

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 10th July, 2001

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[*Mr. Speaker in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.392

HARDSHIP ALLOWANCE FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

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

(a) whether he is aware that Government officers in Kitui South are not paid hardship allowance despite the area being arid; and,

(b) when he will pay the said officers hardship allowance.

Mr. Speaker: Where is the Minister? We will come back to the Question. Next Question, Mr. Kariuki!

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not received a written reply.

Question No.340

PROMOTION OF SPORTS

Mr. Kariuki asked the Minister for Heritage and Sports:-

(a) realising that sports play a very vital role in spiritual, mental and physical development of youth, whether he could explain why the Ministry has failed to offer proper training, infrastructural and financial support to various sports, thereby reducing Kenyan chances of winning during international competitions; and,

(b) how many stadia the Ministry has either built or plans to build, besides Nyayo and Kasarani stadia, to enable Kenya qualify to host future international competitions.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports (Mr. Osundwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

apologise for non-availability of the answer to the Questioner, but I believe the Ministry sent it to the House. However, I beg to reply.

(a) It is not true that the Ministry has failed to offer proper training, infrastructural and financial support to various sports. The Department of Sports in my Ministry has sports officers and sports associations at the grassroots to identify and train Kenyans in various sporting activities. The country has sports infrastructures in all the districts owned by the Government, educational institutions, local authorities and the private sector. These infrastructures have adequate facilities for training sports persons on national and international events.

The Government has provided financial support to sports through training and teams taking part in national and international competitions.

(b) The Ministry has not built any other stadia apart from Kasarani and Nyayo. There are no plans to build other stadia at the moment. Kenya has the capacity to host and has, indeed, hosted several international competitions. Hon. Members will recall that in 1987, our country hosted the 4th All Africa Games. We also host the Safari Rally annually, an event that is internationally recognised. Recently, we hosted the East and Central Africa Senior Challenge Cup in which eight soccer teams from this region participated. The Ministry has plans to

update and modernize existing stadia facilities in conjunction with local authorities and private institutions.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very unsatisfactory answer. If anything, the country has been doing very badly in sports in the recent times, whereas in the old days, we had the best athletes and footballers. It is true that performance has gone down because of lack of support from the Ministry. Although the Assistant Minister has said that there are enough stadia in the country, places like Mombasa, Kisumu, Eldoret and Nakuru are not provided with stadia that can host leagues, international and continental tournaments.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister explain to this House when the Ministry will undertake to build other stadia elsewhere so that we can spread out sports throughout the Republic and thereby enhance performance of our athletes and sportsmen?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government does not have funds to construct new stadia. But it has a policy to renovate the existing ones.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I suppose that when the hon. Assistant Minister speaks of infrastructures, he means infrastructure. But when a Government does not even have a vision of what it takes to host international competition, it is very sad that an Assistant Minister can talk about Nyayo Stadium to host international matches. Africa is slotted to host the next World Cup after 2008. What thinking are you capable of as a Ministry to see what you require in terms of stadia? It is not like Nyayo Stadium which is so much destroyed by soldiers hooving it during preparations for national days. What is he thinking beyond the pettiness that he is describing about the stadia at local authorities and in schools?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said when funds become available, we shall construct stadia that are of international standards. But I would like to add that despite the economic constraints, Kenyans have continued winning international recognition in various disciplines with the few facilities that we have.

Dr. Omamo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that if the Ministry wants to develop talent, it must identify that talent. That natural talent is the one to be polished. In sports, we know where the talents are. We know where the long-distance runners are. It is like fish.

If you are talking about fish, we know where the fish is. Why is the Ministry not doing something to support the young coming generation in sports by attracting young talent, polishing them and catching them where they are? You know what I mean when I say the real footballers of Kenya. Why is the Ministry not doing something about it?

(Laughter)

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry has stationed sports officers at the grassroots level. We have locational, divisional and district sports officers who identify such talent. Those officers, together with other stakeholders in the sports world, help to train our athletes. In fact, Kenyan athletes have continued to win gold, silver and bronze medals at all international meets we have participated in. If the hon. Member wishes, he can come to our offices to see the medals.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question!

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

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

Mr. Kariuki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Maybe, we can take one more supplementary question on this Question.

Mr. Speaker: But I can see four of you! All right, let us take one more question from Mr. Michuki.

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a country like Kenya where there is a lot of talent for sports, why is it that the Government imposes taxes on sporting equipment such as hockey sticks? Young people, who would develop to be the Tiger woods of tomorrow, cannot even afford a golf ball because of the high cost due to taxation. Why does the Government not see that it is discouraging sport by imposing taxes on sporting equipment?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we realise the importance of making sports gear cheaply available to Kenyan athletes. Otherwise, we will deal with the issue at the Ministerial level and, maybe, persuade the Minister for Finance to waive or lower the taxes on sporting equipment.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Mr. Mwakiringo's Question!

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

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! There will not be haggling during Question Time. When I call for the next Question, it must be so. We have 15 Questions to dispose of. Question Time ends at 3.30 p.m. I am sure that every Question is as important as this Question. Mr. Kariuki, I agree with you that sports are very important in our lives, and so are other issues to be raised by other hon. Members.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order! We shall proceed to Mr. Mwakiringo's Question!

Question No.319

COMPLETION OF TAITA-TAVETA TTC

Is Mr. Mwakiringo not here? We will come back to this Question.

Question No.411

MARKETING OF HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE

Dr. Murungaru asked the Minister for Agriculture whether he could consider standardizing the selling weights or packages of horticultural produce such as potatoes, cabbages and carrots in order to streamline their marketing and thereby reduce or completely eliminate exploitation of farmers by middlemen.

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

I am aware of the conflicting weights used in the marketing of fresh produce on our local market. To rationalise this, Legal Notice No.502, under Cap.318, dated 28th November, 1995, and Legal Notice No.553/STDA, dated 28th November, 1997, were introduced. Although Legal Notice No.553/STDA became operational in 1997, it has not been implemented as it faced animosity from local authorities and market brokers. It was, therefore, found prudent to temporarily withhold its implementation while efforts were made to educate farmers, market agents and local authorities on the advantages of standardized weights and packaging systems. For horticultural produce meant for the export market, standardized weights and packaging to match international quality standards are in use. In order to streamline and strengthen the horticultural industry, the Ministry is in the process of preparing a policy paper on Horticultural Industry Development in a Liberalised Environment.

Dr. Murungaru: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the Assistant Minister is an indication of what amounts to a half-hearted attempt by the Government to provide a regulatory scheme in a very important segment of our economy. Horticulture is currently one of the leading agricultural enterprises in the country and a major foreign exchange earner. While the legal notices referred to may have been issued, they may not have done anything at all to regularise trade and ensure that horticultural farmers are not exploited by both middlemen and exporters. Could the Assistant Minister, with immediate effect, create structures to ensure that horticultural farmers are not exploited by both middlemen at the farm level, and by exporters at the exportation level?

Mr. J. D. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that the horticultural industry is a very important foreign currency earner. However, the problem is that farmers would not like to use containers because they are required to return them after use. So, they prefer the use of gunny bags.

Thirikwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from an area that produces a lot of potatoes. The cost of producing one bag of potatoes is much higher than the money generated from the sale of such bag on the local market. We all know that potatoes are consumed all over the country. I did not understand what the Assistant Minister meant when he said that the legal notice that was meant to streamline the operations of the horticultural sector was received with a lot of animosity from local authorities and market brokers. How do local authorities come into this matter? Local authorities do not produce potatoes or carrots. So, what kind of animosity did the legal notice receive? All the Government needed to do was to put in place the regulatory measures stipulated in that notice and local authorities would have been forced to adhere to them. So, what is the Assistant Minister doing to ensure that, that happens?

Mr. J. D. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, local authorities play a very important role in the marketing of horticultural produce. As you are aware, the Minister for Local Government collects some levies from farmers. I said that the use of containers is being contested by farmers, who prefer using the much cheaper gunny bags.

Mr. Speaker: Ask the last question, Dr. Murungaru!

Dr. Murungaru: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is very specific. I am asking the Assistant Minister to introduce regulations that will provide guidelines to horticultural farmers. Whenever one sells a bag of potatoes, he is told that it weighs 100 kilogrammes or 120 kilogrammes, the size of the particular container not withstanding. Traditionally, maize and beans are sold in 90-kilogramme bags, while rice is sold in 50-kilogramme

bags.

We are asking the Assistant Minister to do the same for horticultural produce. It is not difficult to do, and this has nothing to do with containers. So, could the Assistant Minister answer that question?

Mr. J. D. Lotodo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said before, we are preparing a policy paper on Horticultural Industry Development in a Liberalised Environment. We will come up with those regulatory measures immediately we have the paper. Those are some of the issues we are going to incorporate into that paper.

Question No.275

POWER SUPPLY TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Dr. Oburu asked the Minister for Energy:-

(a) whether he is aware that the electricity supply line from Kisian-Bondo to Usenge passes over the following vital public institutions in the constituency: Ajigo Market, Nyapiedho Market and Chief's Camp, Kambanjo Market, Nyamonye Girls Secondary School, and Nyangera Mixed Secondary School; and,

(b) what urgent steps he is taking to supply these public institutions with electricity.

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

(a) I am aware.

(b) The Government has carried out the necessary design work and estimated the cost for implementation of the project as follows: Kshs4 million is required for the supply of electricity to Nyapiedho Market and Chief's Camp, and Maranda School for the Handicapped; Kshs2.5 million for Ajigo Market; Kshs2.3 million for Nyangera Mixed Secondary School; Kshs2.8 million for Kambanjo Market, and Kshs2 million for Nyamonye Girls Secondary School. The total cost for the project is estimated at Kshs13.6 million. The project will be implemented as soon as funds are secured, and in accordance with the District Development Committee's priority ranking.

Dr. Oburu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cost of these projects is highly---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, we can hardly hear each other. So, please, consult rather quietly. Proceed, Dr. Oburu!

Dr. Oburu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cost of these projects is exaggerated because the electricity wires pass over this market. I do not think the cost of transformers is so high. Be that as it may, I would like to ask the Minister why Bondo District is not benefiting from the 5 per cent rural electrification levy. When will these funds the Assistant Minister is talking about be available? These projects are the first priority in what we call the masterplan for electricity development. So, the question of the DDC does not arise because they have prioritised them.

Eng. Manga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bondo District is benefiting because there are projects which have been completed. We will complete these projects when funds will be available. We have already carried out the exercise of survey and design in that market. It is true that electricity cables pass over this centre. However, for them to be stepped down to a low voltage line, we require a transformer and low voltage line cords.

Mr. Gitonga: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to address the hon. Member directly?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Assistant Minister, you will address the whole House through the Chair. Why are you addressing the hon. Member directly? Anyway, is there anybody else who is interested in this Question?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has just said the cost of stepping down power by a transformer is the one contributing to these high costs. For example, it will cost Nyamonye and Nyangera secondary schools Kshs2.5 million each. Could he tell us the cost of one transformer and how much it will cost to step down power supply in that centre?

Eng. Manga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not said that this cost is only for the transformer. I have said it is for the transformer and also for lower voltage lines or distributing lines. Also, I cannot state the cost of a transformer because they vary in size. There are those with 50 KVA or 100 KVA and they all have different

prices.

(Loud Consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, we can hardly hear what is going on. Could we, please, give those hon. Members who want to ask questions the audience?

Dr. Oburu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has deliberately avoided my question. My question was: When will money be available to implement these projects and why Bondo District has not benefited from the 5 per cent rural electrification levy? That question has not been answered.

Eng. Manga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will be very unfair for me to tell the hon. Member that tomorrow, we will have the money. We are in search of the money and when it will be available, we will complete those projects.

Question No.387

CONTROL OF BILHARZIA INFECTION

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Weyrah not here? We will leave the Question until the end. Let us move on to the next Question.

Question No.417

MEASURES TO CURB ROAD ACCIDENTS

Dr. Kulundu's Question is deferred to tomorrow.

(Question deferred)

Question No.366

REHABILITATION OF ROADS IN KILOME

Mr. Ndilinge asked the Minister for Roads and Public Works:-
(a) when the following roads, which are currently impassable, will be repaired:-

Road E 403 - Kasikeu-Kilome;

Road E 410 - Salama - Kola;

Road E 411 - Konza - Ulu;

Road E 475 - Kayata - Kima;

Road D 529 - Salama - Kiu, and

Road D 515 - Sultan Hamud - Kyambeke; and,

(b) how much money has been set aside for repairs.

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

(a) The roads in question are being repaired under the routine maintenance programme.

(b) Kshs1,591,988 has been set aside for routine maintenance of the roads during the 2001/2002 Financial Year.

Mr. Ndilinge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no routine maintenance programme in my constituency. Could the Assistant Minister tell the House how much of this Kshs1.59 million went to each of those six roads?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said they are earmarked for repair during this financial year.

Mr. Kiminza: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Makueni District is listed as one of the districts that will benefit from the *El Nino* Roads Maintenance Programme. We know very well that these roads were washed away by the *El Nino* rains. Why does the Assistant Minister not liaise with his counterpart in the Office of the President to make sure that these funds are available?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no problem liaising with the Office of the President, but I cannot guarantee we will get these funds.

Mr. Muihia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that Kshs1.59 million has been set aside for the repair of those six roads. How much will it cost to repair each kilometre of those roads? How long is the

total mileage?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have the figures. I know Kshs1.59 million is not enough to repair these roads. But that is what the Ministry can afford at the moment.

Mr. Ndilinge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your indulgence, could the Assistant Minister visit those roads and see how badly they are?

Mr. Speaker: To do what?

Mr. Ndilinge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to see for himself how bad those roads are. I feel he is being misled by his officers.

Mr. Speaker: Order! I cannot hear what the hon. Member is saying. What are you asking of me, Mr. Ndilinge?

Mr. Ndilinge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Assistant Minister is being misled by his officers about the situation of the roads, could you prevail upon him to visit Makueni District and see for himself how bad the situation is?

Mr. Speaker: Do you want me to ask him to visit the site?

Mr. Ndilinge: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You are the only one who can save us.

Mr. Speaker: I like that! What about that offer, Mr. Assistant Minister? Are you taking the offer?

Eng. Rotich: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have a problem visiting the area. We can arrange and visit the area as soon as the hon. Member is ready.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. You can make a visit to the area.

*(Several hon. Members stood up
in their places)*

Order! Order, hon. Members! I have 30 minutes left for Question Time and I have nine Questions left. For the Second Time, Mr. Samuel Kiminza's Question.

Question No.392

HARDSHIP ALLOWANCE FOR
GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

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

(a) whether he is aware that Government officers in Kitui South are not paid hardship allowance despite the area being arid; and,

(b) when he will pay the said officers hardship allowance.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Samoei): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Question had been answered by Mr. Ntimama but, unfortunately, he is indisposed and I beg this House that the Question be deferred.

Mr. Speaker: All right. Mr. Kiminza, when would you prefer this Question to be answered?

Mr. Kiminza: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Question has been deferred three times. Even last week, when the Minister came to answer it, he brought a half-baked answer to this House. I do not know whether, if it is deferred, the Assistant Minister will honour his word and come to answer the Question.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Can I defer it until Thursday?

