopo kutoka kwa mabanki wakidhania eti wangelipa na pesa kutoka kwa mapato ya kahawa, hawatailipa. Mnajua kwamba riba ya mikopo ya benki iko juu sana na wakulima hawawezi kuilipa mikopo yao.

Wakati Bw. Idi Amin alipokuwa Rais wa Uganda, watu wa Uganda walikuwa wakivuna kahawa yao na kuileta katika mpaka wa Mkoa wa Magharibi na Uganda. Wakenya walikuwa wakinunua hiyo kahawa kama mahindi na kuuza kwa Coffee Board of Kenya. Sasa hili jambo linafanyika huko Isebania, na Waziri anajua hii kwa sababu hapo ni karibu na kwake. Wakenya wamekuwa wakiuza kahawa yao mpakani wa Kenya na Tanzania kwa magunia kama mahindi kwa sababu wakiuza KPCU, hawalipwi. Hata mimi kama ningekuwa huko ningefanya hivyo vivyo ili niweze kusomesha mtoto wangu. Kwa hivyo, ni lazima tuangalie tunaelekea wapi. Hapo mbeleni, Kenya ndiyo iliyokuwa mbele ya Uganda na Tanzania kimaendeleo.

Kitu kingine ambacho ningepuliza Waziri atusaidie huko Kiambu ni kufufua benki ya wakulima ya Co-operative Bank ambayo ilifungwa. Pesa za wazee na akina mama za kahawa zilipotea. Hata wazee wengine walikufa waliposikia eti hiyo benki imeanguka na pesa zao. Kwa hivyo, ningepuliza Waziri ajaribu kutusaidia kupata pesa hizi, na waliozifuja hizi pesa washtakiwe. Tulikuwa na mashirika kama vile KFA lakini yalianguka. Shirika lingine kama vile AFC lilikuwa likiwasaidia wakulima. Sasa mkulima akitaka hata Kshs 1,000, hawezi kupata.

Hapo zamani, tulikuwa na kondoo wa manyoya nchini. Haya manyoya yalikuwa yakipelekwa na kuuzwa ng'ambo na kutuletea pesa za kigeni. Ningepuliza Waziri afikirie vile anavyoweza kuwasaidia wakulima. Wakulima hapa Kenya hawana msaidizi, lakini katika nchi nyingine, wakulima wanasaidiwa kifedha na Serikali. Ni lazima tufikirie vile tutawasaidia wakulima wetu. Kuna pesa nyingi katika nchi yetu ya Kenya ambazo zinatumiwa kwa mambo yasiyo ya maana. Tungejaribu vile hizi pesa zingeweza kuwasaidia wakulima. Tukiendelea namna hii bila ya kufikiria vile tunavyoweza kuwasaidia wakulima, tutafikia wakati ambapo hatutakuwa na la kufanya.

Ninatoka kuhimiza Waziri aangalie mambo ya kahawa. Ninajua kwamba kahawa itakuja kumalizika katika nchi hii na hata wakati bei ya yake itakapopanda, Wakenya hawatakuwa na kahawa yoyote ya kuuza. Kwa hivyo, ni vizuri Wizara hii ya Kilimo itafute njia ya kusaidia kwa kila namna. Mungu ametupatia nchi ya maana sana. Tunaweza kukuza mimea yoyote, lakini hatukuzi hii mimea kwa sababu hatuwasaidii wakulima. Kwa hivyo, ningepuliza Serikali ifikirie zaidi kuhusu wakulima. Taabu ni nyingi hapa nchini na ni lazima Serikali ifikirie vile inavyoweza kusaidia mkulima na maji, kama vile katika pande za Ukambani.

