

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 8th April, 1998

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

FORMULATION OF NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

The Member for Alego (Mr. Oloo-Aringo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of **Mr. Raila**, I wish to give notice of the following Motion:-

THAT, considering the increasing level of crime and its negative impact on growth and development in our nation, this House urges the Government to formulate a national crime prevention strategy with a view to reducing the levels of crime in the Kenyan society.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

EXEMPTION OF BUSINESS FROM PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDER 33

The Minister for Lands and Settlement (Mr. Ngala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Procedural Motion:-

THAT, this House orders that the Business appearing on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order No.33, being a Wednesday Morning, a day allocated for Private Members' Motions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Procedural Motion is prompted by the fact that, when we met yesterday as a House Business Committee, we balloted the Private Members' Motions, and because we need to give notices of Motions, it is necessary that this Procedural Motion is passed to allow and facilitate the continuation of debate on the Presidential Speech. This is a practice which has been practised before and, therefore, because it is for us in the House to agree, I feel hon. Members should accept this Procedural Motion to allow the debate on the Presidential speech to continue.

I beg to move.

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to second the Motion moved by the Leader of Government Business because, today being only one week from the day this House was opened, the Business which is supposed to be transacted on a Wednesday Morning has not yet matured. Hon. Members normally have to bring their Motions, which then have to mature. Because the Motions which were processed yesterday have not yet matured, it is only fair that the House continues debating the Policy Statement made by His Excellency the President so that when the Motions brought forward by the various hon. Members of this House mature, they can be debated adequately and effectively.

Therefore, I beg to second the Motion.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on 31st March, 1998.

(The Minister for Lands and Settlement on 7.4.98)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 7.4.98)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Waithaka Mwangi was on the Floor when we adjourned.

The Member for Kinangop (Mr. Waithaka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish also to thank you again for giving me this opportunity to continue with my contribution to the Policy Statement made by His Excellency the President. Yesterday, I talked about education and security. Today, I want to conclude my contribution by talking about the economy.