Mr. Kiminza: It is okay, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The Question is deferred to Thursday.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Mwakiringo's Question for the second time!

Question No.319

COMPLETION OF TAITA-TAVETA TTC

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mwakiringo is not here yet? The Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mohamed Weyrah's Question, for the second time!

Question No.387

CONTROL OF BILHARZIA INFECTION

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mohamed Weyrah is not here yet, the Question dropped.

(Question dropped)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

IMPORTATION OF GUNS BY BRITISH OXYGEN COMPANY

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

- (a) Is the Minister aware that British Oxygen Company (BOC) has imported a gun from South Africa?
- (b) Is he further aware that the (BOC) and Global Gases (Kenya) Limited are in court over a criminal charge against the Managing Director of British Oxygen Company?
- (c) What action has the Minister taken to ensure that the same gun is not used to injure anybody from Global Gases (Kenya) Limited?

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

- (a) I am not aware that British Oxygen Company has imported any gun from anywhere.
- (b) I am aware that BOC and Global Gases (Kenya) Limited are in court.
- (c) Arising from my answer to parts "a" and "b" of my answer, part "c" does not arise.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will recollect that not too long ago, the Managing Director of BOC, who comes from South Africa, was a subject matter of debate in this House on account of his deliberate frustration of Kenyans as soon as he came into the country. The Minister of State, Office of the President, indicated to this House that the work permit was expiring and that the sentiments or the views of this House would be taken into account.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, instead of taking into account the sentiments of the House, this Government proceeded to renew that work permit. Now the Assistant Minister says he is not aware that BOC is importing a rifle. Here is airway bill in which the Assistant Minister will see that the rifle has been imported by the Managing Director from South Africa. Why does the BOC want to import a rifle from South Africa, where the Managing Director comes from? Could the Assistant Minister give an assurance to this House the rifle will not be used to kill their rivals in the Global Gases Company? I want to lay the airway bill on the Table.

(Mr. Muite laid the bill on the Table)

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, the Chief Firearms Licensing Officer has not issued any licence to any person, not even the Managing Director of BOC (Kenya) Limited. If there is any alleged importation of any firearms, we will take the necessary action.

Mr. Speaker: Would you like to look at what he has tabled?

Mr. Samoei: I will, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Could you pass that airway bill over to the Assistant Minister?

*(The Clerk passed over the
airway bill to Mr. Samoei)*

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. In the light of the fact that the Assistant Minister did express his ignorance with regard to the importation of a gun which had come into the country, and since there is

airway bill, could he undertake to come back to this House and explain how a gun could get into the country through the legal channel and then come here to say that he is not aware?

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, we have not issued any licence to BOC (Kenya) Limited to import any firearm. However, I will countercheck the document laid before this House to ascertain the veracity of the information in it. I will be happy to report back to this House---

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. There is nobody who has asked any question about why the Government has licensed the gun. The Question is about a person importing a gun. If the Assistant Minister in charge of internal security does not know when a gun is legally brought into the country through the normal channel, why is he belabouring on licensing? How did this gun come in, properly declared without him being aware? The Question is not about licensing!

Mr. Samoei: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not legal for anybody to import a firearm into the country without a licence and that is why I am insisting that I need to verify the veracity of the airway bill, and I will be happy to report back to this House.

Mr. Speaker: I will give you time to answer that Question on Tuesday. Is that okay with you?

Mr. Samoei: Tuesday is okay, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Is that all right, Mr. Muite.

Mr. Muite: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The Question is deferred to Tuesday.

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Considering the fact that the majority of these people who are sitting in the Front Bench have guns, the importation of one gun---

Mr. Speaker: What is your point of order?

Mr. Gatabaki: Is it so crucial and important for Mr. Muite about an individual bringing a gun into this country, when majority the of hon. Members in the Front Bench have shotguns and AK-47s?

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Order, Members! In his usual fashion, the hon. Member for Githunguri always takes the wrong direction, opposite from the direction of the House.

Mr. Gatabaki, I do not think you had any point of order. I would like to ask you to know what is a point of order next to time. It is just not good enough to accuse your friends in the House unfairly.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. Sumbeiywo): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Although I do not want to interfere with the Chair's ruling, a very serious allegation has been made by Mr. Gatabaki that hon. Members on this side have got AK-47s. I do not know whether the Chair heard that. That is a very, very seriously allegation.

An hon. Members: Who are robbing banks?

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Mr. Sumbeiywo): Could the hon. Member substantiate his remarks? If he cannot substantiate, can he withdraw his remarks?

Mr. Speaker: Although I would not take him seriously, could he---

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Would I be in order to ask this House to take the issue of guns seriously because this is a repeat of what Mr. Njonjo did during his days in office, when he imported a lot of guns into this country? Before Tuesday, that gun could have killed a Kenyan! So, can I ask the Chair to allow this Question to be answered tomorrow, not after a week?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Ndicho, are you suggesting that, that is the only gun in Kenya? If you are, you are not serious.

(Loud consultations)

Order! Order! Let us be a little bit more serious than we have been so far. Next Question!

ALLOCATION OF MINISTRY'S LAND

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 the 15-acre piece of land hitherto belonging to the Ministry along Nyambari-Nairobi-Naiyasha Highway at the Uplands turn-off, has been allocated to a private developer?

(b) Who is the developer and what kind of development does he intend to carry out in the area?

Mr. Speaker: Where is the Minister for Environment?

(Loud consultations)

Order, hon. Members! I cannot hear what is going on.

Mr. Gitonga: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You will note that the Question was before this House last week, and the Minister for Environment did not turn up. He came late. So, the Question was deferred, and he is not here today. What do we do?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Gitonga, what do we do?

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a solution, if the Chair will accept my suggestion. The Constitution of Kenya requires a Minister to be responsible to this House. Severally, the Chair has reminded the Leader of Government Business that Ministers and Assistant Ministers should take their business in the House seriously. The other day, you even said that the Leader of Government Business should draw the attention of that issue to Ministers and Assistant Ministers. I am drawing the attention of the Chair to the fact that the Leader of Government Business is present. Can we name the Minister because that is a serious matter? It is not only provided for in the Standing Orders, but even the Constitution of Kenya provides for it.

Mr. Speaker: Order! I agree with you when you bring to my attention matters that help the House, but you must also be honest with the House. When I made my last remarks, it was when the Front Bench was completely empty. But you will agree with me that there has been a lot of improvement, and, today, it is full House.

(Applause)

Maybe, the Minister for Environment has a little problem. Let me give him the benefit of doubt and see whether he will be here tomorrow.

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a Question by Private Notice, and it is very important. As we are aware, the title of that particular piece of land is being issued out and backdated to 1992/1993. What do we do if the title had been issued out and backdated?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Gitonga, why not direct the Question to the Ministry of Lands and Settlement, because they are the ones who issue out title deeds?

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my understanding was that this land belonged to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, under the Forest Department.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have an Assistant Minister in that Ministry?

Mr. Muite: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order to seek your guidance. Is it not part of the portfolio of the Leader of Government Business to assist the House on an issue like this one? Surely, if the Minister was not going to be present, he should have notified the Leader of Government Business. Should he not be given an opportunity to assist the House?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Prof. Saitoti.

The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is, indeed, true. I will try to be reticent because this matter of absence of my colleague was raised. As you have just made an observation, there is a very great improvement among my Cabinet colleagues here. Can I, therefore, give the assurance to this House that, indeed, tomorrow, the Minister will answer the Question? I have a feeling, knowing that he is out all the way in the Coast, and that being a Private Member's Notice, which is given within a very short time, that, perhaps, he may not have seen it. But I want to assure the House that, indeed, tomorrow, I will see to it that he answers it.

Mr. Speaker: Shall I put it on the Order Paper in the afternoon?

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have received a copy of the reply and it appears to be... (inaudible). Would I, then, be in order to request that the Question be answered by the Ministry of Lands and Settlement?

Mr. Speaker: I had suggested that to you!

Mr. Gitonga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I ask---

Mr. Speaker: Do you agree that I redirect it?

Mr. Gitonga: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It is deferred to Tuesday. The Clerk will redirect it, and the Question will come up on Tuesday.

(Question deferred)

NOMINATION OF PROVINCIAL
OFFICERS AS COUNCILLORS

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

(a) Why did the Minister find it necessary to re-publish the nomination of PCs, DCs and DOs as councillors under the Kenya Gazette Notice No.1613 of 16th March, 2001, whereas the same had been revoked under publication of Gazette Notices Nos.2597 and 2598 of 2000?

(b) Is he aware that a Motion was passed by this House in 1998 revoking their nominations?

(c) Could he assure the House that he will revoke the publication, thus delinking the Civil Service from politics?

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) This is about the third time I am giving an answer to this particular Question. I found it necessary to re-gazette the nomination of public officers as councillors after realising that I had acted in contravention of the law.

(b) Yes, I am aware that a Motion was passed by this House in 1998.

(c) For the time being, it is not possible to revoke the nomination since the law has not been changed.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not true that this is the third time that we are asking this Question. However, when I brought the Motion in 1998, I was not talking about the amendment to the law. The Minister, on 28th April, 2000, revoked the nomination of PCs, DCs and DOs to the councils in pursuant of the Motion that we had passed here, and on reflection on what was passed under the IPPG. The public officers could include MOH and Road engineers because we want to help councils.

Let me inform the Minister of the following. The problem we are having in councils is that the DCs take sides during elections. Each side has four votes, and the DCs vote for the KANU side, when they are not supposed to involve themselves in politics. Could the Minister assure this House that by re-gazetting those DCs, he is going to make sure that they do not participate in elections for councillors?

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not have done something which contravenes a written law which has been passed by this House. What I did was consistent with the law as it is; Section 39(c) of the Local Government Act. Until that section of the law is amended, I am bound by it.

Mr. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the importance of that matter, could the Minister consider getting a list and ensure that the amendments are carried out through the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill which is tabled before this House?

Mr. Maore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from what the Minister is saying about the Local Government Act, and what he did, pursuant to the passing of that Motion, and taking cognisance of the fact that the code of regulations prohibits public servants from taking sides, especially in voting on partisan lines, could he save this country by maintaining the ban on those men and women to participate in county council elections?

Mr. Speaker: Sorry! That is not a point of order.

Mr. Maore: No!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Do not argue with the Chair!

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, two weeks ago, the Minister promised this House that by next month he would bring amendments to Cap. 65, the Local Government Act. Since this issue is so crucial, could the Minister assure us that it will be included in the amendments? The Constitution mentions public officers. Why do they then go to the DCs, PCs and DOs? Why do they not go to the MOH, engineer, agricultural officer or livestock officer? Why do they only go to the Provincial Administration?

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is within my powers to determine whether it is the DC, an agricultural officer or the MOH. The law says: "As the Minister may, by order determine." So, it is within my powers to do that.

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Secretary-General of KANU is behaving like a KANU mole.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Obwocha, you should read Standing Order No.34. It states that you must use non-offensive language.

Mr. Muite: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for Mr. Kamotho to fail to respond to the point of order raised by Mr. Mbela as to whether he will honour his undertaking to this House to amend that section? The Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill is pending before this House. Should he not respond to that and tell this House whether he will honour his undertaking by including the repeal to that section in the current Bill?

Mr. Kamotho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is part of the process and I cannot give a guarantee that I will bring it. If the stakeholders are opposed to an amendment to that particular section, then I will not bring it.

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. It is very sad the Secretary-General of KANU has decided to be partisan on this matter instead of being a Minister of the Kenyan Government, serving all the people of Kenya. Could he tell us the position right now as it is? Do these DCs, PCs and DOs who are nominated councillors have a vote in the current mayoral elections?

Mr. Kamotho: I would like to assure Mr. Obwocha that they are councillors, they have already voted, and they will continue voting until the law is amended.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question!

ALLOCATION OF CHILDREN'S HOME PLOT

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that Masaku County Council Children's Home Plot, with more than 100 orphans and destitute children, has been subdivided for sale and allocated?

(b) Who are the beneficiaries of the plots and what action has the Minister taken to stop the allocation of the children's home?

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

(a) Yes, I am aware.

(b) I have already directed the cancellation of the allocation to private developers and further instructed that the entire parcel of land be reserved for the children's home. Arising from my directive, the issue of beneficiaries does not arise.

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think this House has given you the privileges and powers to act on a Minister who violates the Standing Orders. I have received three similar answers to this Question which has been continually deferred. Could you request the Assistant Minister to table the names, because that is my Question?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Sirma, last time I gave you an order that you must table those names, whoever they are. Why are you disobeying me now?

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not disobeying you. The list is here with me and I was going to table it.

I hereby table the list.

(Mr. Sirma laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Speaker: Very well.

Mr. N. Nyagah: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it not the procedure of this House that you do not table a document without making certain reference to it?

Mr. Speaker: He said it contained the names of the beneficiaries.

Mr. Katuku: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I remember the other day when we had the same Question, you further directed that the Assistant Minister tables the letter which states that he had ordered the cancellation of sale of the plot. Can he also table that letter?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Do not order, through the back door what the Chair has not ordered. I did not order that he does table the letter of cancellation.

Mr. Wambua, you have a chance to ask him a question.

Mr. Wambua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since I have not perused the list that he has tabled, and because I still have another list which is relevant to this one, could I request for more time to peruse this one and then I can ask my supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Wambua, we cannot keep dealing with this Question throughout. You wanted the sale of the plot cancelled and this has been done. You also wanted the names of the beneficiaries, and the list has been tabled. What else do you want?

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has cancelled these names and he is satisfied that the allocation was done irregularly. This is happening not only in Masaku County Council, but all over the country. What will he do to the officers who are responsible for dividing this public utility land and allocating it? What punitive measures will he take against them?

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member is aware, the ban on allocation of properties is in force. We will not allow officers to contravene that ban.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Assistant Minister, what Mr. Ndicho is asking you is: Although you have banned the allocation of plots, some officers are disobeying your ban. What will you do about it?

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they will be disciplined.

Hon. Members: How!

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although we have not seen this list, according to the information we have, some people who were allocated this land have since sold it and letters of allotment have changed hands. What action will the Assistant Minister take because some plots have been sold and transfers have been made?

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, the revocation is already in place and so, the issue of the sale of the plots does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, that is the end of Question Time. The Question by Mr. Leshore is deferred.

SHORTAGE OF PARAMEDICS IN SAMBURU

(**Mr. Leshore**) to ask the Minister for Medical Services:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware that there is a shortage of paramedics in Samburu District, especially nurses?
- (b) What action is he taking to ensure that people in Samburu District are getting adequate medical services, and especially in Samburu East?

(Question deferred)

POINT OF ORDER

PENSION AND MEDICAL SCHEMES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

Mr. Keriri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand on a point of order to request a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Finance who is in charge of the procurement directorate. On the 25th of last month, the Government put out an advertisement for tenders to carry out studies to convert the current superannuation arrangements for public servants to a contributory pension scheme, and also to introduce an insurance-based medical cover for civil servants, disciplined services and the teaching service. That was done on 25th June, this year. The closing date is today, which is only 15 days after the advertisement was put out. I would like the Minister to explain--

(Mr. Wambua consulted loudly)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Why is there noise out there?