Kwa hayo machache, ninaunga mkono.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Sirma): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to talk about the base of our economy. When we talk about our economy, we are talking about making our rural population get enough food and be able to take their children to school. But that seems not to be the way we are operating currently. Presently, we have severe drought in the country which has really caused a lot of suffering to our farmers. As it has been said by the former Minister for Agriculture, the policy of agriculture in this country is not right. I do not know where we are heading to, if the policy itself cannot drive us and resuscitate our economy. This country depends on agriculture for its foreign exchange earnings and also for feeding its people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about the agriculture sector, we are talking about the extension workers who are in the field. We had the national extension programmes in this country, which were actually implemented successfully. But the follow-up of these extension programmes died immediately the Government stopped funding them. So, we are actually talking about a wrong policy which is in place and which needs to be overhauled. When new Permanent Secretaries were appointed, the Ministry of Agriculture was blessed to have two technocrats to turn around the agricultural sector. But todate, we have not seen any change! So, we are talking about

people who are there, but they are not able to implement or even think about how Kenya should move forward.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about agricultural extension workers, we expect them to assist our farmers and bring change in the rural areas. We have our livestock and agricultural research stations, but we do not know where they are heading to. If we are going to dish out all the agricultural land meant for research--- The other day we read about people grabbing a research land. If that practice is going to continue, then I think, everybody in this country is going to move to the nearby research land and settle there. He will not be questioned because he will decide to own the land. So, the policy is wrong, we must think about it and know where we are heading to.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the AFC, which is the farmers---

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think the wrong impression is being created that research land belonging to KARI has been grabbed. I want to clarify for purposes of public information that no research land, particularly land belonging to KARI or any institution under the Ministry of Agriculture, has been grabbed anywhere.

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

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Sirma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope you will protect me and save my time because I would like to be given time to contribute.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Order, hon. Sirma. What is your point order, Mr. Muite?

Mr. Muite: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, part of the 1,000-acre land in question lies in Kabete and Westlands Constituencies. The fact of the matter is that, when that land was originally surrendered by the people of Kiambu, it was surrendered to a research institution. If it was grabbed even before hon. Gumo tries to get it now---

An hon. Member: Hon. Gumo, come back!

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Obure): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Mr. Muite, there is a point of order.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it really in order for the Minister to start misleading this House? Let him tell us the truth! The 1,000-acre land was originally a research land. When did it cease to be research land?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Obure, you brought this up and you know you are completely out of order. The hon. Member speaking is expressing his opinion, and you stood on a point of order to give information that is obviously known by hon. Members.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Sirma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for protecting me and saving my time from hon. Members from the other side of the House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about reviving the agricultural sector, we are talking about the marketing bodies. The NCPB is in place and it has all the capacity to store our cereals in this country. We are able to provide strategic reserves, but when it comes to harvesting time, the Ministry says that there is no money to buy maize. When there is drought like this time, they go ahead and import maize and beans from foreign countries, when this money could have benefited the farmers of this country. Where does that money come from at that time? Could we really think and put our policies and priorities right in any of our activities in the agricultural sector?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the KCC which was formerly managed by a friend of mine who is an hon. Member in this House--- They were chairmen and directors who looted KCC with impunity and brought it down to its knees financially. They made sure that farmers in the Rift Valley suffered a lot. We want to ask if really there is any fairness--- These looters of the KCC are there and they are looking at me.

An hon. Member: Order! Stop pointing at us!

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Sirma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, some of them are here!

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Mr. Sirma! Order! What is your point of order?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have heard the Assistant Minister telling hon. Katuku that the looters of the KCC are seated next to him. I am the one who is seated next to hon. Katuku. Is he implying that I am a looter there? Could he substantiate his claims?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Sirma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the KCC is actually in a problem and it is now being sold--- If you were a director of the KCC---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Mr. Gitonga, what is your point of order?

Mr. Gitonga: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member cannot get away with it! He has said that some of the looters of the KCC are seated in this House. Could the Assistant Minister name them or withdraw his remarks?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr Sirma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, they know themselves and they are in this House and they were directors of the KCC. So, I cannot withdraw what I have said because it is the truth.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Order! Mr. Sirma, you invited this yourself. You have to do what you must do! You have either to name them or withdraw your remarks.

An hon. Member: Thirikwa Kamau!

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Sirma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Thirikwa Kamau was the Chairman of the KCC and Mr. Patrick Muiruri who is seated across was--

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Order! Sit down! Mr. Sirma, you are perfectly aware that you cannot name an hon. Member without a substantive Motion. You know that and, please, withdraw your remarks.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Sirma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to withdraw and apologize.