In the speech, the President talked about our economy being in a bad state because of the *El Nino* rains. That was passing the buck or making an excuse because he said that we should talk and agree as hon. Members of Parliament. Unless we are able to debate and agree on what is affecting our ailing economy, we may not go very far.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you go to any police station for assistance, you are unlikely to be assisted because of lack of vehicles. You will find that at the police stations, there are about four or five *Mahindra* vehicles but they cannot move because they have all broken down. These *Mahindras* were sub-standard vehicles bought by the Kenya Government while aware of that fact. You cannot convince us, hon. Members, that these vehicles were brought by the *El Nino* phenomenon.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must be able to address ourselves to the problems in our economy and not passing the buck to *El Nino*, the way Adam did when he was asked by God what problem he was experiencing. He blamed it on his wife who in turn said it was the snake and the snake passed the blame to something else. We cannot keep on passing the buck. We cannot attribute the economic woes facing our country to *El Nino*. This is wrong and the problem lies with corruption. Those vehicles were sub-standard and that is why our police force cannot smoothly operate with this kind of transport.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at Njabini Police Station in my constituency, we have four *Mahindra* vehicles but they cannot operate. If one wants the crime officers to visit the scene of an incident, he or she has to provide transport. Those vehicles were brought a long time before the onset of *El Nino*. These are issues affecting our economy. The same case applies to corruption in the police force which the Government says should not be corrupt. But we have first to improve their welfare. For example, a policeman is employed from Turkana District and posted to Kwale District. He has a wife and children but he is allocated one room to share with four other policemen. Even when he is visited by the wife, he has to persevere this agony of being helpless as he goes on with his task of building the nation. Why can we not have a policy where police officers below the rank of an inspector are posted in their home districts, so that they do not have to work in distant areas like Kwale when they come from Kisumu? This will solve the predicament of such officers who have to buy utensils in pairs, one for themselves and the other for their wives back at home because they cannot join them and live in the same congested house. These are the problems that are facing our country and it explains the current economic situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, looking at the salaries of the civil servants, one finds that they do not tally with the rising cost of living. We have the sky-rocketing cost of education which is very expensive. If a district commissioner and other officers are able to pay Kshs120,000 per term for four children and yet their salaries and allowances do not tally with such costs, where do you think they get such money from? They must have stolen money meant for projects like construction of roads to pay school fees for their children. We must be serious with these issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what about the messengers? That is why when you go to these offices, you cannot get files unless you part with something because these people have to live. We must address our issues and know that we have to provide these basic needs. If it is education, it must be free for all so that we do not have people demanding for bribes by making for example, files disappear so that they can be helped to pay school fees for their children. If one gets a salary of Kshs3,000 to Kshs4,000 per month, sometimes I wonder how these people survive when they have to pay house rent, transport and school fees besides food and clothing for their children. We know as policy makers that they are struggling to survive but we know it is difficult to survive on such a meagre income. If this is the case, how do we complain about corruption?.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Karauri): Thank you Sir. I am not making a maiden speech since I have been in this House four terms now. His excellency the President gave a stimulating speech, outlining what the Government ought to do to improve the economy. From the outset, I want to say that if we want to improve the economy of this country, we must depoliticize the country. Day in, day out, year after year, election after election, this country does not seem to settle down to discuss issues pertaining to the economy because we keep on politicizing all issues until the elections come.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my plea to Members from both sides of this House that we should concentrate on matters pertaining to improvement of the welfare of the people of this country and leave politics. For the time being, until we have another election, of course, there are politics that cannot be avoided but we should not do like for instance what is being done by NCEC. They call a meeting and tell the wananchi that they want to discuss the economy with them but the wananchi are not given the opportunity to air their views. Only the NCEC officials will stand up on the podium and tell these people what they want by cheating them. They talk about events and not issues. Instead, they should inform the wananchi that they want to meet with them to dictate to them but not to discuss.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am pleading for the de-politicization of our country so that we can talk on more serious issues. Those in the Opposition are Kenyans. People in Government and the Opposition are Kenyans. We should have positive suggestions on how to improve the economy. It is not even fair to condemn only, but make suggestions as to which way we can best solve the problems facing the country. For instance, I wish to support the Minister for Finance, Mr. Simeon Nyachae, on what he is doing and what he said yesterday in the Press. People who come up with practical solutions on what should be done should be supported. What Mr. Mwai Kibaki said the other day is what should be emulated by other Members of the Opposition, as it is the best way of solving our problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, corruption is real and it is with us. We must admit certain things; that corruption in this country is real and even though it is difficult to end, we must attempt to finish it. The best way to do so is to appear to deal squarely and only with everybody. The culprits of corruption must be punished equally irrespective of their status in society. Corruption takes many forms and that is why we must sensitize our people to change their attitudes. The attitudes of Kenyans have encouraged corruption.

How it started one may not be able to say, but Kenyans can now be told to also change their beliefs. Somebody is an elected Member of Parliament (MPs) and his constituents expect that whenever they visit him he will give them money. When they call him for a Harambee they expect him to raise Kshs100,000 from himself and his friends. That MP, whether he is a Minister or not, will look for an opportunity to steal so that he can prove that he has the money to pay in Harambees and money to give to his constituents. When talking about corruption and dealing equally with offenders we must also educate our people to change their attitude towards leaders. From where do they expect that leader to get the money to give in a Harambee every weekend when he earns a salary of about Kshs20,000? He cannot contribute Kshs100,000 every weekend! Although people may praise you, they are wrong in doing that. We must teach them to change this attitude.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing that I want to say here is that we should translate our words into actions. What we say as leaders must be well thought out and well considered. Once we have spoken we must practise what we say, whether we are in the Opposition or in the Government. We must practise what we say as leaders, so that people can have faith in us. This is so that when we say something people can believe that because it has been said it will be done. Once we say something that we do not do, it erodes our credibility.