Mr. Wambua: This list is composed of all the "women of the councillors"!

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Wambua, if I were you, I would not use that list. I would be careful on how I deal with that part of the society. The names on that list are of people who are part of our society. In any case, I have never known a list that talks. These must have been some hon. Members talking. So, can we give Mr. Keriri a chance to finish his point of order. I have only seconds remaining.

Mr. Keriri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I said that it is only 15 days after the tender was advertised. In the interest of a very important aspect of the public service, I would like the Minister in charge of procurement to explain why he thinks a period of 15 days is enough, for, in fact, both local and international firms of actuaries to quote. Secondly, the tender documents have a clause which says: "Only those who have been invited by a letter will be considered". This means that there is something contradicting what the advertisement states. I would like the Minister to make this matter clear because it is very important.

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed on to the Supplementary Order Paper. Next Order!

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. As you know, when we come to the Committee of Supply, we do a lot of preparation work about the pilfering of public resources by the Government Ministries.

(Loud consultation)

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! Can we hear Dr. Kituyi?

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were all preparing because of the schedule of the Committee of Supply. As by prediction, we look at the Order Paper and see which Ministry we will scrutinise. Could the Government tell us why it remains unpredictable? We do our background work to come and expose how the Office of the President is importing fake helicopters from Russia; how Mr. Abong'o is justifying genocide and police brutality, and thereby looking like a carbon copy of Idi Amin. When we arrived here, we were asked to discuss the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture. Could we be given an assurance that this kind of haphazard management of the Government Business will be stopped?

The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to say here that, indeed, the House Business Committee had actually worked out an order that would be followed in the debate in the Committee of Supply. The first Vote that was supposed to be brought here is that of the Office of the President, then followed by the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture. I, however, have to say this: That the Minister of State in the Office of the President, who would have been here, to move that particular Vote, is attending an extremely important meeting of the United Nations (UN) on matters that affect us here on the proliferation of small arms. At the same time, the other Minister who would have moved this Vote is not here.

So, on that basis, we had consulted with the Minister for Agriculture to move the Vote on Agriculture, which was second on line. This matter is well known.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, having said that, I believe that once all the expenditure books have been tabled, we are supposed to look at all of them. But let me say that I wish to apologise. I have no hesitation whatsoever in giving an apology for the fact that the Minister is not here for different reasons, including the reason I have given. This is not a trivial reason, but a fundamental one.

Mr. Speaker: Order! As we get into the business of this issue, I think a valid point has been raised by the hon. Member, namely that hon. Members prepare for a particular debate, particularly if the first debate is in the first week of the Committee of Supply. I am sure every hon. Member came here tuned to the fact that they were coming to discuss the Vote of the Office of the President.

I think it is just about time that everybody responsible gives priority to matters in Parliament, particularly when it is their Vote which is being discussed. When you want Parliament to give you money to spend in running your Ministry, then it behoves you, whoever you are, to make sure that, at least, you come to this House and explain to it why you want that money.

It will be difficult to convince the Chair to exchange Votes any more, unless there is really a good reason for that. Among the good reasons may be that the Minister is indisposed and his Assistant Ministers are out of this country, or somebody cannot move it. So, please---

(Applause)

It is not good enough for you to applaud on that side because I will ask all of you on my left-hand side to also take seriously your duties as scrutineers of the Government Votes. With that, I will proceed and add five minutes to this Vote at the end of the day, if it will be necessary.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order! Not any more. Next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 02 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Minister for Agriculture (Dr. Godana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

The long-term Mission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is to achieve a high and sustainable growth in the agricultural sector. However, in the medium-term, the policy thrust of the Ministry focuses on achieving broad self-sufficiency in food production, maintaining adequate strategic reserves and ensuring increased production of crops, livestock and fish for domestic consumption, industrial use and export. In addition, the Ministry is set to facilitate the private sector initiatives and assist farmers and the private sector institutions to perform their roles effectively.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Ministry has been allocated Kshs5,366,805,000 for the Recurrent Expenditure, and Kshs1,431,815,310 for the Development Expenditure during the 2001/2002 Financial Year. We are also expecting grants worth Kshs1,029,355,713 as well as Kshs822,764,845 in form of loans from our development partners. Before expounding on how the Ministry intends to utilise these funds, I would like to update the hon. Members on the current food situation in the country. The agricultural sector experienced an overall growth decline of 2.4 per cent in the year 2000, compared to a positive growth of 1.2 per cent realised in 1999. This situation was precipitated by the effects of three consecutive years of drought, 1998 to 2000.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Who is that? Hon. Members, we cannot hear what the Minister has to say. I am sure we need to hear him to appreciate what he is saying. It is in the interest of everybody that we actually listen to the debates in this House. I am not a headmaster or a prefect. So, I cannot keep all the time telling you to keep quiet. So, please, consult quietly! Let the Minister say what he has to say and let everybody else here hear him. I must also say that some of our microphones are really letting us down. I think it is about time we put proper ones. Even mine is dying!

The Minister for Agriculture (Dr. Godana): It has come alive!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that the situation of the unprecedented decline in agricultural growth to a negative 0.24 per cent over the year 2000 was due to the effects of three years of consecutive drought, stretching from 1998 to 2000, in most parts of our country. The pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the arid and semi-arid lands of the country, in particular, had total crop failures, as well as significant loss of livestock. As a result, up to 5 million people of our population had to rely on famine relief.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the year 2000/2001, food crops production performed relatively well, in the traditional maize-growing areas of the country. During the current rainy season, normal maize production of 27 million bags is projected. That level of production, in addition to carry-over stocks from the last season, is sufficient, in our view, to sustain the country's requirements up to June 2002. With regard to wheat, it is projected that production for the season will be some 2.8 million bags, against an estimated annual consumption of about 8 million bags. The shortfall can, and will only be met through imports.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides maize and wheat, the overall food situation in the country looks reasonably good. However, there are some areas, particularly in the northern and north-eastern parts of the country, where we are still experiencing drought. It is estimated that up to 2.4 million people are still under drought emergency operations spearheaded by the Government, in conjunction with the World Food Programme, and a consortium of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, because of the relatively favourable weather situation that prevailed early in the last rainy season in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, livestock rearing conditions have improved, and the production of milk and livestock products is getting towards normalcy. The Ministry instituted drought recovery programmes, mainly through the provision of appropriate seed supply to the affected districts. In all, some 41 districts received 1,732 metric tonnes of seed, at a total cost of Kshs180 million. Other long-term measures that will minimise the impact of drought and food insecurity will also be implemented.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I now wish to turn to the achievements the Ministry has made over the past year. I want to start with the coffee sub-sector. The coffee industry has been facing a series of problems since the collapse of the International Coffee Agreement in 1989. As Members are aware, the International Coffee Agreement facilitated quota-based system of coffee marketing, whose collapse has meant individual member-states reverting to individual marketing strategies; that is, individual producer nations diverting to individual marketing strategies. Although a due agreement has been signed, it seems its compliance is still finding a problem. We hope that the problem will be overcome soon.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the local scene, the collapse of the International Coffee Agreement has led to the decline in coffee production due to lack of a ready market for the crop. Coffee production fluctuated over the

last four years from 98,000 metric tonnes in 1996/97 crop year, to 56,000 metric tonnes in the 1997/98 crop year, to 68,000 metric tonnes in the 1998/99 crop year and to some 100,000 metric tonnes in the 1999/2000 crop year. The earnings for 1996/97 crop year were about Kshs14 billion due to relatively better prices, and compared well with the 1999/2000 earnings of Kshs10.9 billion, in spite of higher production in the latter year.

The Ministry has already facilitated stakeholders' consultative meetings in the coffee-growing areas, with a view to collecting views from farmers on the operations of the industry. The views have since been incorporated to a Sessional Paper on coffee, which has already been tabled before this House, and whose debate, I hope, will resume as soon as possible. There is also a revised Coffee Act which has also been published, and it shall be tabled in due course.

The coffee sub-sector has also, in the past year, been faced with the problem of splitting co-operative societies. The problems affected not only the marketing, but also the production levels, as farmers spent most of their time fighting over the running and management of co-operative societies.

The multiplier effect of those problems could only be and has been increased poverty as a result of low earnings from the sale of depleted stocks. I can confidently report to the House that my Ministry has managed to resolve most of those conflicts, and we have begun to notice that the campaign on splitting of societies has significantly eased.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming to the co-operative sector at large, the co-operative movement has continued to be an important vehicle for economic development for both the urban and rural population in this country. Co-operative societies and unions remain viable mechanisms for small-holder producers to access inputs and markets. To date, the movement employs some 250,000 people, and has a membership of some 4.9 million people. Members would recall passing the Co-operative Societies Act No.12 of 1997, that provides the legal framework for the co-operative movement in a liberalised economic environment. I am, however, sorry to report that there have been serious teething problems with the implementation of that Act, which has resulted in leadership wrangles, mismanagement and unrest within the movement. In that regard, the Ministry has initiated a comprehensive review of the Co-operative Societies Act again, and the task force undertaking the exercise is expected to complete its work by July, 2001; that is, by the end of this month. A co-operative tribunal has also been put in place to deal with co-operative disputes. The tribunal is already operational. Already, some 37 cases have been determined and the pending 133 cases have been put under a schedule of arbitration, which has been prepared. It is our hope that within this year, the tribunal will begin to set up field benches, so as to take services closer to the rural people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, turning to tea, Members will know that tea was the leading export crop in the year 2000, earning us just over 50 per cent of the total agricultural export earnings. Like other crops, tea experienced declining production trends from 263,000 metric tonnes in 1998, to 248,000 metric tonnes in 1999; and 240,000 metric tonnes in the year 2000. That was due mainly to drought and the severe frost which hit the country just over a year ago. The frost particularly hit the tea-growing areas west of the Rift Valley. However, we are happy to note that revenue from tea has remained steady at Kshs300 billion per annum as the reduction in volume has been more than compensated by generally healthy, upwards trend of tea prices over that period.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Members are already aware, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development finalised reforms in the tea sub-sector in June, 2000. The first year of operation of the Kenya Tea Development Agency Limited as a full-fledged farmers-led institution saw improved tea payment rates. Vigilance through the KTDA Limited and factory company committees of tea growers themselves will sustain, we hope, the gains of the tea reform programme.

I now want to turn to horticulture. In order to encourage small-scale farmers to grow horticultural crops, my Ministry has completed construction of cold storage facilities in seven strategic areas. These are namely, Sagana, Limuru, Nkubu, Machakos, Yatta, Kibwezi and Mwea, with a main export facility in Nairobi at a cost of Kshs1.4 billion. A pilot lending and training programme is also in place, covering Kibwezi and Machakos, targeting small-scale farmers. It is hoped that the programme will be successful for expansion to all producing areas in the country in the near future. To further encourage horticultural farming, a new policy that is investor-friendly is at an advanced stage of development, and I am looking forward to tabling a Bill in the House in the course of this year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on dairy farming, a revised policy and a new Bill are at an advanced stage of preparation, and will be tabled before the House during the current year. Farmers are also being mobilised to purchase shares in Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) in order to ensure control of the milk outlet. It is my hope that, in the course of today or in the next two days, the caretaker board at the KCC will announce a formal extension of the period of farmers registering to purchase shares with the KCC.

My Ministry is finalising a Kenya Rural Development Strategy to be launched later this year. This is a long-term strategy aimed at implementing broad-based intervention on the basis of a partnership of the rural population and service providers. To sustain the aims of this strategy, deliberate efforts at identifying opportunities that support income generation in rural areas have been targeted. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) which has been developed through stakeholders' consultative forums, provides entry point as well as the priority actions of service providers. In ASAL areas, initiatives at promoting rain water harvesting and its efficient utilisation in the production of high value crops and livestock use will receive greater emphasis.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on fisheries, as Members are already aware, the European Union (EU) had banned our fish exports to the region due to traces of pesticides in the fish, and unhygienic handling by fishermen. The Ministry has resolved these problems and the ban, as you know, was lifted on 22nd November 2000, after samples were analysed for pesticides and no traces were found. The Ministry is also in the process of improving landing sites and assurance of fish quality in order to avoid the recurrence of that problem. To this end, my Ministry has completed Mbita Fish Processing and Ice Plant during the past year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I now want to turn to pyrethrum. The pyrethrum industry has experienced significant recovery in production because of good weather and improved payment rates. Production area has nearly doubled from 4,725 hectares in the year 2000 to 7,700 hectares by June this year, whereas the corresponding value increased from Kshs6 million to Kshs1.1 billion within the same period. My Ministry has already initiated development of a new policy whereby stakeholders will be given an opportunity to give their views on changes that will spur further growth. The aim is to have the pyrethrum industry liberalised in line with the Government policy of delinking itself from non-core activities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to fully exploit the high cotton market, especially with the commencement of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) of the United States Congress, my Ministry developed and initiated multiplication of new seeds for the two cotton agro-ecological zones with the aim of improving production levels to satisfy the market and increase incomes for farmers. A new cotton policy and Bill are also being prepared.

Having listed the achievements of the Ministry over the past year, I wish now to move to present the challenges that we saw the Ministry face during the last financial year, that is 2000/2001. In addition to financial constraints which contributed to the negative 2.4 per cent growth in agriculture during the year 2000, which is a really effective decline, there were other factors. Although we have had adequate short rains in the high potential areas, most of the ASAL areas continue facing varying levels of drought and, therefore, reliance on famine relief food will continue. A lot of livestock perished during the last drought for lack of pasture. Movements of animals in search of pasture also complicated animal health problems for us as they led to outbreak of diseases that the Ministry tried to bring under control through funds provided by the Treasury and the Drought Recovery Programme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in addition to drought in the ASAL areas, there is the lack of, or poor livestock marketing infrastructure, which means that the pastoralist populations have to keep many animals due to lack of reliable markets, and end up losing many of them on account of severe drought that is in response to the vagaries of weather.

Despite the adequate rainfall in the high potential areas, that is the recent rainy season's high rainfall, agricultural production in these areas did also face some challenges. The current extension system is lacking in adequate technology, resources, appropriate methodologies and sufficient operational funds. Extension officers were only able to reach a limited number of farmers as opposed to the global coverage that would be ideal. There are also problems related to unscrupulous trading practices with regard to the maintenance of quality as well as availability and cost of farm inputs such as fertilisers, seeds, semen, veterinary drugs and vaccines. We have known examples of people buying commercial seeds in ordinary shops, packing them as certified seeds and selling them to ordinary farmers. Likewise, there have been complaints that some of the drugs or vaccines that livestock farmers have had to buy on the market have been adulterated. Adulteration of inputs by dishonest dealers also caused severe livestock and crop losses in parts of the country. The Ministry will be seeking the full support of hon. Members in this House on proposed legislation that is designed to enhance deterrent penalties to such offenders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Ministry is trying to eradicate these problems through strengthening the various inspectorate and production institutions under our Ministry, and liaising with other Ministries to ensure that only recommended high-quality inputs are availed to farmers.