Mr. Muiruri: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for this young man, hon. Sirma, to make false accusations against me and hon. Thirikwa, when he knows very well that the accounts of KCC--
(*Laughter*)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Order, Mr. Muiruri! You know that you are not on a point of order and he has not spoken about you. He spoke about Mr. Thirikwa and I ordered him to withdraw. If he did speak about you, he has withdrawn and apologized. You are not raising a point of order.

Please, continue, Mr. Sirma.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Sirma): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I finish, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to the issue of the AFC. The Corporation loaned money to farmers and up to now, since there was severe drought, the farmers are unable to repay the money. These loans should be written off because the farmers are going to have their lands auctioned and we want even the interest rates to be waived in order to assist the farmers.

With those words, I beg to support.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to start by saying that if we are here to talk about looters, then they are on the other side. However, I want to take further debate on the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture which, of course, as you are aware, is the backbone of this economy. Our country depends on agriculture and until the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture is re-defined, there is nowhere we are going or heading. I am also concerned about the allocation of funds, even though we are talking about the policies. This is one Ministry where I would expect a lot of resources to be allocated. This is the Ministry which should be given almost 50 per cent of our resources. This is because unless we develop the agricultural sector, we will not end anywhere. There is no need of giving the Office of the President billions of shillings while we are giving the Ministry of Agriculture peanuts. What do you expect them to do? This is a Government which should review the allocation of resources. This is because unless we give this Ministry a lot of money, I sympathise with the Minister. If he is given the peanuts I have seen in the allocations, what do you expect him to do? The Government should allocate more money to the Ministry of Agriculture, so that it can address the many issues which are facing our economy. And unless we address these issues, it is when we can say that we are making economic progress in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, look at the KMC. The Minister was here before we went on recess and he said that he only wanted Kshs1 million to put KMC on board. The KMC is very crucial, especially for livestock farmers. The constituency that I represent which is Mwala, most of the people there depend on livestock but now, we have nowhere to sell livestock. The Minister was here and he said that he was going to open KMC temporarily. What happened? The Government did not give him money So, what do we expect? It is high time this Ministry was given money and right people who have the right policies put in place. Like now if KMC was given money, we would not have lost livestock as we have done now. A bull which was worth Kshs10,000 is going for Kshs2,000. Farmers are losing while others are dying. This is the Ministry which should be given a lot of resources. I would also urge the Minister to put more emphasis and re-examine his budget to revive KMC because farmers in the area that I represent and in other arid regions are suffering. Their livestock are dying and people are not able to meet their livelihood or pay fees.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another area which has been neglected and especially because it touches on my constituency is the cotton-growing industry. The cotton growing industry has been run down. That is the only cash crop we used to have in my area. Now, my people cannot grow cotton because there is nowhere they can sell it. It can only be left with the Asians and they are exploiting my people. Our people are now not being given seeds or any