I would personally wish to call for the restructuring of the District Development Committees (DDCs). This is because initially, when these DDCs were formed, the idea was to have the people decide their own priorities on development of anything in the District. But the way things are, the DDC chaired by the District Commissioner (DC) who cannot - by the very nature of his being a DC in that area - be a local person. The executive committee comprises of officers of the Government who are heads of their departments in that district. These too, by their very positions, cannot be local people. When we say that the local people are to decide their own priorities, I think that is a misplaced statement. It is not true. The DDC should be restructured. If we must retain it the local people must be included in it so as to be more involved in deciding their priorities in that district.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there would be nothing wrong with every constituency, for instance, in a district to, instead of relying on an MP who may never attend the DDC meetings--- MPs are supposed to attend the DDC meetings but sometimes they may not be able to do so. In any case, even if they attend the DDC meetings the district executive committee, of which MPs are not members, will have already made a programme for the meetings. The tendering system is done by the same executive committee. So, although the MP may attend DDC meetings he may not be so effective because the decision of the committee is not his. This is because the majority

in the committee are not local people. Some of these things must be restructured.

I wish to congratulate Kenya Breweries Limited for sponsoring the Harambee Stars team. Those things that look minor are very great for this country. The name of this country has been promoted through our athletes, footballers, ambassadors and others. The ambassadors do not even earn a good name for this country as much as the athletes, footballers and sportsmen would do if given support. It is on this premise that I wish to thank Kenya Breweries Limited, and urge other private organisations to come forward and sponsor sports. Not everything should be left to the Government because it cannot do everything alone.

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

The Member for Ndia (Mr. Kibicho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I say anything, I wish to thank Ndia constituents for electing me as their MP in 1997.

The Presidential Address did not bring about new matters; it addressed matters which are well known to us. We know in this country that the main problems we face relate to the economy, the Constitution and security. The economy of this country is not being managed by the Opposition parties; it is being managed by the Government. The economy of Kenya is not growing because of mismanagement and corruption. The Opposition side has no means of stopping corruption or managing the economy. You cannot expect the economy in Kenya to grow when interest rates are 38 per cent. It can never grow. It cannot grow when all the senior Government Ministers and senior civil servants are driving expensive cars and spending money on maintenance of those vehicles and also petrol.

An economy cannot grow if it is based on consumption only and not growth. It cannot grow if all the priorities for development are influenced by political considerations. A Minister's constituency may be well developed, not because the projects there will generate national wealth but because that Minister feels that he must satisfy himself by bringing development to his constituents. What I have in mind is this: There are projects in this country which are influenced by mere political considerations. In my Ndia Constituency the construction of a tarmac road was started in 1985. Construction work was to go on from Kagio through Baricho, Kerugoya and Kibirigwi. However, when my constituency was considered as not being friendly to the KANU Government, construction work was stopped. That road passes through a very productive area. In Kirinyaga there are a lot of horticultural crops, coffee and tea. Work on the road was abandoned and the crops now go to waste.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot create wealth if those are our priorities. We must know, as a nation, that wealth created in Nyanza is wealth created for Kenya. We must stop thinking that wealth created in our own districts is what matters. In the Presidential Address we were told that poverty and unemployment are critical issues. We do agree with that but when the Minister for Finance says that he is going to lay off thousands of workers, will he not increase unemployment? But he has no choice. If he continues keeping those people in employment then the Government will continue borrowing from the local money market at the expense of public investment, and the economy will never grow.

Why have we not been told that some of these people will be given an opportunity to become farmers or businessmen? Even if that is the intention of the Government, what proposals has it brought forth, so that those people may have hope? There are the Nyayo Tea Zones which consume Government money. This land should be sub-divided and given to those people who are retiring and are willing to farm. There are people with 10,000 acres of land. Why can the Government not lease or repossess compulsorily some of this land and make it available to our people?

I see a situation where we will be making beautiful speeches like this one, but no action, because people in the Government may say whether the Kenyan economy grows or collapses, it is going to affect us all. We all agree on that, but we are saying, if you can manage it, then manage it.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that you allowed me to make my maiden speech.