In the fisheries sector, the problem of illegal fishing methods, like the use of undersize nets and trawlers, has also become prevalent. Lack of credit facilities and the problem of HIV/AIDS scourge are also problems that need to be addressed if

agricultural production is to be boosted. The performance of the agricultural co-operatives has greatly been affected by the prolonged drought over the last few years, in addition to the problems I listed earlier. On the other hand, the savings and credit co-operative societies were negatively affected by the retrenched workers, who ceased to be members and withdrew their contribution. However, in order to improve services provided by the co-operative movement to the members, the Ministry will intensify extension services to societies to improve on management and reduced leadership wrangles?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the severe time constraint to speak, I would like to move straightaway to the main part of the budget and the request that I have to make to the House. I beg to move that the Ministry's Vote for the year 2001/2002 Financial Year be approved by the House. The MTEF budget for the Ministry for the year was prepared while taking into consideration expectations of the contribution that my Ministry makes towards poverty reduction. Hon. Members will recall that my predecessor informed this House last year that the allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development fell far much short of what was expected. It was particularly reiterated that the Ministry, which resulted from the amalgamation of four Ministries and one new department, was allocated 4.1 per cent of the total Government Recurrent Budget last year. This year, the figure has been reduced to 3.9 per cent of that Budget. In addition, this allocation will also cater for 21 parastatals and regional development authorities that have been allocated a total of Kshs1,379,851,060 in Recurrent Budget, and just over Kshs970 million in Development Budget. The resources allocated for the 2001/2002 Financial Year have been distributed to the various headings, or areas as follows.

Under the Recurrent Vote, Kshs5,366,805,000 allocated this financial year will finance the following activities:

Activity	Kshs
General Administration and Planning	340,453,842
Regulatory Management of Inputs and Output in Agriculture and Livestock	328,090,595
Promotion of Agriculture and Livestock	251,545,616
Facilitation and Supply of Agriculture and Livestock Extension Services and Research	1,650,165,079
Information Management for Agriculture and Livestock Sub-sector	1,219,591,195
Monitoring and Management of Food Security	4,637,974
Crop and Livestock Diseases and Pest Control	618,000,000
Protection of Natural Resource Base for Agriculture and Livestock	327,000,000
Regional Development	322,500,000
Department of Registrar of Co-operative Societies	<u>241,900,000</u>
Total	<u>5,366,805,000</u>

Under Development Vote, the total expenditure of Kshs1,431,815,310 will finance the following activities:

Activity	Kshs
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General Administration and Planning	32,000,000
Regulatory Management of Inputs and Outputs in Agriculture and Livestock	35,000,000
Promotion of Agriculture and Livestock Private Sector Development	178,000,000
Facilitation and Supply of Agriculture and Livestock Extension Services and Research	44,000,000
Information Management for Agriculture and Livestock Sub-sector	425,000,000
Monitoring and Management of Food Security	433,000,000
Crop and Livestock Diseases and Pest Control	13,500,000
Protection of Natural Resource Base for Agriculture and Livestock	128,670,000
Regional Development	126,408,000
Department of Registrar of Co-operative Societies	<u>13,899,000</u>
Total	1,431,815,310

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I would now like to request the House to approve an amount of Kshs6,798,620,310 to meet both the Recurrent and Development Expenditures of my Ministry for the year ending 30th June, 2002.

I beg to move.

The Minister for Rural Development (Dr. Masakhalia) seconded.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Speaker: I understand that the Official Responder, Mr. Ndwiga will speak later in the course of the debate.

Dr. Kituyi, you can have the Floor!

Dr. Kituyi: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to say one or two things about how a very important Ministry is treated by the Government of President Daniel arap Moi, and being given very cosmetic attention both in allocation and in flexibility of thought about what the Ministry is supposed to do. If you look at the current Estimates of this Ministry, and you look at the previous Estimates, you will realise that there is something very interesting. You will find that they are asking for things because they have been asking for them before. There is very little imagination and innovation in defining what is the purpose of the Ministry. Where is the Ministry supposed to go? If there is any such reflection about failings in the agricultural sector, and any attempt to re-adjust the focus of its activities, that new thinking is not reflected in the Estimates being debated by this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at a time of a major crisis in the post-primary economic sector, one would expect that the Government should go back to the agricultural sector as the fundamental primary sector expanding income. The Government would find ways and means of turning round the fortunes of unemployed Kenyans. But if they did, their requisition of money from this House does not show such a thinking. Basically, the Ministry seems to be doing what its personnel do, except one or two exotic things. One of the most exotic ones is that they have a budget for deep sea fishing. That is interesting to me because I think deep sea fishing is a very interesting sport. But look at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development asking for money for deep sea fishing! We should

leave this activity to the Ministry of Tourism and Information because it is more of a sport than an agricultural activity. Secondly, the irony of it is that more than half of the money being asked for deep sea fishing is for travel, accommodation and rations. Usually, the people who are involved in deep sea fishing live in Mombasa or anywhere along the Coast. Where do they get accommodation in the deep sea?

(Laughter)

If they are asking for rations, accommodation and travel allocation, it is more than 50 per cent of all the requisition for deep sea fishing--- When the Minister comes back to reply, I would like him to pick on some of those things.

Let me now go a bit more substantively into the Estimates. The Minister, like the Ministers before him, explains past poor performance on the basis of bad weather. That is a very nice and tired old horse that we keep flogging. I come from a neighbourhood of what is supposed to be the primary food producing area. Since the crop failure of 1997 in that part of the region, there has not been any failed rains. So, the failure of the crops cannot be attributed to bad weather. But look at the way this Government manages a crisis of food scarcity in this country; they go to the areas where there is a deficit in food production; areas which need food and not planting seeds, and they give them planting seeds. They leave the areas which are the main producers of food to the vagaries of unscrupulous businessmen who purchase, as the Minister has confessed, poor quality commercial grains, paint, pack and sell them to the unsuspecting farmers.

The first and most serious victim of poor performance in this Government's inception is the Kenya Health Plant Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS). The KEPHIS has not done anything in spite of continued complaints from farmers about poor adulterated inputs in agriculture and they should have known it. KEPHIS personnel and vehicles are in Nairobi. They are not in the areas where the farmers are purchasing inputs for their farms. The Minister has confessed in this House, even this current financial year, about adulterated inputs. As it is typical of this Government, they are long on promises and not even short on delivery. They never pretend to deliver. There has not been any movement in streamlining the management controls and testing of the kind of adulterated inputs that farmers are complaining about. That is the main cause of the decline of produce in areas that have not been affected by bad weather.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a curious thing; Item No.229, Agricultural Machinery Testing and Development Centre. This Government is asking us to give Kshs21 million for the cost of Agricultural Machinery Testing and Development Centre. What testing are they doing? Why are they disguising the reality that this is budgetary money being used to subsidise the maintenance of tractors which offer cheap or free tractor services to senior civil servants and politicians in KANU? It is a known matter that the only thing that works at these centres is the maintenance of tractors during ploughing season, which are then leased out at much below market prices to bishops to go and use in commercial cultivation. What other justification is there? What testing have they been doing on the farm machinery that is used by peasants in the main agricultural areas of this country? They are maintaining these centres because they have been there and they have been maintained before they came in.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you could say the same about the request for Kshs40 million for livestock improvement stations. We have a number of problems, from stock improvement to livestock holding centres. Livestock improvement was being done at a time when the Government seemed to be having a comparative advantage over the citizens in the improvement of the breed. Today, that competitiveness does not exist. Partly, first and foremost, because the best livestock and farms were pilfered by the politically-correct. The best ADC farms and multiplication centres are now in private hands of Government correct-politicians. When they have been left with the poorest land, how can they compete with commercial producers who are yielding much better livestock? Which serious farmer today is buying improved stock from the Government? Even when they are being given so little money, such a small component of the Government Budget, they are asking us to put some of that limited money into pretending that they are improving livestock.

Similarly, livestock holding centres were developed at the time when the Government had a large abattoir; that is, the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC), as a facility to assist the pastoralists to reduce the overhead cost of accessing the market. When the Government does not run an abattoir, why should it pay money to maintain holding grounds? Holding grounds for holding what? How do you have a place where you hold animals before sending them to an abattoir, if you do not have an abattoir to send animals to?

The Ministry is asking for money on the item of holding grounds because they have usually had holding grounds. It is not because they are rationalising and saying that they are relating this to, either enhanced production, or low cost for the factory to produce that, or easier access to the market. The holding grounds have never been done for Dagoretti Slaughterhouse. They are leaving the pastoralists, and I know the Minister, even after a rapid return from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, he has an idea about the plight of pastoralists in northern Kenya, who used to be the principal beneficiaries of the holding grounds. We

cannot start streamlining where they take their animals before taking them to the KMC, if they have not even reclaimed the land that was illegally and criminally handed out; that is, the holding grounds of the KMC. They are starting at the wrong end.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were two other things. I respect the exposure of the Permanent Secretary of this Ministry. He has had a chance to see what is happening in other parts of the world, that in many offices, they are drifting towards paperless officers. One of the areas where they can attempt to have paperless officers is departments which have to deal basically with internal communication; in-house communication or correspondence. I am talking about Item 195, General Administration of Agricultural Boards and Committee Services. What is interesting to me here is how under the stewardship of that Professor; the Permanent Secretary; this Ministry, in this time and era, is asking for stationery, and its cost is more than five times the cost of the computers they are asking for. I would have thought that it is time to start reversing; that for internal communication, boards and committee services, they should re-emphasise on electronic transmission of communication in-house, than piling up photocopiers and stenographers and whatever, Stone Age technology that is increasingly being rendered irrelevant, and basically being used to retain persons in positions which are not necessary for the efficient performance of officers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to mention a few other things before my time is over. The Minister has not explained to us why he is seeking money for poultry development services. When he cannot maintain the limited services he has been performing, how can we trust him to go into other areas? Similarly, could the Ministry explain to this House why they are asking us for money to continue retaining agricultural attaches, when a website for the Ministry with a few hits once in a while, about what services could be offered by attaches could be much more cost-effective and reach more people than these traditional services that are irrelevant?

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, "Mr. Ekwe!"

Mr. Sungu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: You look like Mr. Ekwe!

Mr. Sungu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a vague resemblance, but since Turkanas and Luos are somehow related, you can never tell!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I am standing here I am in a state of shock because the Minister is asking Kenyan taxpayers to produce KShs6 billion from the Treasury when he has not mentioned a single word about sugar, when the sugar industry is in an indescribable state. I cannot even describe the word. As we are here, sugar-cane farmers are not able to take their sugar-cane to the factories because two of our factories have collapsed. The Minister is asking for money without looking at the sugar industry, or the rehabilitation of the factories and how the farmers who have delivered their cane to the factories would be paid their money. Under his Ministry, he has an item called Kenya Sugar Authority which continues to deduct money from farmers. Instead of using that money for overhauling the factories, they have continued to use it for building lofty headquarters at overly exaggerated prices and costs in Nairobi.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will just limit myself to the areas that concern Nyanza and particularly my constituency. We have talked and talked. It appears that in this country, we specialise in nothing but talking. We have sat in various meetings here and there, talking about poverty eradication strategy. We have made recommendations to this Ministry over and over again. Most of Nyanza is arid and semi-arid. Most of my constituency cannot grow many food crops if there is no irrigation and yet, we have plenty of water in Nyanza. We have Lake Victoria and about 90 per cent of the rivers that supply it with water pass through Nyanza and Western Provinces and yet, this is where we need irrigation most. But instead, what do we have? We have Ahero Irrigation Scheme and West Kano Irrigation Scheme collapsing. In Nyamthoi, an area just five kilometres out of town, at Nyamasaria, where River Kibos has continued to silt and block its course and wandered into people's farms, we are not able to open this area so that farmers can produce their own food and yet, we want to talk about poverty eradication. We want to talk about relief food supplies when our people can produce the very food that we are trying to import from elsewhere. It is a shame for this country that we can go on like this. It is a great shame that soon or later, we will be importing rice from Sudan and Egypt when they are using our water to produce the same rice.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when it comes to fisheries, this Ministry has done a lot of injustice to the people of Nyanza. In Nyanza, most of the fisheries officers do not know about fish. Most of our officers have been pushed aside; those who know about fish, and they have put people there who are constructing non-existent landing beaches using money allocated by the Ministry for the purpose of lining their pockets. I have many examples of that. It is a shame that this happens right in front of the eyes of our own people, who are in charge of the Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the dairy industry, let me inform the House that artificial insemination services are non-existent in Nyanza Province. At one time, I practised zero-grazing farming. I had a number of dairy cattle. I would wait for the artificial insemination personnel to come all the way from Maseno despite the

fact that I used to live only five kilometres out of town. Cows would go on heat and wait for these people to come and serve them to no avail. I wonder why we should give this Ministry some money if it cannot provide such simple services. Developmental activities can also be carried out through authorities such as the Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA). That Authority is now as dead as a dodo. The LBDA is not doing anything that can be said to be helping farmers. All the livestock production centres and the fish breeding farms died a long time ago. So, why has money been allocated to that Authority? Why are we wasting public funds?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when it comes to the question of floods control, most of western Kenya is in a mess. In fact, without doubt, it will not take a year for you to see floods in that region. We are talking about River Nzoia in Busia, River Nyando in Nyando Constituency, River Nyamasaria in my constituency, and River Miriu, among others, and yet the Government has something called "Floods Control Unit (FCU)". What is this Unit doing? Why should we give it money today while we continue suffering year in, year out?

The Minister talked about the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) and the possible benefits we can reap from that good Act, which was passed by the Congress of the United States of America (USA). The cotton industry in Nyanza Province died a long time ago due to failure by the Government to market cotton products and because cotton farmers were not supported. The Government has now supplied farmers with cotton seeds to produce the crop, but we are not being told where that produce will be marketed. What is the Minister talking about? The Minister should listen to the people who represent here the farmers he is supposed to help. If he wants to help the cotton industry, he should explain to the farmers how he intends to market the crop before he supplies them with seeds. He must provide farmers with the means of production because they do not even have money with which to carry out agricultural production activities. There are many ways of doing this, even through the private sector.

It is a shame that the budget for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has been reduced from 4.1 per cent to 3.9 per cent of the national Budget. I believe that it is only the agricultural sector which can help this country come out of its economic doldrums. Most other sectors of this country's economy are either collapsing or, for other reasons, they are dead. Most of our people rely on farming. In order to help them, we need to allocate the Ministry more funds, which must then be used correctly.

I said earlier on that I would limit my contribution to this debate to areas concerning my constituents. Therefore, I will not support this Vote until it addresses the question of the sugar industry.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mrs. Sinyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise not to support this Motion. The truth is that every human being eats to live. Whenever the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development comes up for debate, you expect the Minister to, first and foremost, give good proposals about food. But, instead, the Minister has asked for about Kshs7 billion for him and his personnel to pocket.

The Minister has behaved like the Biblical father whose son asked--

The Minister for Agriculture (Dr. Godana): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the gracious lady in order to say that the Ministry has sought this budget so that the Minister and his staff can pocket it?

Hon. Members: You and your staff earn salaries!