assistance at all. So, I would urge the Minister to rethink about reviving the cotton industry because we are importing cotton from Tanzania and then re-exporting it. Why can we not grow cotton here? We must be serious with our agricultural sector to improve the livelihood of our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country, of course, as for the last few months, has been facing food shortage problems. The policy on food security must be re-addressed. We must have enough food security. We must have enough reserves which can take us two years. We have the room to do that and I still must say that we have that capacity. It is high time this Government gave this Ministry money to give to the NCPB to buy enough food to store. Like now, we have people harvesting in some parts of this country and yet, the NCPB has no money to buy this maize which can be sold on the other side of the country where there is no food. It is high time we embarked on the issue of food security. This is because, for example, people in my constituency are relying on relief food, whereby they are given five kilograms of maize to take them for a month. What do you expect? A family of about three or four persons being given five kilograms of maize to take them through a month!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this afternoon, I was here raising issues on what the Government is doing to those people who are receiving relief food now. Like in the area that I come from, we expect rains between now and the 20th of this month or even earlier. What is the Government doing to give the same people who are receiving relief food, seeds to plant? Does the Minister have that plan? Even though we are asking money from the Office of the President for the relief food, what policies does the Minister have on those people who are now receiving relief food? They should also be given seeds, unless you want to feed them throughout. You cannot talk of giving them seeds after the rains come. We wait for the rains as we prepare our shambas, but here we have hopeless people who are relying on relief food and the Minister is seated here and I do not think he has that policy. If he has heard, it is too late. He should have given the seeds to farmers to plant.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was talking about the food policy. For example, if we are talking about the USA, they have a policy of having enough reserves for fuel which can last them a year. Here in Kenya, there is not even a fuel or food policy; we have no policy. We must be serious on this issue of food security. We do not want to have a situation where people are relying on relief food. The only way we can get out of this habit of giving people relief food is to develop agricultural irrigation in our areas. For example, if water was developed in terms of irrigation in my area, people would be able to feed themselves. Athi River cuts across my constituency and there is no irrigation programme there. Even if it was a canal like Yatta Furrow throughout my constituency and even the constituencies downstream, we would be able to grow food from that water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we expect this Ministry to have a policy, whereby we can develop permanent dams. If we had dams in my area we would have no problem of water for livestock. In my constituency, there is an acute problem of water for livestock and domestic use. If we could have a policy whereby in every village a dam is constructed--- During colonial times, the Wazungus developed dams. I think those are the only dams that we have in my area; that is, one per location and they still have water. Why can we not have a policy whereby in every village, a dam is constructed not only in Mwala but all the other regions? This will assist in bringing water nearer to the people. Of course, for those who have gone to school, you know that when you bring water through the construction of dams, the water table comes up and the moment you plant and the rains are insufficient, you will be able to at least, harvest. This is simple logic. Since you have technocrats in your office, please, ensure they have these things at their fingertips. But the problem is that they are not given the money to implement these policies. It is a pity that they only ask for money for salaries and for the day-to-day running of the Ministry. Even the agricultural extension officers in our area are doing nothing to assist farmers. They cannot move from one corner to another to assist farmers because their vehicles have broken down. The Ministry has now come up with a policy where they expect farmers to go to those officers to seek advice on how to better their crop production. However, some farmers do not know they are supposed to seek advice from those officers. They need to be taught on what to do. That is something that is very important in improving the agricultural sector in this country. Those officers must visit farmers in their areas as they used to do immediately after Independence.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of extension officers in areas where we grow crops like cotton, tea and coffee, farmers must be assisted, especially with the new technology. They should also be assisted to overcome the new challenges and problems in this sector. This is very crucial. Even though we are retrenching civil servants, this is one area we do not need to retrench extension officers. How can you retrench officers who are supposed to assist farmers to better their production? How do we expect us to improve in terms of exporting coffee and tea, if we retrench our extension officers? I am urging this Ministry to look into the issue of retrenchment *vis-a-vis* the services rendered by those officers. It is better for us to retrench the Ministers, instead of those agricultural extension officers.

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

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumto): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me a chance to contribute on this Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