The Assistant Minister for Labour (Mr. Ethuro): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to thank the President for his Speech that touched on what I consider the main issues in this country. I disagree with Members who are saying that the Speech was not comprehensive, because the details are left out for this House to work out. Therefore, I think only small issues were being left in this particular stage. I would like to say in my maiden speech that the problem we have now, is that we do not give credit where it is due or give constructive criticisms. I think if we have to uphold the dignity of this House, we all need to appreciate what is good and correct.

I think we should discard the attitude held by some of us that since I come from Turkana, nothing good can come out of Turkana. I would like us to take things as they are and accept the concept that even if we are a minority, we will have our say. Also the majority will have their way. I want to believe that we are all Kenyans regardless of where we come from and where we are sitting in this House. I think every issue is of concern to all of

us. If food production is at the lowest level, that is an issue of concern to me. As a Kenyan, I would imagine that the rest of Kenyans would support me on that particular issue. I, therefore feel that there is need for mutual respect. That is what I am calling for; that we should all be able to give each other a chance.

Last week I felt a little bit unwanted in this House; not me as a person, but as a new Member. Every time we stood up, the old Members tried to molest us. That was a typical Form One kind of issue. I thought that in this House we would get encouragement and support. New Members of the House should get support from the old Members. So, if we want to maintain the dignity of the House, then we should at least not heckle one another.

I want to thank the President for what he said about the Kenya Constitutional Review Commission Act. I believe that some of the issues that need to be addressed will be addressed in that particular Act. One issue that affects all of us is the issue of Trustland and pastoralism. Since that forms the mainstay of our own people, we would like more to be done in this particular area just as we actually do in the agricultural sector since it is the mainstream of the economy.

I would like to address also the issue of the economy of this country. I think we need to realise that some areas of this Republic are still grappling with issues of poverty, disease and ignorance. The very issues that we actually talked about at Independence are the same things that we are still tackling. I think the Government has done its bit. We have friends who have supported us, but those issues have not gone away. No matter how much we wish them away, they are with us and we have to accept that until we have done something about that. I believe that it is not enough for NCEC to hold public rallies to talk about the economy because I do not think those public rallies will help the economy. What we really need is actual action by individuals and Members of whatever group to see what they can do to solve the problems. There are many problems in this country.

I would also like to touch on District Development Committees. We know very well that there is less development in this country as a result of the District focus strategy. I think here the role of the provincial administration becomes extremely crucial. My feelings are that the corruption that we have in this country should at least be controlled, because we want development to reach all corners of this country. I would like the DDC, as the instrument where the rural people can contribute meaningfully to the development of their own areas, to be addressed effectively. I appeal therefore, to the District Commissioners and the rest, that they should make this process extremely transparent and ensure that Members of Parliament are able to attend DDC meetings so that they can actually air the views of their people. All of us should make sure that these Committees are working. The issues that affect us particularly now, include bursaries, medical needs and poor infrastructure. We need to address these issues afresh. I want to thank members of the Government who have at least been able to demonstrate that the Government has the willingness to do something about this. Roads in urban centres are being tarmacked. We are hearing good speeches being made on the improved financial situation in this country. We are also reading about the revenue that had been collected since the Government took certain actions. I appeal to my colleagues on the other side of the House to appreciate the kind of steps that have taken instead of condemning them.

One other issue that particularly affects those of us living along international boundaries is insecurity. We have insecurity internally and across our borders with foreign Governments. I appeal to the government to ensure that we have sufficient security forces patrolling our international borders, so that our people can be able to tap the meagre resources that are available to them and to contribute to the development of their country. I want to thank the Chair for having given me this chance.