Mrs. Sinyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why is the Ministry asking for this big amount of money when it has retrenched all its extension workers? The Ministry's officers who were spared the axe are those carrying out administrative duties, who are behind the Minister; the "small" common man is the one who has been retrenched.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I was interrupted, I was giving an analogy in a Bible story about a son who asked the father for fish and the father gave him a snake. This is what the Minister has done. In that story, the son also asked for bread but the father gave him a stone instead.

This budget is really outrageous. Like everybody else, my fellow constituents and I eat to live. The Minister has not justified why his electorate, who comprise of mothers, fathers, uncles, brothers and other relatives of people with disabilities--- If the population of people with disabilities in this country is about 3 million, then that of mothers and fathers is twice as much. If we add up all these figures, we will arrive at the country's total population of 30 million. The Minister has not justified why the electorate should really feel that the Budget should be fair to the Ministry.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I once paid Turkana District a visit. The whole cry from constituents was: "How do we hear you on empty stomachs?" The Minister comes from an arid and semi-arid area. He knows very well that without making food available for people in that area, they will not vote for him. So, how can you tell your electorate that you have given the Minister for Agriculture Kshs7 billion? Of course, that money is not for them!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, where I come from, Migori District, if you go down to Karungu Bay and Gwasi, you will realise that the situation is appalling. The Minister has alluded to the fact that the weather has been bad and, of course, the crops did not yield very well because of drought. What plans does he have to help the people in my constituency? Those people have done their best. I do not think we have bigger farms anywhere in Kenya than the ones in the lowlands. A lot of maize, finger millet and millet crops have been destroyed by drought.

The Minister should have proposed to use part of his budget of Kshs7 billion to initiate irrigation projects in that area so that, at least, farmers can be compensated for the loss they incurred as a result of drought through facilitating them to grow, say, cassava and potatoes. He has not come up with a solution to the looming hunger crisis in the lowlands. The Minister proposed that people in Nyanza Province should grow cotton, forgetting that cotton is not edible. Now that the maize crop for this season has failed, what are the people going to eat? Just as my colleague who spoke before me said, the Minister proposed the growing of cotton without even explaining where the cotton will be sold. He wants farmers to grow cotton on empty stomachs! Who would want to hear about his cotton growing on an empty stomach?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while initiating debate on this Vote, the Minister talked about pest control. This reminds me of the training institutions in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which, as a matter of fact, like other institutions, are dilapidating. But my concern is about the agricultural institutions, which affect the lives of people with disabilities. For instance, there is such an institution in Nyeri known as "Kinunga". It gives training to blind people in agriculture. They are taught how to do horticultural farming, dairy farming, poultry keeping and pest control, among other things.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what saddens me most is the kind of treatment disabled persons get from this Government. It is as if they are living in their own world. It is a shame that, if the Government wants to train disabled persons in agricultural skills, they do not do so in the major and reputable training institutions, for example, Ahiti and Bukura institutes of agriculture. They are not trained at all. Why should I then support the Ministry's Vote when he pretends to treat the disabled persons as equal with able persons and yet, they are not? If the Minister would stand on the Floor of this House and say that he will streamline those institutions so that disabled and able persons will be treated equally in order to benefit from new skills and technology, then I would have every cause to support this enormous budget. However, I cannot support it when the Ministry treats us differently. It is as if we are living in two different republics; one for the disabled persons and the other for able persons.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, women form the backbone of the workforce in the agricultural sector. The Minister mentioned nothing at all about the plight of those women. He only mentioned some of the reasons that have led to the decline of coffee production in this country. It is a pity that the Minister never mentioned anything as to how those women who toil day in, day out, will benefit from the Ministry's budget which he wants this House to approve. In essence, as I said, this budget will only go to pay salaries of civil servants. It will not go to the agricultural extension services as he alludes. In fact, we do not have those services in the rural areas. We have enough evidence to show that it is women and children who toil in the farms from morning to evening. But when there is a good harvest, it is the men who benefit from their sweat.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the merger of the Ministry of Co-operative Development with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was a big blow to the ordinary wananchi. A whole Ministry of Co-operative Development is now a department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. I do not see why this House should approve this money because the activities of the Ministry have been trimmed down. The Ministry of Co-operative Development assisted ordinary wananchi to get loans to pay school fees and do other activities in their farms.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order! Mrs. Sinyo, your time is up!

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

Capt. Ntwiga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this important Motion. I stand here to support the Vote although with a lot of bitterness. This Ministry is asking this House to approve about Kshs7 billion. However, if you look at their budget proposals, you will see that this is just a replica of the last year's budget. It is not in line with the current Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PSRP). We have spent a lot of our time talking about poverty reduction in the rural areas. There is no way we can talk about poverty eradication in the rural areas, if we do not address agriculture. We all know that agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. If you look at the Vote of the Ministry, you will find that whatever the Minister is asking us to approve is not realistic at all. For example, there is an item on Kenya Meat

Training College. This college is not in existence, neither does it have any meaning to the economy of this country. I think the Minister is not taking us very seriously. I hope in the next Budget, the Minister will be more serious so that the Ministry's budget will reflect the true position on the ground. This Ministry should be talking about eradicating poverty through agricultural activities. We should address ourselves to the question of how to revamp agriculture in the rural areas so that this country can earn some foreign exchange. What we see in this budget proposal is just a duplication of last year's budget. It is a routine exercise. I would like the Minister to consider what he can do to alleviate poverty according to the PRSP.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from Meru District, Nithi Constituency. We have 11 rivers traversing that district. When we were formulating the PRSP, we asked the Government to harness this water. Instead of this water being drained into the Indian Ocean, we could use it to start micro-irrigation projects downstream. However, in this budget, our suggestion was not given much attention. It is sad that we spent a lot of time discussing this, but in the budget there is nothing. I am calling upon this Ministry to consider initiating those projects which are not capital-intensive in the rural areas because that is where we can jump-start our economy. As I said, I support the proposals by the Minister, and I hope he will consider our suggestions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, because of the problems we are facing in my community, we have come up with our own strategy to alleviate poverty. I have written a brief on that issue for my constituency. In that brief, we have talked about constructing dams along rivers, irrigation and the need for good roads to open up interior areas which are very fertile. We have done all these through the Harambee spirit. I wish this Ministry can at least allocate Kshs10 million for this purpose. This project will be very helpful to our people because it is a direct implementation of the PSRP. Our major problem is lack of funds to implement the project. Otherwise, that area can serve as a good example of what poverty reduction is all about. Our people are struggling all by themselves and yet, this Ministry wants us to approve Kshs7 billion. My community is struggling to do what this Ministry is supposed to do on the ground.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, through this Self-help Development Paper, I plead with the Minister to consider financing such projects. These are projects which are directly beneficial to our people and can help us to revive the agricultural sector. Otherwise, we will be talking here, year in, year out, with no success.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I do not want to talk a lot. Through the Chair, I would like to invite all hon. Members to come to City Hall on 13th July, 2001, to witness the launch of this wonderful paper because it is action-oriented. It can act as an example to other constituencies. I invite all of you to come and see what my community is doing on the ground.

I beg to support.

Mr. Wamunyinyi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving this opportunity to contribute to this Vote.

I listened very carefully when the Minister for Agriculture was moving this Vote and I did not hear him talk about the sugar industry, neither did I hear him talk about what the Government is doing to restructure Nzoia Sugar Factory. I also did not hear what the Government is doing to help sugar-cane farmers. Most of my constituents are sugar-cane farmers and that is why I was very keen on this particular issue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my people, and generally all people in Bungoma, have had many problems arising from non-payment of farmers' money for deliveries made to the Nzoia Sugar Company. As the Chair is aware, Nzoia Sugar Company is owned by the Government of Kenya. Indeed, 98 per cent of the shareholding of Nzoia Sugar Company is in the hands of the Government of Kenya. Since the Government is not taking steps to help the farmers, it makes us conclude that it is a deliberate policy by the Government to make the people of Bungoma poorer and poorer because they are not paid for their sugar-cane deliveries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are aware that it was Government's plan to restructure and improve the crushing capacity of Nzoia Sugar Company from the current 3,500 tonnes to 7,500 tonnes. This has not happened for a long time despite the fact that this plan was approved by top Government organs. I want to appeal to the Minister to consider putting in place programmes which can facilitate the expansion of Nzoia Sugar Company in order for it to cope with the increased production by the farmers. There are various problems that farmers are experiencing and especially the cost of producing sugar-cane, high cost of fertilizer, transportation costs, and harvesting costs. All these costs are shouldered by the farmer and sometimes they are not able to meet the costs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, consideration has not been given to the cost of farm inputs in sugar-cane farming. There are expenses incurred in planting, top-dressing and the security of the crop, but the millers do not take these into account. They only value what they take and leave all the costs with the farmer. All the same, it is important for the Government to take steps to ensure there is prompt payment for deliveries of the sugar-cane by farmers so that they can meet their obligations, for instance, pay school fees for their children and also ensure that they live decently. It is on this note that I am pointing this issue out to the Minister for Agriculture.

The Kenya Sugar Authority (KSA) has a mysterious person by the name of "the Chairman". Although this mysterious person has been removed, there is another mysterious person remaining there who is the Chief Executive Officer. Nzoia Sugar Company exports sugar worth Kshs125 million through the KSA. The KSA received the money from a Portuguese firm, through the European Union, but only Kshs45 million was paid to the sugar company. With regard to the Kshs45 million which was paid, several cheques bounced before they were cleared. This shows that there is someone who is coming in between the millers, the sugar company and the market. The KSA is supposed to serve the sugar-cane farmer, not to frustrate him. There is a balance of Kshs80 million which has not been paid, while the farmers are languishing in poverty in Bungoma.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say once more that the Chief Executive Officer of the KSA is very mysterious.

Mr. Khamasi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Did you hear Mr. Wamunyinyi say that there is a mysterious Chief Executive? Could he tell this House who this Chief Executive is?

Mr. Wamunyinyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to tell the House why the Chief Executive is mysterious. On the one hand, if you look at the recent issue of the Kenya Gazette, you will see that the KSA is importing sugar while at the same time Nzoia Sugar Company is exporting sugar to other countries in the European Union. Which is which now? Is the KSA importing or exporting sugar? This is how mysterious the Chief Executive is because he is not paying the farmers.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order! Order! Mr. Wamunyinyi, what you have said does not make the Chief Executive mysterious! So, I think you still have to respond to Mr. Khamasi's point of order. That does not make the Chief Executive mysterious.

Mr. Wamunyinyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Chief Executive receives money on behalf of the farmers and the it disappears mysteriously after sugar had been exported but no money reaches the farmer--- This man always argues and this is what makes him look mysterious! That is what I say about him.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to get away from the point. What is most important is that the KSA had exported sugar on behalf Nzoia Sugar Company and Kshs125 million was paid. After that two cheques were issued; one for Kshs20 million and another one for Kshs25 million, but they bounced. These cheques were dishonoured by the banks. Many farmers were inconvenienced because they had incurred expenses on the strength of those particular cheques. There is one individual here who is supposed to serve the farmers, but he does not do that.

The KSA has been "eating" money from the Sugar Development Fund, although no research has been undertaken to improve the crop. Instead, the money that had been collected from sugar companies has been "eaten" by the KSA, therefore, punishing and frustrating the farmers. I want to say that the Government should come out and say what is happening because the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has not been able to move---

Mr. Achola: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member on the Floor, keeps on saying that money was "eaten" by the KSA. Could he substantiate because we are very concerned about people who are "eating" money? We would like to know the details about that.

Mr. Wamunyinyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Member does not represent sugar-cane farmers. If he does, he should think about this issue once more.

I am talking about facts because I know that the sugar-cane farmer is suffering. If he wants to tell me that sugar-cane farmers are enjoying, then there is nothing like that in my area.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Very well. Continue, Mr. Wamunyinyi.

Mr. Wamunyinyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the money is being "eaten" and that is the mystery.

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing that I would like to talk about in this Ministry is the provision of cattle dips to improve livestock farming. The Animal Husbandry and the Veterinary Departments have been phased out. We only have private practitioners in Bungoma and I do not know what this Ministry is doing to help these farmers.

As the Chair may be aware, Kitinda Dairy Factory collapsed and we have had problems with our dairy farmers because they have no place to take the milk. The Minister has not talked about it although the Ministry is responsible for the mess. Indeed, some officers who were deployed in Kitinda Dairy Factory, caused its collapse. I would like the Minister to consider reviving Kitinda Dairy Factory so that farmers can market their farm produce and thereby get payments to enable them live a decent life. Those who have not been paid after delivering milk to Kitinda Dairy Factory should be paid their money immediately.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Dr. Omamo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. This Motion is important, and I would like to thank the Minister for moving it. He was rather frank, although he left a few words here and there. One of them is "sugar," which he did not use in his presentation, but we know that it appears somewhere.

Let us face the truth as far as this Ministry is concerned. The agricultural industry in our country, right now, is facing difficulties. Every sub-sector is in trouble. The coffee and cotton sectors have gone to the dogs, and the sugar sector is on its way to the dogs. The rice sector is quickly moving to the dogs. I do not know the reason behind that. The major agricultural sub-sectors are in trouble. At the same time, this nation is faced with poverty, and a large population living below a level which is not acceptable. The Government and the people of Kenya would like that level of poverty to be reduced, if not eradicated. A better word is now "reduced."

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is poised to play a very important role, if we are going to reduce poverty in our country, through production of both crops and livestock. Knowing that every sub-sector is in trouble, it would have been much better if this House was informed of the Ministry's proposals before the Budget, so that we give encouragement to the Minister, so that he can ask for more money. There is need for sufficient money to be given to this Ministry in order to help the nation move from the abject poverty zone to a much better zone. We are in trouble, and I would like to suggest some of the areas that we must put our fingers on, if we are to help Kenya to move forward and help this particular Ministry to wake up again and grow at a faster rate.

In my opinion, this Ministry must give serious thought to irrigated agriculture. How long shall we drive this point into the Ministry so that it understands it, to chew it, digest it and practise it? What is stopping the Ministry from getting sufficient money for that work, even if it were to go to the moon and try to get money? Let us be seen to be changing from rain-fed agriculture to irrigated agriculture, to enable us to produce more food and cash crops for export. Can you imagine that the giant irrigation projects in Bura and Hola have failed, not because the Minister for Agriculture is not bright? He is very bright. It is because the original design was wrong. The original "sin," like that one of Adam, was wrong; that is, the original design was wrong! Instead of being gravity-fed, it was based on pumped water. We are getting trouble with irrigation on large-scale, if not on small-scale. The same mistake and the same wrong design is repeated. That is why Ahero Pilot Irrigation Scheme, West Kano and Bunyala are in trouble. We must do something about it.

I would like to urge the Ministry to think seriously about inputs. Let the inputs be available at the right time at a fair price. If you look at the various sub-sectors, you will find that the coffee sector is suffering because of lack of those inputs. The same applies to the cotton and sugarcane sectors. Let us check on the availability of imports. Let us take horticulture seriously. Let us take other areas of our country which have not been producing a lot of horticultural products. They should be encouraged to produce more. For example, if you look at the KBC TV every evening, you will find that even if the rest of the country is dry, you will see some flickering, and the man and the lady saying, "some showers will be there." Make use of that. Let us make use of the rivers. Let us harvest more of our rainfall in order to promote more of horticultural production.