Development. Farmers in this country and particularly maize farmers have suffered quite a lot for a long time. As we all know since we liberalised prices of maize, traders have been importing a lot of maize. And this has affected the price of maize in this country. For example, in Kitale, maize is selling at a very low price. In fact, it is selling as low as Kshs500 per bag. This has caused a lot of problems to farmers. Farmers who had borrowed some money from AFC sometimes back, are not able to pay. As a result, their properties are now being seized by AFC. We need to do something to assist our farmers. The Minister should look into this issue and see what can be done to assist our farmers. If there is a way of writing off some of these loans, the Government should not hesitate to do so because farmers will never pay. If the Government could write off Kenya Airways loans to enable foreigners to buy the airline, why can they not write off AFC loans in order to assist our farmers? I hope the Minister will look into this issue and take the necessary action.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, although there is drought in this country we should not import a lot of maize. This is because we have enough maize in stores and farmers are about to harvest. By next month, most farmers in Rift Valley will have harvested a lot of maize. So, if we allow importation of maize, then the prices will go down. The Government should not allow unscrupulous traders to import maize at the expense of our farmers. Let our farmers harvest their maize and get a better price for it. We can then import maize in February/March when most of the maize would have been sold.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to address myself to the question of fertiliser. For the last four or five years, fertiliser has been very expensive for the farmers. In the past, we used to get enough fertiliser from donor countries which the Government used to sell to farmers at a very reasonable price. However, currently, when we get donations of such fertiliser, it is distributed by very few traders who always increase the prices. They get it from the Government at a very low price, but sell it to farmers ten times. This is one of the things that has caused a lot of problems to farmers in this country. There are many ways of getting cheaper fertiliser. If we subsidise farmers with fertiliser, I am sure this country will have enough food. Sometimes back, we used to have surplus maize almost every year to the extent that we did not know where to take it. If farmers are taken care of by advancing them with seasonal loans, there is no doubt, we will have enough maize. It is sad that they depend on their little income or savings to grow this important crop. In fact, farmers who used to grow about 500 or 600 acres of maize are now growing 50 to 100 acres. That is not enough. Even the small-scale farmers who used to grow 10 acres are now growing one acre. This is because of the high cost of production. We should try and reduce cost of production, so that we can have enough maize. The amount of money we spend on the importation of maize or on famine relief is enough for us to produce enough food for this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I understand the fishing industry falls under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The fishing industry in this country has been earning a lot of foreign exchange. But since EC stopped importation of fish from this country, fishermen have really suffered. In fact, in Uganda and Tanzania, fishermen are advanced with soft loans. They are also supplied with modern fishing equipment which they use to catch the big and small fish. But here, a fisherman is just like a farmer; he is also suffering as much. Most of them are not enlightened and they do not know where to go for a loan. So, unless they are assisted by the Ministry or Fisheries Department, they will not make it. The Minister should talk to EC, so that they can open-up and import fish from this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a lot of problems in the livestock sector because of the cattle rustling in North Rift and areas bordering Uganda. This is because in Uganda, a cow is sold at Kshs120,000. Due to this high price, cattle rustling is on the rise. In the past, cattle rustlers never used to steal dairy animals because they could not walk long distances. They only used to steal native animals found in Pokot, Turkana and Samburu districts, but these days, they are stealing dairy cattle in Trans Nzoia and Uasin Gishu. For the last two years, they have sold most of these animals to the neighbouring country. This is because of the high price of animals in that country. Some animals which are stolen here are found in Uganda markets. We should try and assist our livestock farmers. The other day, I attended a meeting of dairy farmers in Nakuru. I was pleased to learn that our farmers are ready to buy KCC. It should not be sold to foreigners. Let farmers in each district buy their KCC plant and supply it with milk.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the KCC is too big to the extent that there is no way it will be run efficiently, unless it is split so that each region has its own plant.

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Assistant Minister not misleading this House about KCC when it is everybody's knowledge that one Raymond Moi was responsible for the destruction, stealing and crippling of that institution, and one President Moi defending his son?

(Laughter)

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

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we always know the way he utters words in this House, so I would not do much but to ignore his point of order.

An hon. Member: What about research land?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not a research officer, so I do not know anything about research land, unless you have something to say about it.

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to say that he is not a research officer when we know that he has settled *Jeshi la Mzee* in the Veterinary Laboratory land at Kabete? Is he right?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Gumo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want any facts. As far as I am concerned, if there is anybody on that land, I do not know. Maybe, Mr. Mwenje will be able to explain to you where he has settled the *Mungiki*, but we do not have anything there.

(Laughter)

Mr. Mwenje: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not want provocation at this hour. My former colleague in this City knows very well that *Jeshi la Embakasi* is more serious than *Jeshi la Mzee*. If he tries to mention my name in *Mungiki*, which I am not involved--- I have heard him very well.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Time up!

Mr. Muite: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is, of course, a matter of great shame that we style ourselves as an agricultural country and yet, if you look over the last two decades; we have not had any period of three years during which we have been able to feed ourselves continuously without begging or importing food. In countries such as USA, they do not have more than 3 per cent of the population involved in agriculture, yet, they are able to feed themselves and export the surplus. In fact, if you have agriculture that is efficient, you should not have more than 5 per cent of the population involved in agricultural production.

It is a matter of great shame and yet, we talk about poverty eradication. It is a joke. If we want to be serious about poverty eradication in this country where over 80 per cent of our people depend on agriculture, then that Poverty Eradication Plan should have been targeted at agriculture. Agriculture should have taken the lion share of the efforts or the policies of everything in order for us to eradicate poverty. Why I am saying this? That in the Poverty Eradication Plan, not only should agriculture have topped the list of priorities, but we should have seen specific policies regarding each particular crop. We should have had a policy on coffee, for example, as part of the poverty eradication for this Government to tell us how they are going to encourage the coffee farmers and how they are going to bring down the cost of production of our coffee in order for it to be more competitive. We should have had a policy which is going to increase the take-home pay by farmers. How do we then increase the acreage? How do we increase the production per acre? We need very specific policies on coffee farmers, both large scale and smallscale. We should have had a policy on tea, rice, maize, wheat, cotton, livestock and so on. That is the way to eradicate poverty.