The Member for Kanduyi (Mr. Wafula): I would like to take this opportunity in the first place to thank the people of Kanduyi for having elected me to represent them in this House. This is a challenging responsibility and I do hope that my contributions in this House will benefit the people of Kanduyi and Kenyans as a whole. I would like, before making my comments on the Presidential Speech, to highlight a few of the priorities, or the main issues that affect the people of my constituency. Firstly, the people of Kanduyi mainly earn their income from the sugarcane farming. At the moment, cane farmers have not been paid to the tune of about Kshs300 million by Nzoia Sugar Company. We also have overgrown cane which is about 48 months old that should have been harvested at the age of 18 months but at the moment, I would say it has become firewood because you can no longer get sugar out of dry cane.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Nzoia Sugar Company has also been affected by corrupt practices. There has been the issue of underpricing of sugar, which has made the company lose millions of shillings.

*(An hon. Member crossed the
Floor without bowing to the Chair)*

The Member for Bumula (Mr. Sifuna): On a point of order Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to cross the Floor as if he is going to the toilet?

(Laughter)

The Member for Kanduyi (Mr. Wafula): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. He is a new Member and, therefore, he should not be harassed.

The Member for Bumula (Mr. Sifuna): He is being taught and not being harassed.

The Member for Kanduyi (Mr. Wafula): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this situation has occurred because the Government has not put in efforts to alleviate the problem facing the Nzoia Sugar Company. I am saying this because the importation of sugar has not been stopped. In fact, it has been said in this House before, that some hon. Members are involved in importing sugar.

Dr. Kituyi: Hon. Sajjad!

The Member for Kanduyi (Mr. Wafula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has even been mentioned. In fact, the sugar hon. Sajjad imports is duty-free. I want to appeal to the Government to act fast and alleviate the problem facing the cane farmers in my constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other area which I would like to talk about concerns the Presidential Speech. In 1979, while I was at Kibabii High School, His Excellency the President visited Kibabii and promised that Kibabii TTC would be constructed. Since then it is now 19 years but the TTC has not been constructed.

An hon. Member: Ni mwongo tu!

The Member for Kanduyi (Mr. Wafula): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you do not expect the people of Kanduyi, and Bungoma District as a whole, to support the Government if the same Government cheats them for the past 19 years. The issue has been brought before this House, and promises have been made, but nothing has happened. We are angry with the Government for its failure to fulfil promises made. I want to appeal to the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development and the Government for that matter, to act fast and ensure that the construction of Kibabii TTC is started and completed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to talk about the sewage construction in Bungoma Municipal Council which falls under my constituency. If you went to Bungoma town at the moment, you would find human waste flowing along the roads. In fact, many diseases like typhoid and other water-borne diseases are common in Bungoma and many people are dying. We hear that a lot of money has been allocated to the construction of this sewage. It is now 15 years since it started, but it has not been completed. If this Government continues to treat its people like this; for example, it fails to serve its people and provide necessary services, then there is no need for it to be in power.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also appealing to the Government to act, and ensure that this project is completed. On the other hand, I would like to talk about the illegal allocation of plots and land grabbing, which affects the whole country. In Bungoma, even PCs and DCs and their wives have been allocated plots illegally. I will talk about this issue later, substantiate and produce evidence to that effect. A certain DC has allocated himself an acre and his wife half an acre of a prime plot in Bungoma town. This cannot be allowed to continue. If the civil servants who should serve the people are the ones involved in land grabbing, then this only promotes corruption and dents the reputation of the Government. I am sure you will not want to be part of a government whose employees are involved in corrupt practices. I would like to urge the Government to nullify all plots illegally allocated to civil servants and other private developers in Bungoma Municipal Council.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one other area which has been grabbed is the Bungoma airstrip. It has been subdivided and allocated to private developers. If you go there, you will find that the airstrip no longer exists. I am sure that an airstrip is important in terms of development and communication, especially where air transport is concerned. The airstrip is very important and, therefore, it should not have been allocated to private developers. I urge the Government to act and solve this problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about the failure of the Government to provide services within the council. The Ministry of Local Authorities has not been able to provide services to the people. There has been a continued shortage of water in Bungoma town, while health services have collapsed. Likewise, all other Government services in the town are no longer provided. I hear there has been some co-operation talked about within parties. I would particularly talk about FORD(K) which sponsored me. If there is any such co-operation that is benefiting Kenyans, including those of Kanduyi, I have no problem with it. But if it is co-operation between some few individuals, then I am not part of it. That is for those individuals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make my maiden speech.