I would like to stress that there is need for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to have a look again at the general extension services, and see how we can revamp those services. Research is available, but we would like to encourage more focused research for the benefit of the country. The fisheries sector has been mentioned, and that is a very interesting area, and the Ministry should do something first, so that the hygienic conditions that are demanded by the European Union are met and even made better.

Regarding the sugar industry, I do not know how to put it to you, but let Kenya not allow our sugar industries to die. Never should they die! I would like to support hon. Members who have spoken about the sorry plight of the sugarcane farmer. We must do something to save the sugar industry. The COMESA sugar is sweat, but our local sugar is also sweet enough. All we need is to produce it. We have the right climatic conditions to do so, and all we need is to get the right inputs and capital injection and to make sure that our sugar farmers and processors have got money for their sweat. We should not make the mistake of allowing sugar from other countries to be imported into Kenya, to the extent that our own sugar industries are locked up. We should stop this completely.

The COMESA, good as it may be, we must move into it rather cautiously. We should not rush into things as we did for the SAPS. For example, Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPS) forced us to put a stop to supervision of artificial insemination services and also looking at the condition of cattle dips. Today, a friend said that because of lack of artificial insemination around, the cows wait for it for too long. That is not true. The cows will not wait for artificial insemination. The cows will look for the bulls! The bulls that are not highly productive.

(Laughter)

We have got to make sure that these services are revived. If we do not revive them, how are we going to upgrade cattle in the Lake Basin and ASAL areas? Why did we leave the artificial insemination services a bit too early?

What about the cattle dips? The ticks are there and the cattle dips are not being supported properly. Recently, cattle died in thousands because of the ticks. I am not saying that ticks should not exist on earth. I am not going to that extent. I am saying that with dips around, ticks should know that if they move around trying to get onto our great cattle, they will face the danger of dying.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion.

Mr. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to say a few things on the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. I must declare my interest that I am in the Departmental Committee of Agriculture and I have worked very well with the Ministry. I would like to compliment the Minister and say that, new as he is in the Ministry, we can see signs of commitment. I would like to commend the top civil servants in that Ministry because when the "Dream Team" was in charge, little did we know that they had dreamt a long time before they came to Kenya and that they are now implementing policies to ensure that Kenyans benefit from their efforts.

I am saying so, because I would want this House to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development so that issues of poverty will be history in Kenya. Out of the 30 million Kenyans, 50 per cent of them will remain in the rural areas participating in various activities for their livelihood. It will be easy for the remaining 50 percent to fit within the industrial sector in urban areas. The industrial sector can also be fairly busy if the agricultural sector is busy. Although I have gone through the Recurrent and Development Estimates, I would need about two months to effectively comment about this Ministry and I do not have the time. For that reason, I will not touch on individual items, but on some policies which, if supported, will take Kenya a step further.

It is unfortunate that the kitty which was there had to be shared out and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development ended up getting about Kshs7 billion only. For sure, this Ministry should be allocated in excess of Kshs20 billion or Kshs30 billion so that it can effectively implement its policies. This money is not sufficient for the Ministry. It is like a doctor who has a patient before him, he knows which treatment to administer and yet the medicine is not available in the shops. So, the patient dies because of non-availability of medicine and not because of the doctor. Equally, the Minister has got the right staff and the willingness to perform his duties. I am convinced, beyond reasonable doubt, that if they are fully supported the economy of this country will stabilise.

Last week we were talking about Sessional Paper No.2 on the restructuring of the coffee sector and we had to adjourn the debate because the Minister was not here. I would urge the Minister to ensure that this Sessional Paper is discussed soon. I am aware that we might adjourn for another two months before September, but the coffee farmer cannot wait for another two months. Some issues facing the coffee industry would be sorted out if the Sessional Paper on coffee is discussed to give way for the Coffee Bill so that the Ministry can release the money we have been talking about like the STABEX funds. Before we get to that, I would urge the Government to ensure that the STABEX funds are not deposited outside the country. If that money is deposited in local banks it will earn interest and strengthen our Kenyan currency.

The coffee farmer is in trouble. The tea farmer is a little bit happy because of the efforts made here. I would like to compliment the Ministry for involving the cotton farmer in their efforts. They have been referring to them as "stakeholders" and when they hold seminars, farmers feel happy because they have talked to the Minister, PS and others. When they go back they are able to support the other farmers.

Today, the coffee farmer is about to start uprooting his crop. When I go to Thika, Limuru and these other areas which used to grow coffee, the farms look completely neglected because of lack of inputs. We need to finance the farmer so that he can afford the necessary inputs to produce coffee. Cotton farmers have got some hope because the Ministry, through the 24 ginneries in the country, is supporting them in growing their crop. The system needs to be streamlined so that the farmer can know where to get inputs, equipment and other requirements for farming. The marketing and consumption is alright. Let the left hand of the Government know what the right hand is doing concerning the agricultural sector. If the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development had been aware that sugar was being imported, surely this would not have happened. Somehow, the Government has been allowing the importation of sugar. As a result, the Ministry is urging the farmers to grow more sugar and yet they do not know where to sell it.

The business of one hand importing and the other one exporting is quite good. We want the Minister to fight for a bigger quota so that all the sugar we produce locally can be sold to the European Union and then we can import cheaper sugar. We will remain in business if there is some consultation between the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Lands and Settlement and others so that the issue of segmenting land into little plots is done away with. Kitale and Eldoret used to be the granaries of this country. Today land is bought by co-operative societies who later sub-divide it into ten-acre and five-acre plots. This will not help us. If we sub-divide the land so much, this reduces the essence of borrowing to invest in farming.

The idea of everybody owning a title deed must be forgotten. At one time I thought I would never be a squatter on my land. I had 20 acres then, but now I have got five squatters on my land who are my children. If I go

on sub-dividing this land, how much will I remain with? We want the Ministry to revive the production of sunflower, cassava and rice. This country can grow enough rice for self consumption and even export the surplus. We need to support the farmer. There are many Sessional Papers on agriculture. We need the Ministry to start working together with everybody. The spirit of co-operation that has been established between the farmers and the Ministry must be enforced and encouraged so that we can produce more food. The question of irrigation cannot be over-emphasized.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have known countries which are self-sufficient in food production because they have given priority to irrigation. In Ukambani, for example, we have three rivers which traverse the area to the Indian Ocean. A lot of water drains into the Indian Ocean through Ukambani when it rains. If the Indian Ocean were a company, Ukambani would be the biggest shareholder in it. We would be the chairman of the board of directors of such a company because we send a lot of water to the ocean, although it is not needed there. Could the Ministry recommend the idea of even opening up several plateaus like the Yatta Plateau? We should start with Mwala Plateau, which stretches towards Emali. People are ready for irrigation schemes. The little money that the Minister has, he should try and put it into irrigation schemes. We do not want machines; we should encourage the use of more casual workers so that, at least, they can also earn a living.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy that I am talking to a real pastoralist who understands pastoralism. Lack of a holding ground is what grounded the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). Cattle used to be held there and because officers who used to man the holding ground knew how fertile it was, they changed its user. The use of holding grounds should be abolished and a system should be put in place whereby we have abattoirs in places such as Mandera, Wajir and Tana River. We should slaughter animals immediately they arrive at abattoirs and then transport the meat to other areas. Why should we move all the cattle to Athi River?

With those few remarks, I beg to support that the Ministry should get three or four times the current budgetary allocation.

The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Information (Dr. Wamukoya): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me time to talk on the Budget provisions for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. This Ministry requires much more money than it has been given and which it has been getting over very many years.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would want to request those hon. Members who are opposing the Vote of this Ministry not to do so, because when you refuse the little amount of money that is available, it means you do not want to have anything at all. When you have nothing, then you are worse off. So, I would want to request that we all support this budgetary provision---

Mr. Wanjala: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to assume that we have anything when he knows very well that we have nothing?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): It is in order for him to assume! Go on, Mr. Assistant Minister!

The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Information (Dr. Wamukoya): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I knew that we have nothing and that is why I said that we should not oppose the nothing that is there. It is for this Parliament to demand much more than what we have now as budgetary provisions. I would want to support Mr. Munyao, that we need up to Kshs30 billion to satisfy the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

We are normally told that agriculture is the backbone of our economy, but the spirit to promote agriculture is not there. I would want to ask the Government, through the Treasury, that it should re-think the amount of money that it allocates to this Ministry. Unfortunately, as Dr. Omamo said, when the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) were introduced, they targeted the Ministry of Agriculture and that is why the AI is not there. We have left everything to the bulls as if to wish away a problem. But the problem keeps on coming back.

We know that industrialisation cannot be achieved unless agriculture is thriving. We are wasting our time saying that we shall be industrialised by the year 2020 when we are neglecting agriculture. We have got, first of all, to have agricultural industries before we have anything else. How will we have agricultural industries if we do not give priority to agriculture? We were told that the country recorded a -2.4 per cent growth rate in the agricultural sector during the year 2000. This means that we are leaving all our wishes to the vagaries of the weather. I want to state here, and also support those who have talked about irrigation, that unless we deliberately come out and make provisions for irrigating our farms - we only have 18 per cent of arable land and the rest of our land, which is 82 per cent, is arid and semi-arid - then we will remain beggars, going out there to ask for food every day. The good thing about irrigation is that you can control the growth rate and the amount of crop that you want to produce. So, I want to urge the Government to give us money to irrigate our farms.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we were told that in the semi-arid and arid areas, there was drought last year and many livestock died. I want to state that we need two solutions to this: One, we must irrigate our land, and so deliberately provide water to the farms and the livestock. Secondly, we must provide marketing. What

lacks in the North Eastern Province is market for the livestock. When there is drought and the pastoralists do not have anywhere to sell their animals, the animals definitely die.

I want to support Mr. Munyao when he states that we should have Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) branches all the over the place, such as in Garissa, Marsabit, Lodwar and Maasailand. We should slaughter animals there and bring the meat in refrigerated vans to a central place from where it can be supplied to the rest of Kenya or exported. We used to have a livestock marketing division which went away with the introduction of the SAPs. Without that livestock marketing division to pick excess animals so that they can be slaughtered and save the pastoralists from losing their animals, the pastoralists will keep on losing their animals. That has to be looked into again.

We have seen that during the last season, we harvested only 3 million metric tonnes of coffee instead of 8 million metric tonnes. Coffee production inputs are very costly and the stages which coffee goes through before it is auctioned are so many and at every stage, a little money is left there. So the farmer gets very little money and he gets discouraged and cannot look after the crop during the next season. Many people will say that coffee is grown in the central highlands of Kenya. I have noticed that rainfall in these areas has also reduced and we believe that if there were irrigation schemes, there would be an improvement in the coffee production.

The dairy farming has been neglected after the introduction of the SAPs and privatisation. With the collapse of cattle dips, animals have died and milk production has come down. I am told that the Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) is being revived and shares in it are being sold. I would want to suggest that more dairy factories be introduced.

On the issue of poverty reduction, I do not know how it can be achieved. In my area, for example, where we grow sugar-cane, the farms' productivity has declined and however much you try to help the farmer to break even in his production, you may not be able to help him. Even if you told the farmer to grow maize or beans, the production will be so low that it might only be enough for subsistence and not for sale.

The Minister forgot to mention about the sugar industry, although I know it is in his budget. Sugar production should be encouraged. The current methods of sugar production are very expensive and something should be done to reduce the cost so that we should be able to compete with sugar from the COMESA region. We now know that Sudan, because it has irrigated its land, is producing a lot of sugar at Kenana Sugar Factory in a controlled manner. The Sudanese are even coming to Kenya and telling us that they want to buy shares in Muhoroni and Miwani Sugar Factories. This is a shame because Kenana is a very new industry - I was there in 1998. It is not as old as the Kenyan sugar factories, which have been there for so many years. But you will find those new people coming here to buy our sugar industries, or to buy shares in our factories. I think it is a shame and we should be able to do something. We should reduce the cost of production of sugar in the existing sugar factories. We were given the various constraints such as seed production, livestock diseases, shrinking co-operative abilities and vagaries of weather. Those are the things that the Ministry should look into and correct. I would like to say that the Treasury should come up--- I know the people in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development make their requests, in accordance to what they need. But what they are given is not adequate, because they do not have control over what is given by the Treasury. We should urge them to re-think and look at agriculture afresh. If they revamp the agricultural sector, the economy of this country will grow. When the economy improves, we will not have food shortages. We will have food security for everybody and diseases will disappear.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Katuku: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to start by urging the Ministry of Finance and Planning to put its priorities right. The problem that we have in this country is that we do not put our priorities right. The Ministry of Finance and Planning should give the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development more allocation than what the Minister is requesting for. I am comparing the Recurrent Vote for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with that of the Office of the President. We are being told to approve about Kshs5 billion for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for Recurrent Expenditure, while the allocation to the Office of the President is about Kshs16 billion! In the Development Expenditure, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is allocated Kshs1.4 billion, while the Office of the President is allocated Kshs3.7 billion! Where do we need more money? Do we give money to the police to beat up the Oregos of this world or to farmers to improve their production? I think the Ministry of Finance and Planning should consider the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development seriously. I know they must have given more proposals than what we are being told here. They must have given proposals worth three times more than what we are given here. What was approved is not what they asked for.

I think we need to put our priorities right, and give the relevant Ministries more money. This is the most important Ministry to this country, if we are talking of putting this country back to its economic performance. If we do not consider agriculture, where else do we put our money? That is very fundamental and I think it is high time the Government looked at that aspect alone. Let us put money where it can generate more money. Let us

put our resources where we can get more resources!

I am very worried about that because, as we continue discussing the Budgets here, year in, year out, the mwananchi on the ground waits to see the results. He waits until another Budget is read! He does not see any tangible outcome of the Budget. That is what we are saying! We do not need to be here to talk and talk. This is not a talking shop. What we are saying is that we need tangible inputs on some of the relevant Ministries, like the one we are discussing.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, much has been said on how we can improve horticulture, food production and other sectors. But surely, what has been done practically? That is the issue! Much has been said in this House and even outside. But then, what has been put into practical terms? I have been contributing to these debates for very many times. I have been suggesting areas where we should allocate some money. But really, the person on the ground does not see anything coming out of that. The people on the ground in the area that I come from grow cotton. What is being put on cotton to improve cotton production? What do we have? We have many markets for cotton out there. Look at the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). We have markets for cotton and we can export it to other countries. But what are we exporting? Nothing! That is because the farmer is not being assisted. Surely, what are we talking about? Ginneries have closed down in Makueni, Machakos, Homa Bay and Meru! All of them have closed down! What is the Government doing about that? We need to put money in that sector. In the cotton-growing areas, the farmers should be assisted. It is pathetic to pretend that we are doing something about poverty in this country, when we are not addressing the real issues. The real issues are helping the common people on the ground and the farmers. The farmers should be the main target, if we want to improve the economy of this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry has also been talking about how it can tap the resources in this country. We have an example in this world, like that of the Tennessee Valley Development Authority. We can get land which is not utilised. I am very happy that the Minister in charge of agriculture comes from a drier area than mine! I hope he will take cognisance of that and reclaim unutilised lands through irrigation. He should put unutilised areas into better use. We can irrigate our land. I have a lot of concern about that. If we put more money on irrigation and reclaim areas which are not utilised, we can make progress. We have good fertile soils in Mwala but there are no rains. The Ministry told us that there was a negative 0.24 per cent growth in the Ministry. Why is that not so in other dry countries in this world? It is because they have put their priorities right. They have put more money to irrigate dry regions. Let us this time around, think more seriously on those lines. I am happy we have the right people, but we lack the support in terms of financial allocations. Even the Development funds that we are talking about are not tangible. We are talking about money promised by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other donors here and there, which may not be realised!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry also covers other co-operative societies, which are also very important to the farmers. Co-operative societies in this country have been run down totally. They are not doing anything. I have in mind, a co-operative society in Machakos which has been run down totally. That is the Machakos

Co-operative Society. We have sand harvesting societies in my constituency, where there is sand harvesting business. The co-operative officers have colluded, down to the bottom, with the sand harvesters. They exploit the common wananchi and sell their sand, but nothing goes to them and, at the end of the day, the environment in that area is totally degraded.