We should have had specific schemes on how we are going to provide credit facilities to the small scale farmers and women in the rural areas. We should give them affordable credit, small loans at concessionary rates of interest, so that they can keep pigs, chicken and so on, in the rural areas. This would have been meaningful serious poverty eradication efforts. But do we find anything comprehensive on agriculture in that Poverty Eradication Plan? No! We are talking about a Ministry that should be involved in action and not just words. We do not want to just come here to talk and preach. You cannot, for example, increase the production of maize without research. In fact, research is critical to increasing production of every crop.

Today, we have taken practically all the research land. Are we serious with this Ministry? I would like to tell the Minister that this House would have wanted to hear from him when he was moving this Motion, if he wants this Kshs7 billion; that tomorrow, all the KARI land that has been taken is going to be repossessed and given back to research. We are not going to progress in agriculture unless research is there. This consists of 1,000 acres of land that originally belonged to families in Kiambu District. A large section of the area that is represented by my friend, hon. Gumo, used to be in Kiambu District. When that land was given or taken over from the original owners, it was taken over as research land. There is no question about that 1,000 acres, it was research land. Part of it now is in the constituency represented by hon. Gumo and part of it is in Kabete Constituency that I represent. So, I know what I am talking about. All of it was research land and we want to know from the Minister of Agriculture because he stood here and said it is not research land. Originally, the 1,000 acres was research land. When did any section of that 1,000 acres cease to be research land and why? If you no longer want it, return it to the original owners. But we want it to be research land.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when talk about livestock---

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would have really sat down because I was going to say it with a light touch that hon. Muite says the land used to belong to Kiambu District. But the whole of Nairobi used to be Maasailand.

(Laughter)

Mr. Muite: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, even in the original days when the Maasais were around Nairobi, the boundary was this little river. The land we are talking about is actually in the highlands which Maasais always avoided. That land was Kikuyu land from time immemorial. But the serious point I am making is that, truly, when we talk about livestock, the artificial insemination (AI) research was in Kabete and it is in my constituency. That is where they used to import bulls, carry out research on semen of high quality and then have the extension services. Even that land, which is in Kikuyu, has been grabbed, is being sub-divided and houses being built upgrabbed these are very contradictory when we talk about wanting to increase this and that. We need a policy on livestock development. The Minister must repossess that land. If the Minister wants the list of those who have grabbed the institute's land in Kikuyu, I am happy to provide him with it. But I would like him to repossess that land as quickly as possible.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has two members of the "Dream Team, whom we are paying very high salaries. We would like to know when this House authorised the exorbitant salaries being paid to those technocrats. Is part of the Budget the Minister is asking this House to approve going to pay those salaries? Those technocrats have been receiving their salaries for nearly a year now. When did we authorise those salaries?

The Civil Service is created under Chapter 8 of the Constitution of Kenya. The Scheme of Service for the Civil Service is under the Public Service Commission (PSC). Is the Minister satisfied that the fairly exorbitant salaries he is paying the two members of the "dream team" are constitutional and legal? Are we assisting this august House to authorise illegal expenditures? Should that money, really, not have been spent more usefully on the schemes we are talking about? Let us not blame drought. There are very many other countries that have protracted droughts for longer periods than Kenya, yet they feed their people. Kenya's inability to feed its people is due to lack of planning by the authorities. Therefore, we should not blame God or the drought for our failures.

This country has very many seasonal rivers in Ukambani, between Nairobi and Mombasa. That can be the grain basket of this country. Let us harvest that rain water by building small dams across those rivers, to harvest the water in those rivers. Hon. Haji talked about harvesting water in the North Eastern Province, and I agree with him that we should harvest the water of the River Tana. Those are the areas that we would like the Minister to invest in, yet we do not see any of those schemes being implemented. If the Minister borrows money next time, he should do so to harvest rain water, which can be used to irrigate all those areas, so that this country can be self-sufficient in food production. There is no country in the world where agriculture is not subsidised; we must subsidise agriculture.