Thank you.

The Minister for Research and Technology (Mr. Kiptoon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to thank the people of Baringo for having brought me here unopposed. I also take this opportunity to thank his Excellency the President for having stood firm for the last 40 years, rendering his life and time to serve this country. We are proud of that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to comment on the Speech by his Excellency the President, which is actually a challenge to this House. The President has made a general statement that is meant to work out details of making this country a better place for us and our children. I would like to pick on one particular part of the Speech, the part that touches on unity. When we came into this House for the first time during the swearing-in ceremony, some of us were embarrassed and ashamed to find that we had mad men in this House. In fact, I was not sure whether I was not in Mathare Hospital. Fortunately, from what has transpired since last week, I am happy and proud to tell Kenyans that there is hope and future for this country. The unity of purpose and discipline that has been shown by Members since last week goes a long way to encourage our people to work hard in their various ways.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have listened to several Members speak in this House and I am happy that majority of them seem to view this country as a very important part of this earth. We need to develop it. We need to be united to develop this country. There are a few Members who, I am sorry to say, are still living in another world. Yesterday, one speaker alluded that the international community does not have confidence in this Government. The little civics I learnt when I was young say that a government is made up of three parts namely; the Legislature, which is yourself; the Judiciary and the Executive. So, when you say that the international community lacks confidence in this Government, you should be ashamed of yourself. Some Members have been in this House for the last five years while others have been here for a longer period, but the best they have done is to continue tarnishing the name of this country. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

(Applause)

If you went to school and learnt something, to put that something into use for the good of this country, you should make positive suggestions and not just continue criticising the Government. I am happy at this juncture to, at least, commend one of my classmates, Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o because, for all the time he has been in this House, I have never heard him talk of his tribe. I even do not know his tribe! He has stood as a true Kenyan. I would like all of you to emulate him; to emulate the fact that he has not talked of himself as being of this or that tribe all along. Even when it came to the euphoria of teaming up into tribal clusters in the last general elections, he stood out with his neck and actually lost because he was standing on a matter of principle. I would commend him for that. However, there are some Members who have specialised in negative propaganda against this country, especially touching on some communities. Those of us who come from one particular community, have suffered for a very long time for being too gentle. We have been so gentle, that we have now been abused. One hon. Member has, in the past, referred to my community as being made up of people who are hazardous, backward, primitive and whatever adjectives that came into his mind. The same Member shared with me the tunnel at the University of Nairobi when we were young. He was reading the Penguin books while I was doing Mathematics and Engineering. I wonder when he became more intelligent and more educated than I was. But he abused my community across the board.

(Applause)

If there is any defect in our education, then it applies to all communities equally. If there is any limitation in our knowledge, that also applies across the board. I, therefore, urge hon. Members to look at yourselves as sons and daughters of the one country; the Kenya that you have all agreed is bedeviled by corruption. I do agree that there is corruption, and that we are all corrupt. We need to repent and look at ourselves with a view to working out ways---

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

(Members gestured at hon. Sifuna to sit down)