When you harvest sand, you are not taking care of the environment. People have nowhere to get water and when you complain to these officers, they are very busy with the co-operative chairmen squandering money which is meant to benefit the mwananchi.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), which is a very important component of this Ministry, is not playing its role. It is supposed to come in and stabilise prices where we have excess production. I am taking the case of maize prices. For example, in some parts of my constituency we had good harvests. Prior to these good harvests a kilogramme of maize was going for Kshs30 but now the farmer is selling it at Kshs70. Surely, how are we assisting the farmer? The NCPB has said that they do not have money. The money they had is finished. They have not even paid some of the farmers who delivered their maize to them. I have in mind Machakos National Cereals and Produce Board Depot which is holding money for small-scale farmers and businessmen. Why can we not allocate enough money to these NCPB---

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Musila): Order over there! Hon. Members, you are requested to consult quietly so that we may give the hon. Member time to make his contribution.

Mr. Katuku: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for that indulgence. I am talking about the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). Let us give the NCPB enough money to buy whatever is

available in the market so that the farmer can benefit. Surely, how will the farmer come out? We need to see to it that we have enough money in these NCPB Depots. Let them buy maize and store it when prices are not good.

We have food insecurity in this country. What is the food policy for this country? Why can we not buy enough? Why should we always rely on relief food from other countries? We are feeding our people with yellow maize from America which is meant for horses. Why can we not have a food policy where we can store enough food for this country for emergencies like drought and such? It is pathetic and I am also happy that the Minister comes from an area where there is livestock production. We have been talking about reviving KMC year in, year out, and money has been promised and it never comes. I am very happy the Minister is there. He experiences the same problem I have. I hope he will put enough money into this exercise to revive what has been proposed here by hon. Munyao, that we have smaller and smaller meat processing zones here and there. It is very important to promote the farmer. What did the Ministry do when it had these animals dying the other day because of drought? They should have been bought and meat products exported. It is crucial that we must take our work seriously and I am proposing that this Ministry be given more money. Let it be serious! I know they have the policies but they do not have the money.

With those few remarks, I support.

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to make my contribution to this very crucial issue. I would like to say from the onset, that this Ministry is headed by very learned people. The current Minister is a very learned person and he is a person who, in terms of credentials, Kenyans have great hopes in.

I equally want to acknowledge that the---

Hon. Members: He is just a lawyer by profession!

Mr. Achola: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Ochilo-Ayacko in order to suggest that the current Minister is thoroughly qualified in agricultural matters when we know that he is just a mere lawyer?

(Laughter)

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on a very light touch, I think lawyers are the most learned people but that is not what I meant. I also want to recognise the fact that the Permanent Secretary is also a person of immense training and---

Mr. Munyasia: Both learning and training!

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Yes, both learning and training. I want to say that the problem, therefore, is not with credentials. I think the problem is broadly one of Government policy and even if we look at it from the onset, this Ministry is called Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, but when you look at the Printed Estimates and try to get the funds set aside for rural development, you will find none. So, the title of the Ministry, and its mission, is a misnomer. It is a mix that does not make very good sense. There is no money set aside for rural development functions and so there is no clear objective to realise what the title purports to be.

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

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the previous speakers who said that this Ministry should be given more money that it has been allocated presently. The reason for which I am saying this is that the fundamental responsibility of every Government is to feed its citizens. The fundamental responsibility of every Government is to make sure that even if there is strife in a different sense, there is adequate food for the citizenry to eat. It is very sad that although in this country we have enough land, adequate rainfall and healthy citizens but we occasionally have to import food. That means that the Government of the day has not worked hard enough to achieve its basic objective of feeding its citizens. That is a very sad state of affairs that, in a Budget of this kind and one that is being read in the millennium in which we are now, we need to address this issue of food shortage so that it does not become a problem that we have this century.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I suggest that future Budgets should address the issue of adequate food. In fact, it makes no sense to have, in our shelves, imported or processed food from other countries like South Africa and Egypt. We should be able to feed our own population from what we produce locally. So, in future, we

should have adequate provisions for feeding our people so that our people can think and politick in peace and live in harmony. A lot of these problems we see around arise from empty stomachs which lead to empty heads. If you do not have anything in your stomach, I do not think you will have anything in your head. So, we should start with the stomach first, have it full, and when you rest well, you will be able to synthesise some theories and come up with issues that are called good governance.

When you see a lot of people clashing across the borders of some areas like Trans Mara and Gucha because of some Zebu cattle with very sharp horns, I think this is because of njaa. So, once you give these people enough food, nobody will waste the whole night pursuing some animal that is also dangerous since it can gore you using its horns and hurt you. So, if you give these people enough food, they will be able to take their children to school. They will stay there the whole day and not think of arming themselves like our brothers the Pokot and shooting some people because of some things that, really if you look at the monetary value, it does not make good sense.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, very close to this Ministry are factories that process food or agricultural produce. I have in mind the sugar sub-sector. If you look at the current Printed Estimates, in fact, the entire sugar sub-sector is not properly addressed. It is not addressed by way of protection against dumping of sugar from our neighbouring countries or from international areas. It is also not addressed in the sense of reinvesting in this sector. Now, in this millennium, we know that technology has improved in all countries. We know that countries that compete with us in terms of producing sugar globally are using superior technology, yet in our own estimates we are doing nothing to reinvest in the sugar sub-sector. The sugar sub-sector employs many people besides providing sugar, which is a very important item when it comes to preparing breakfast. Sugar is also a very important commodity which is used to produce other products that are used locally.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in our future Estimates we should allocate more money to this sub-sector. If this is done, it will ease the problem of rural-urban migration that has led to the mushrooming of slums, joblessness, a lot of violence and thuggery in towns. Currently, I have in mind the South Nyanza Sugar Company (SONY), which is in my constituency. If you take the case of this sugar company, you will find that the farmers who supply sugar-cane to this company have not been paid for the last one year. They have not been paid for the last one year because SONY was built on loans, which have matured.

Mr. Sambu: Hawatalipwa!

Mr. Ochilo-Ayacko: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, they have not been paid for the crop they delivered all this time because they are ranked as debtors of least priority. You will find that if the company receives money, the first people they think of paying are probably the ones who provided the money that was used to construct the factory. You will also realise that the second lot of persons they pay are their suppliers in terms of materials; suppliers in terms of petroleum products, and suppliers in terms of energy. But when it comes to farmers, they do not pay them. They do this when it is clear that, without supply of sugar-cane, in fact, the existence of that company or factory will be nugatory.

So, the very learned Minister - I know some people are disputing his area of training, but learning is learning and somebody with several degree certificates is very learned - should exercise that learning, discharge and apply it in having more money being allocated to agriculture. There should be adequate money in that sector, particularly in sugar-cane, tea, coffee and such crops that ascertain that the war against peasantry is won. The problem this country has is that several years after Independence, we still have our basic rural economic activity; peasantry. We still go to the gardens just to make sure that there is enough food to eat for that season. So, what this Ministry should do, as a philosophy, is to transform peasantry into cash-oriented economy.

There is also a section of this country, and it is a big one, that has culturally known how to look after livestock. The President has repeatedly said that the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) will be revived. But if you look at the Printed Estimates, you will realise that there is nothing of that kind afoot. So, I would like to say that this Ministry should also look at issues related to livestock. It should invest as much as it can in the KMC and have this Commission and branches of the same being established all over the country. In fact, there was a time it was even suggested by the President that a branch of the KMC should be established at Nyatike. We are still waiting for this branch to be established at this place.

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

Mr. Khamasi: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Motion. First of all, I would like to say that this is a very lucky Ministry because it has always had able Ministers and Accounting Officers. I think what has lacked over the years has been political will to make this Ministry function.

At the outset, I would like to state that this Ministry is overcrowded. I serve in the Departmental Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources and I would like to say that the Permanent Secretary in

this particular Ministry has appeared before that Committee more times than any other Permanent Secretary, and yet the volume of work in that Ministry cannot be accomplished. God knows the number of parastatals which fall under this Ministry. You can see the number of officials representing it here. That means that it is overcrowded, and it is high time this Ministry was restructured in order to give sufficient and efficient services to Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is not serious about the poverty eradication plans that it has put in place. What do we see in these Printed Estimates? Even an ordinary trader at home knows that you invest your money where you get returns. Look at these Estimates and you will realise that the Ministry of Finance and Planning has been allocated Kshs9.5 billion. What will this Ministry do with that money? What will this money be used for in that Ministry? How much of that amount of money will go back to the Office of the President? If you look at the Department of Defence, you will find that they have been allocated Kshs14 billion. The Force we have has not been tested even once, and yet we are still recruiting staff.

An hon. Member: God forbid!

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, God forbid! What are we recruiting them for? We have allocated them Kshs14 billion to do what? This money should go to agriculture so that the ordinary farmer can work hard and revive the economy of this country. That just shows what it is like---

An hon. Member: The Office of the President has been allocated Kshs16 billion!

Mr. Khamasi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my friend has already compared this Ministry with the Office of the President, which has a whopping Kshs16 billion in Recurrent Expenditure, when the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has a mere Kshs5 billion. Are we serious about what we are doing? We are not serious at all. I think it is high time there was political will to get this Ministry moving. If we are talking about poverty eradication, as an agricultural country, and we do not allocate sufficient funds to this Ministry, then what we are doing is lip service. We are just playing good public relations to Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, indeed, the Minister for Finance came here and said that they will go ahead and ensure that they revive even the KMC. I think that is why the President saw it fit to appoint a pastoralist as the Minister for Agriculture.

(Laughter)

I would like to inform this House that there are no funds for him even to revive the KMC, unless it drops from Heaven. That was a pure public relations exercise.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that farmers cannot get their produce to the market because of poor roads. If you look at the amount of money that has been allocated to that particular Ministry to improve our roads in order for farmers to get their produce to the market, you will realise that it is completely negligible.

I would also like to point out that insecurity is rampant in this country, and farmers cannot sleep soundly in order to wake up in the morning and go to their farms to tend their crops. If you look at the Vote in these Estimates in terms of security, you will find that most of the money will go to the Provincial Administration, such as the PCs, DCs and DOs. This is the case despite the fact that the people who are supposed to provide security are not well catered for. We cannot improve farming in this country until we provide enough security to our farmers. Earlier on, I had mentioned the many parastatals that fall under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Our Committee had the guts to ask the Accounting Officer to tell us the percentage of the money they are allocated that goes to parastatals, and it was shocking.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister said that 78 per cent of the Ministry's budget goes to parastatals, if I got him right. Some of those parastatals are moribund. They do not produce anything for this country. Now, what is left? It is 22 per cent which goes to the poor Permanent Secretary. What can he do with that money? Does he look after all the activities of the Ministry with that money? It is high time the Government became honest and serious about what it is telling Kenyans. We are not serious.

The Minister, in his address, mentioned about the drought being one of the factors that caused decline in the agricultural sector. Drought will be experienced again. Drought was not there only for those years, we must expect it again because we do not have power over what God has for us in terms of weather. What is this Ministry putting in place to make sure that if there is a recurrent situation, we can go through it without experiencing what we experienced last time?

Dr. Omamo eloquently said that we have been paying lip service to the situation of irrigation. The National Irrigation Board (NIB) is of no use at this time. It was only useful when it was minting money from the rice farmers of Mwea. When the farmers became a little bit more clever, they do not have money. What is the use

of that parastatal right now? What is this Ministry putting in place to make sure that if there is a repeat of the drought, we can have sufficient food to feed this country? The farmer has nowhere to go for financing these days. If you cannot finance farmers, how do you expect them to produce food? In these Estimates, there is nothing to show that this Government wants to revive the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and the Kenya Co-operative Creameries which were farmer-friendly. There is nothing in these Estimates, as I have said before, to show that this Government wants to revive the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) which was pastoralist-friendly and yet, we are saying that we are estimating this economy to grow by 2 per cent or whatever figure it is. That is a fallacy. It will never be. We should expect another decline in the economy if we do not provide enough money to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to help farmers grow and produce food for this economy to improve.

I am annoyed. I would like to conclude and support this Motion while very annoyed.

Mr. Sambu: Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipa fursa hii nitoe maoni yangu juu ya Wizara ya Kilimo na Maendeleo Mashambani. Sijui ni maendeleo ya kwenda mbele ama ya kwenda nyuma. Ninavyoona mimi, haya ni maendeleo ya kwenda nyuma.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kati ya fedha ambazo zimetengewa Wizara hii, asilimia 72 zinaenda kwa mashirika yaliyopo chini ya Wizara hii kama vile Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC). Mashamba yaliyochukuliwa na ADC wakati wa Uhuru yalikuwa mengi, lakini yamegawanywa na kupatiwa watu bure. Hapa tunatoza wananchi kodi ili Wizara ya Kilimo na Maendeleo Mashambani ipate pesa ya kuwapa na huko mashamba yanatolewa bure. Katibu wa Kudumu yuko hapa na anasikiliza. Tunataka aende awaulize: Kama wanahitaji pesa, kwa nini wasiyauze mashamba yale badala kuwapatia watu bure? Hiyo si ajabu?

Tunahitaji ardhi ili tukuze mbegu. Kule Kitale sasa kuna shida; watu hawakuzi mbegu. Wanaohusika humenya mahindi ya kawaida na kuyaweka dawa, na kutudanganya eti ni mbegu aina ya 614. Mmea wa mahindi kutoka kwa mbegu aina ya 614 haukomai ukiwa mfupi. Kusema hivyo ni kudanganya.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kuna taasisi inayoitwa Kenya Veterinary Vaccine Production Institute (KEVEVAPI). Jukumu la taasisi hiyo ni kutayarisha chanjo za mifugo kama vile ng'ombe, mbuzi, kondoo na hata kuku. Lakini, taasisi hiyo haitoi tena huduma hizo. Kwa muda mrefu sasa, mifugo wetu hawajachanjwa. Maradhi kama vile East Coast Fever (ECF) na sotoka yanawamaliza ng'ombe wetu, huku KEVEVAPI ikiendelea kufuja pesa za umma, ambazo hutokana na kodi wanayototwa wananchi. Je, kwa nini taasisi hiyo inafuja pesa zetu?