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

Mr. Khamasi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute on this Motion. When the Minister for Finance was reading his Budget Speech, it was clear what the theme was. It was to resuscitate the economy and reduce poverty, among other goals. It is common sense that you would want to put your money where you would achieve the theme of the Budget. Looking at the allocation and Estimates which were presented in this House, it is very clear that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development did not get what it deserves. That makes it very easy for one to conclude that the Budget was not "home-grown". This Budget was imposed on us because I am sure that the Minister, who I know very well is very "farmer-friendly," and if he had a hand in this Budget, I know that he would have allocated enough funds to that particular Ministry.

My colleagues have talked quite a lot about what I would have said, but there are two or three issues which I would like to mention, particularly in the horticultural sector. I think we require agro-based industries in horticulture which would encourage our farmers to produce more because we would be adding value, and in so doing, this country can recover economically.

I also want to suggest that we need to see a lot in terms of inter-Ministerial-action plan. We want to see a time where the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Defence and the Ministry of Vocational Training will be working as a team to be able to improve our agricultural sector. I am saying that because if you look at the Vote for the Department of Defence, the Budget is so huge that it exceeds the Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development by far, and yet its contribution to the economy of this country is almost minimal,

so to speak. We have got many personnel in the Department of Defence, and when we look at the size and numbers of staff in that particular department, like the soldiers, who are almost doing nothing, but doing exercises, you would note that we could use them in a much better way in agriculture. I am looking at the situation where if there were Inter-Ministerial action plans, we could get the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development using that personnel in constructing what many people have been suggesting here; that is dams on our rivers. We could have such people constructing roads in the rural areas which are badly affected because the farmers are unable to get their produce to the market.

My friends have also talked about relief food. Apparently, there is no policy, or if there is any policy on food, it is not properly focused because time and again, year in, year out, we experience lack of food to take care of our people in times of shortage. Sometimes it is interesting to see the Office of the President going out and dishing out food to the people affected in the most dry areas of Kenya. We want to have a plan, and we want to have suggestions on how we can get those people not to rely on handouts. The farmers must be taught good crop husbandry and be given seeds and fertilizers to make sure that they can produce food and not rely on handouts.

I happen to belong to the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources, and we did make a trip to the rice schemes in this country. We went to Ahero, West Kano and Bunyala. Literally, all those schemes are "dead." There is no production in those schemes. The farmers are wondering what will happen. The National Irrigation Board (NIB) which was looking after those schemes no longer provides any finances. There is very little extension advice being given to the farmers and those schemes have literally come to a halt. What is this Ministry--

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order! Your time is up. We have had our three hours of debate on that issue and now we will go to "Zero Hour. I have got quite a number of applications. We will begin with hon. Murungi on snap elections.

MEMBERS' HALF-HOUR STATEMENTS

IMMINENT SNAP ELECTIONS

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand under Standing Order No.20(a) to request for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President, in the following respect: In view of the written public statements made by a Cabinet Minister, hon. Nassir, regarding imminent snap elections, could the Minister make a statement to this House confirming or denying the holding of such elections and explaining the necessity and the logic of holding such elections during these difficult and hard times? Could he also give the date when such elections will be held?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the President has no intention to call snap elections. Anything else that the hon. Member may wish to know about snap elections does not, therefore, arise.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Hon. Murungi, you have another issue on the progress of National Roads Board?

Mr. Murungi: Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Before I get to that, can I seek clarification on this statement?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): You know you have two minutes on this issue and you are allowed to speak for the entire two minutes. It is not Question Time, nor is it time for debate. You may now raise the issue on the National Roads Board.

PROGRESS OF NATIONAL ROADS BOARD

Mr. Murungi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to request for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Roads and Public Works. Following our very successful workshop at the Safari Park Hotel earlier this year, the Kenya Roads Board came into force on 1st July, this year. Members of Parliament have now formed the District Roads Boards in various districts in this country, but those boards are not yet operational because no funds have been released to us and no proper information is coming through to tell us what is happening. We would like a detailed statement from the Minister explaining to us what progress has been made in establishing the Kenya National Roads Board and the District Roads Committees in various districts from July this year and also when money will be released to the District Roads Committees so that they can start work. We were promised Kshs5 million for every constituency.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Minister, do you want to answer that now or do you want some time?