The Minister for Research and Technology (Mr. Kiptoon): Sorry, I am not supposed to be interrupted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker has agreed with me that we are all corrupt and unless we accept our sins, there is no way we can repent. The beginning of repentance is to accept that you have sinned. So, one of the sins that we have committed as a country is that we have allowed ourselves to be corrupt. I will give you an example. You, as a country, have encouraged the lazy people to get favours. You have given plots and other favours to those who do not deserve them such that, at the moment, those who have the wealth are not the hard working lot of Kenyans. You have encouraged laziness by encouraging the loiterers to be wealthy to the detriment of the hard working lot. This is what has discouraged our country. For the last 40 years, since Independence, we have been dishing out land left and right to the lazy people so that now all our wealth is in the hands of the lazy people. It is time we made an about-turn, recognised merits and helped the hard working Kenyans. These hard-workers are the farmers and the sincere Kenyans who toil day and night to feed this nation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the Members here have specialised in talking, and do not seem to know that there are people who really sweat in the field to provide the bread and butter that we eat in the evening. Our system has tended to forget these people and, instead, encourage those who move around looking for unoccupied plots, commissions and many other things. Whether you are a lawyer or anybody else and you keep on chasing after the ambulance, what exactly are you doing for this country? You are doing nothing, yet at the end of the day you choose whether to eat rice, meat or drink milk. The farmer has no choice but to eat *sukumawiki* and *ugali* every evening because he is not recognised by the system that we have in place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, allow me to touch on the reforms that we are undergoing at the moment. We do have reforms in the economic and political fields, and I am happy that His excellency the President stated that we are all free to participate to bring in our own ideas. As far as I know, there is nobody in this country who is not represented in this House. Therefore, we may talk of discussing these issues knowing that every Kenyan is represented in this House and, therefore, whatever views Members will present in this House, will be all-inclusive. When people talk of "all-inclusiveness", I fail to understand what they are talking about. If this House is not all-inclusive, then tell me one Kenyan who is not represented so that we may give him a chance to be represented. I am saying so because there are also those who have specialised in making noise outside this House, suggesting that they are not represented in this House.

I would want to assure Kenyans that whatever is passed in this House represents what Kenyans want. We are free to say what we want, make suggestions, argue and disagree, but all in all, we shall be talking about what Kenyans want. Therefore, it is time that other people outside this House stopped considering themselves to be more representative than the Members of this House. It is time that this House was respected; that we in this House became more of Kenyans so that we argue and discuss issues positively for the sake of this country.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Member for Mbita (Mr. Kajwang): Thank very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for allowing me to make my maiden speech. My name is Otieno Kajwang, Member for Mbita.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have looked at the President's Speech very keenly and found that the heart of it is on poverty and unemployment in this country. What the President did not say is why there is so much of poverty and unemployment in the country when KANU has been governing since 1963, uninterrupted.

The President did not tell us why we seem to be doing so badly, 35 years since Independence, when the KANU Government has been in power uninterrupted. So, we should not be told to do something about poverty and unemployment without being told why we are where we are.

I would like to suggest some reasons why we are where we are, and that is where we must start from. First, it is not the *El Nino*. The *El Nino* is an excuse and not a reason. Somebody must find a good reason for it. One of the reasons is wanton uncontrolled expenditure on white elephant projects in this country. That is one of the ways in which public funds have been drained in this country without control and approval of Parliament. These have drained our resources.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, corruption is the use of a public office for private profits. That is the way I understand it. Hon. Members on the KANU bench must have at one time or another used the public offices to make private profits. This is where corruption starts. It does not start with a policeman being bribed with Kshs20. Corruption starts with somebody using his office to make profits which they ought not to have made; using influence to rape this country. Corruption starts at the head and not the bottom. A fish rots from the top and not the tail. I know what I am talking about since I come from the lake region.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk of tax evasion, we are not talking about somebody importing a few glasses and evasion tax. We are talking of tax evaders to the tune of Kshs100 million on sugar imports so that SONY and Nzoia Sugar companies can collapse. They make a lot of money and then come here and tell us to fix this problem. How can we fix it when you have destroyed the country?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country was run down most in 1992. This is because of the scare that