Mwenzangu aliyetangulia kuongea alizungumza juu ya shirika la mikopo kwa wakulima. Mikopo ambayo shirika hilo lilikuwa likitoa iliwasaidia wakulima. Lakini sasa shirika hilo halitoi mikopo kwa wakulima. Kote nchini, shirika hilo lilijenga ofisi kubwa kubwa. Maofisa waliosimamia ujenzi wa majengo hayo na kukosa kutoa mikopo kwa wakulima wanafahamu ni kwa nini walijenga majengo hayo. Siku moja, inshalah, tutajua ni kwa nini walifanya hivyo. Watu hao watatubu dhambi zao siku ya kياما, wasipotubu kabla ya siku hiyo.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa nini tunaruhusu kuingizwa kwa biidha za vyakula nchini bila ya kulipiwa ushuru? Sasa, viwanda vya sukari nchini vinafungwa. Tunasema kwamba sehemu nyingi za nchi hii zimekumbwa na ukame. Lakini, mpaka sasa, wakulima katika sehemu yangu ya uwakilishi Bungeni hawajalipwa pesa za mahindi waliyouzia halmashauri ya nafaka nchini mwaka uliopita. Wakulima hao walipeleka mahindi yao katika ghala za halmashauri hiyo kati ya Desemba, 2000 na April, 2001. Kwingineko nchini, watu wanakufa njaa kwa sababu ya ukame na hali wakulima katika sehemu yangu wanaangamia. Mwenyezi Mungu atujaalie ukulima wa ngano na mahindi ufaulu mwaka huu. Je, tukivuna nafaka hizo tutaziuza wapi kama halmashauri ya nafaka nchini haijatulipa kwa zao la mwaka uliopita?

Katika sehemu yangu kuna Wahindi ambao wana viwanda vya kusaga mahindi lakini ukiwapeleka mahindi yako, wahindi hao huteta: "Konda wewe kama hapana taka mia saba! Konda! Konda!" Sasa, ni nani anayekonda? Ni mimi ama ni mahindi yangu? Sisi huwaruhusu wageni kuingiza bidhaa za vyakula nchini bila ya kuzilipia ushuru. Baadaye wageni hao hututusi Serikali ikisikiliza.

(Applause)

Mr. Mwenda: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving this opportunity to contribute to this Vote.

I wish to state from the outset that so many Kenyans are dying due to poverty because the Government is not committed to agriculture and the development of the rural areas. I am saying this because it is a fact that 80 per cent of our population live in the rural areas. It is also true that almost 80 per cent of the population in the rural areas relies on agriculture and agricultural related activities and it is within the public domain that agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. Given both facts, what has the Government done to ensure that 80 per cent of the population in this country has had their standard of living uplifted? In the past several years, the

Government has been running away from agriculture and has been abandoning the farmers. I am saying this with justification. Let us examine what the Government has done for the livestock farmers. We know that the economy of a country like Botswana is dependent on livestock keeping. There is wealth in livestock keeping, but our Government has completely neglected livestock farming.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the 1970s, the Government was deeply involved in the construction and maintenance of cattle dips in order to control ticks easily. But a policy was introduced where the Government pulled out completely from the management and ownership of cattle dips and they have now been thrown back to the community. I can assure the Chair that 80 per cent of those cattle dips are now not operational.

The poor rural folk cannot maintain them; they cannot afford the cost of acaricides and, therefore, their animals are dying daily because of tick-related diseases. I am urging the Minister to re-consider this policy and ensure that all the cattle dips are taken over by the Government, managed and fully equipped by the Government so that we can have an effective control of ticks and save our livestock which are dying on a daily basis.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, also in the 1970s, we had set aside various farms for research activities in animal diseases in various parts of our country. I have an example of a big farm, of about 700 acres, which was set aside in an area called Kibuline in Meru District. This was a regional centre for animal diseases, and with a particular bias on trypanosomiasis. As I speak now, half of this land has been given to a private developer. Research is no longer taking place there, so the diseases which were intended to be researched on and be controlled cannot be controlled any more. Why are we talking about developing agriculture while on the other hand we are giving out our farms and land which were meant for research purposes.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, also in the 1980s, the Government set aside a regional research station in Marimanti, called Embu-Isiolo-Meru Goat and Sheep Project. This project was intended to improve the quality of goats and sheep within those three areas. After the whiteman who was managing it went away, this research station completely collapsed. It has been abandoned, all the equipment and the vehicles which were there have been swept out completely. So, why are we abandoning the livestock farmer and yet we know that more than 80 per cent of our land is either arid or semi-arid and, therefore, it is suitable for livestock farming?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is why I am saying that the Government has deserted farmers. I would like the Minister to ensure that the Government revisits the farmers. The Minister should also ensure that they get assistance from the Government.

I would also wish to touch on the issue of bee keeping. In the Printed Estimates, there is money given for the Lenana Bee Keeping Station. What does that station do? What services does it give to this nation? We all know that bee keeping is not capital and labour-intensive. We can promote bee keeping invariably in every part of this country, so that farmers can keep bees and get good returns. We have examples of small groups all over the country, particularly, where women have come together and are doing very good bee keeping. But they are disadvantaged by the fact that there are financial constraints. I urge the Minister to ensure that, that bee keeping station functions and delivers services as required because it is the public which is supporting it. Otherwise, this station should not be given any money, if it cannot function and deliver services to the farmers who want to carry out bee keeping.

Thirdly, I want to talk about seed quality control. Farmers have lost a lot of yield because of using poor quality seeds. The Kenya Seed Company contracts out to various farmers the job of developing seeds. It is now common knowledge that most of the farmers do not develop quality seeds. In the process, farmers have planted the wrong seeds and have not been able to harvest anything. I have an example. Last season, the Government distributed cotton seeds in Tharaka District, which were the wrong varieties for that area. Invariably, everybody who planted that seed which was supplied by the Government had almost total crop failure.

Then, you cannot talk about yields without controlling quality of seeds. A lot of seeds are also coming from outside the country. Does the Government have a mechanism of ensuring that there are checks and controls on seeds, so that farmers do not suffer? There is need to re-examine our policy on seed production and control, so that we do not keep on blaming farmers for not doing enough when, in fact, we they are doing a lot, but they are being supplied with the wrong seeds.

Finally, I want to talk about finances. There is need for us to empower our farmers. We cannot expect a poor farmer to develop his or her ten or 20 acres of land, when he or she does not have any money. There is need, therefore, to revive the institutions that were in existence and which would finance farmers. I am talking about the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), which was financing and assisting farmers quite a lot. This is because the cost of agricultural inputs is out of the reach of most Kenyans. They cannot afford it. You will see a farmer who wants to grow his or her five acres of cotton but it will all go to waste because he or she cannot afford to buy the correct pesticides and control the pests. He or she can only afford to buy about one litre to be sprayed on five acres. In the process, he or she does not use the right dosage. So, he or she loses the entire crop. Unless the farmer

is empowered, by being financed by institutions that can give money at lower interest rates, then, we shall continue blaming our farmers for not doing well, although they are doing well. The problem they experience is that they are unable to financially sustain their own farming.

With those remarks, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr. Kajwang: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to say something on the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. First, I have been looking for the meaning of the term "rural development" and I have not quite understood what it really means. I do not know whether there is a Ministry of Urban Development. When agriculture is put together with rural development, I do not know how to separate one from the other. The Minister is my good friend and former lecturer so, I hope he will give us a good definition of what "rural development" actually means when he responds.

Agriculture is important to my constituents. We are livestock keepers. The problem is that we keep livestock next to the Ruma Game Park which is surrounded by communities that live around. This Game Park is the home of tsetse flies which thrive on the animals that live in the park, but usually escape to cause mischief outside the park. They normally cause trypanosomiasis or another primitive disease called "sleeping sickness." It does not only attack livestock, but the farmers themselves. In my constituency half of the farmers are usually asleep because of this primitive disease called "sleeping sickness." When you are asleep, you cannot look after your animals properly and most of the time they tend to cause other havoc. There was a time when the tsetse fly was under control because they would spray the game park. After spraying we would have some reprieve for two years, then they would multiply again from the eggs which they had left there. They would then be sprayed again. Ruma Game Park has not been sprayed for five years, to kill tsetse flies which have now become a menace. I was in my constituency yesterday where I held a baraza. The only thing I was being told was that: "Please, tell the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to do something about the tsetse fly menace around Ruma Game Park." This menace affects Mbita, Gwasi and Ndhiwa Constituencies and parts of Homa Bay Constituency. If that cannot be done, and it is not very expensive to do that, then the Ministry of Tourism and Information should remove Ruma Game Park from our midst so that we can farm the land. It is a good farmland and we will of course, control the tsetse fly because after clearing the bush, there will be no more tsetse fly in that area. We will then have grazing land for our animals.

As we talk today, there is good grass inside the park as opposed to outside the park. You cannot graze inside the park because it is fenced with electric wire. If you ever manage to do that, of course, you will be shot by the armed guards. We have two major problems: First, we are dying from tsetse flies and secondly, we are missing good grazing land. The Ministry should either control the spread of tsetse flies or destroy the Ruma Game Park because we cannot survive if there is no control of tsetse flies. When it is known to my constituents that I am talking seriously to the Minister face to face, from the KANU benches, and telling him that the tsetse fly should be controlled, I will get some votes. This is a serious matter. We have no medicine for this bad disease which is caused by the tsetse fly. If there is some medicine for sleeping sickness, then we can never afford it. So, I think it is easier to control the tsetse fly. The methods used to control the tsetse fly are not effective. The International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) conducted some research and came up with some traps it called the "goo-traps," which are not effective. The ICIPE is now saying that it has some biological methods for controlling the tsetse flies by sterilising them. We are yet to know how many tsetse flies have been sterilised, but the menace is still there. I do not have to belabour the tsetse flies issue.

Let me say also that you cannot improve livestock husbandry if you do not provide water because livestock survives on water. My constituency, although being near Lake Victoria, parts of it are very far away from the Lake. We used to have some dams which were called "pans". It does not cost a lot of money to de-silt a dam. All of the dams are now silted and if ten of those dams were de-silted, they would improve livestock husbandry in my constituency. Recently, I asked the Ministry's officials to quantify how much it would cost to de-silt a dam. The Ministry's officials told me that it would not cost more than Kshs1.2 million. If ten dams were de-silted, that would only cost Kshs12 million. That is not a lot of money to put into a project which would otherwise be a multimillion project. Without water, we will lose the livestock and we have no other form of employment. It is through livestock keeping that we raise school fees for our children. That is our currency. There is no other currency in my constituency other than goats and other types of livestock. Today, I am talking about agriculture, but I do not know whether fishing also falls under the Rural Development docket. When I get to know that, I will come to it also.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my constituency is also a cotton-growing constituency. Cotton production "died" a long time ago. Right now, there is an Act in the United States of America called the African Growth and Opportunity Act. There is some opportunity which we are supposed to seize, and which is supposed to help us. You will not seize an opportunity when you are not doing anything about seizing it. You must do

something. We are now importing cotton materials from India, Korea and Malaysia. Who are we benefiting? We are benefiting the Indian, Korean and the Malaysian farmers. We are importing cotton materials also from Tanzania. We have destroyed our cotton industry, but we can revive it. I had a meeting yesterday and saw a lot of cotton farms. In one sub-location alone, there are 100 two-acre farms, which add up to 200 acres of developed cotton. The Government gave the farmers some good seeds, but what will the farmers do with the cotton when it is finally mature? Nobody has told them where they will sell their cotton and how much they will sell it at. So, the farmer is doing some business out of which he does not know whether he will make a profit or a loss.

If you want to do something about an industry, you must be comprehensive. You must start by showing the farmers how they will prepare their farms, where they will get the seeds, other inputs such as pesticides, and finally where they will sell the product and at what price. When I encourage my people to grow cotton, I should be able to tell them that they are likely to benefit from it. Yesterday, I lied to them when I told them that they were likely to benefit from cotton farming, and that its production should be encouraged because there is some opportunity in the USA which they are likely to seize. I knew that there was nobody providing an opportunity for the farmers to sell this cotton, and if they will ever sell it, at what price. There are ten constituencies around the belt surrounding Lake Victoria, which do very well in cotton production. The area from Nyatike to Budalangi in Busia does very well in cotton production. We are ready to do cotton farming, but somebody must tell us where the farmers will sell their cotton once they grow it, and at what price. Our people must be told that there is a business in farming. They should not just farm to benefit middlemen!

With those few remarks, I support.

Dr. Wekesa: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I happen to come from what is generally known as the "granary of this country", that is Trans Nzoia. I must take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister for Agriculture for his new appointment. I am sure that he will do a good job. As a matter of interest, the Minister was promoted to that Ministry while he was visiting Trans Nzoia District. He became the Minister for Agriculture while he was attending an official function in my district. How fitting? I am sure

that we are going to see some new developments with the new Minister.

We have been told many times that this country is an agricultural country. Kenya is not an industrial country. It is not Jamaica where they make millions and millions of dollars from tourism. Since I was a small boy, I have come to understand that Kenya is an agricultural country. But what has happened in the last 20 years? We have moved away from agriculture completely and gone into politics! What this Government does is politics! It does not attend to the most important things. The most important thing in Kenya is agriculture. I have said in this House many times, and I am going to repeat, that I am hoping God will save this country by bringing in a new Government that will recognise that, this is an agricultural country. We only talk about food security. Food security is more important than the other security that you hear about; that is guns and all that! When people are hungry, they will not see those guns. A small country like Japan keeps food reserves for five years. In its stores, it can store food without farming at all, that can last for five years!

But look at what we are doing with our wonderful weather and soil? We just play politics endlessly. Look at the parastatal heads. How can a parastatal chief executive head a financial institution for 20 years? Even the Permanent Secretaries cannot be in one Ministry for 20 years! What is so special about parastatal heads? A parastatal chief executive heading a financial institution has been there for 20 years. The financial institution was taken over from the Kenyatta Government when it was viable. Now, it has ground to zero and the same chief executive is heading it!

Mr. Angwenyi: Who is that?

Dr. Wekesa: Do you want me to name them?

Hon. Members: Yes!

Dr. Wekesa: It is all of them! The Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) is one of them!

Mr. Angwenyi: Give us another one because there are many!

Dr. Wekesa: No! I have got more things to talk about than that! Let us be serious! I am hoping that the Minister for Agriculture, who is a good friend of mine, will have some powers to appoint some parastatal heads, so that we can have a new incentive in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Mr. Minister, we would like you to come up with something new in the Ministry.

When I was in the former Ministry of Agriculture, there was planning! There was a Department of Planning. What has happened to it? I can see some of my colleagues are still there! What has happened to the Department of Planning?

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Order, Dr. Wekesa! You will have five minutes to finish your contribution tomorrow.

Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 11th July, 2001, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.