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. Morogo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will give the statement on Wednesday next week.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Next is hon. Muchiri on KARI land.

INVASION OF KARI LAND

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to ask for a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President, as to what action he is taking over the invasion of Government land at KARI in Nairobi by thousands of KANU followers from Nairobi and what criteria the Government has been using following the allocation of plots in several parts of Nairobi and other parts of the country to KANU followers without consideration of other citizens?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have agreed with the Minister for Agriculture that this matter will be handled by the Ministry of Agriculture next week.

MURDER OF MESSRS. ONYANGO AND ONYUKA

Mr. Achola: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to demand a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President, dealing with internal security, regarding the brutal murder of two persons, Mr. Bernard Ouma Onyango and Mr. John Otieno Onyuka, who were shot dead by an administration policeman known as Mr. Ngetich at Damasi Police Post at Damasi in Trans-Mara District. The same police officer shot Mrs. Adoyo Okeya who is now hospitalised at Ombo Hospital, Migori. The incident took place on the 25th of September this year. The culprit has not been apprehended to date. So, we would like to know what the Minister will do about that.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will bring that to the notice of Maj. Madoka, who will issue a Statement next Wednesday.

SALUTE TO KENYA OLYMPIC HEROES

Mr. N. Nyagah: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a Member of the Committee on Health, Housing, Labour and Social Welfare and, I feel duty-bound to make the following Statement:

Kenya, for the first time in the Olympics history, participated in three new disciplines; that is archery, swimming and volleyball. But, unfortunately, it performed very badly. However, that is a step forward, in the right direction, moving away from the traditional sports that we have participated in before. Out of the 199 countries that participated, Kenya was placed in position number 29, and fourth overall world-wide, in athletics. We performed better than what we did in the Atlanta Olympics. We brought home two gold medals, three silver medals and two bronze medals. But the Government should also put up more facilities, so that Kenya can in future, be in the top ten. We were the second African country during the just concluded Olympics. Therefore, I would like to salute all the athletes for their spirited trial and performance. But they must not be complacent with the results. Thank you.

GOVERNMENT ACTION ON CHILD KIDNAPPERS

Mr. Muchiri: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the President, as to what action he has taken in relation to the killing of innocent children for ritual purposes, and what precautions has the Government made in relation to the security of Nairobi residents? Finally, what action has the Government taken on the killing of innocent Kenyans mistaken to be child kidnappers?

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will bring that to the attention of Maj. Madoka. He will issue a Statement on Thursday next week.

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Mr. Muithia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Kenyan Delegation to the Labour Party Conference, which was held at Brighton Conference Centre between the 24th and 28th of September, 2000, I would like to make the following brief Report to the House.

The Delegation, comprising of hon. Members: Jimmy Angwenyi (KANU); Kiraitu Murungi (DP); Dr. Oburu Odinga (NDP) and myself from the SDP, wish to most sincerely thank the Labour Party and the British High

Commission, Nairobi, for inviting us, as international delegates to that important conference.

The conference, which is the most important political event in Europe, was attended by political party leaders from all over the world, and was closed by the world's most respected African Statesman, retired President Nelson Mandela, whose passionate appeal for a balanced approach to globalisation and assistance to developing countries was acclaimed by all the delegates and the Labour Government.

The conference addressed major global issues, including globalisation, governance and foreign aid debt. The delegation had the opportunity to meet and discuss foreign policy issues with key persons, including hon. Robin Cook, hon. Mrs. Claire Short and hon. Peter Hain, who were all conversant with Kenya's predicament. It is unfortunate that Kenya is not among the 20 African countries to benefit from debt relief because, according to hon. Claire Short, most of Kenya's financial and economic crises are due to self-inflicted domestic debts and not foreign debt. The delegation also learnt a lot about party organisation, management and, most importantly, policy-making. It is quite obvious that--

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Muihia, two minutes are over. I need to remind hon. Members that the hon. Members' two-minutes statement need not be directed to any particular Minister. Hon. Members could take opportunity to raise any issue concerning their constituencies or any other issue, but they must be strictly limited to two minutes.

It is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until Wednesday, 11th October, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.45 p.m.