KANU was going to lose. A lot of money was pumped into the economy. I wonder where it was stolen from. But I know some of it was from Treasury and some was printed. Immediately after the elections, inflation rose to a very high level. For example, the US dollar rose from Kshs23 to Kshs70. This is how we damaged our economy in 1992. Then in 1993 we started mopping up the excess liquidity. So, we had to sell our Treasury Bills at 70 per cent interest so that we could mop excess liquidity. As we did that, we increased our domestic debt to an unmanageable level. We cannot run the economy like this. I heard hon. Nyachae talking about it. It is sad that now he cannot manage the domestic debt which was created by two to three people in 1992, so that KANU could win. Now KANU cannot manage to run the economy, they are telling us to understand since every one is poor. How do we help you to fix what you have damaged? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Treasury Bills are now being sold at an interest rate of 27 per cent. The banks find it too easy to buy Treasury Bills because they do not have to suffer any unpredictability of one not paying. So, you do not have to give anybody any money. You simply collect somebody's few shillings, buy Treasury Bills and make money easily. As a result, there is no money going back to the economy to help this country. All the money goes into Treasury Bills and the banks make super profits. One bank chief executive said: "Gentlemen, this is not profit; this is a windfall! Clap for me".

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a windfall. They have made that windfall since 1992 up to 1997. It is now 1998 and they will make other windfalls, not because they are trading, but because they are buying Treasury Bills with little money collected from the farmers, teachers and everybody else. They make money while sitting down. So, I am asking hon. Nyachae to wake up. He should use the Central Bank Act, Section 39, which allows him to restrict interest rates to 15 per cent, and then tell the banks that when they lend money, they should do it at a certain interest rate. They cannot take our money at 15 per cent interest rate and lend it at 39 per cent. That way, we are destroying this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, then there is this issue of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) and liberalization. When we import sugar, we destroy our sugar industry. The same applies to milk and all other commodities that we produce locally. Sometimes no duty is levied. We even import beer and yet we have enough beer here. We import whisky and yet we have enough chang'aa here. We are destroying this economy just because some Americans have come here and told us to liberalise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not like President Bill Clinton's view when he came here and said that there is a legislation which they have already passed called The African Growth and Opportunity Act. This is imperialism. What he is simply saying is that we open up our markets and they bring in their goods all in the name of trade and not aid. How do we open up our country for him to bring in anything he likes? Right now, East Africa Industries (EAI) is collapsing. The firms of Mr. Chandaria, which make iron sheets and sufurias, are collapsing. We are sending many local companies under because we are importing commodities we do not need to import in this country. We cannot just liberalise freely like that. We do not have to listen to the IMF every time. Tell them that there are certain areas where we are not going to liberalise. If we have to liberalise, then we raise duty to make importation uneconomical and unprofitable. That is the only way to help this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have neglected agriculture and other industries because we do not protect them. I would like make a few recommendations on cutting down public expenditure, starting with the Office of the President. The President must dissolve all tribal districts which were created recently. They are a drain to our economy. If we dissolve the districts, divisions, locations and sub-locations, we would have cut down public expenditure by half. The county councils, municipal councils and urban councils created recently for political reasons should be dissolved. I would like to see South Nyanza County Council once again and not this issue of having Suba, Migori and Karachuonyo. These are unviable councils wasting our resources. I would also like to see the armed forces cut down by half. People should not just be let to sit in barracks to eat a lot of meat while doing nothing. We are not at war and we are not going to have any war. So, the armed forces should be cut down by half and the rest told to go home and do something else. We should also cut down on the secret police who used to be very useful when there was no Opposition. But now, they do not have to bother because this is a democratic country.

This is a democracy. We are now talking to the Government, we are talking to the Ministers--- We do not need these guys listening to us. Take them home! Reduce the inmates in prisons! There are a lot of deaths, and we are wasting money on medicine, *et cetera*. We should think about our cotton, sugar and fish industries

The Member for Lugari (Mr. Jirongo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been listening very keenly as hon. Members made their contributions to this Presidential Address. I did pick up two very important issues yesterday when Prof. Anyang'-Nyong'o mentioned about efficiency and effectiveness in our Civil Service. I think

all of us are looking mostly for popular topics to discuss, but the major problem which, I feel, faces this country is empowerment at the management level. Permanent Secretaries in this country are just as good as clerical officers. Even Ministers in this country will hardly come up with their own initiatives because they are not empowered. It is going to be very difficult. You can manage that much, but if you empower the Permanent Secretary who is the accounting officer, and allow him to set goals for his Ministry; and if you give him the freedom to perform, I believe we have very capable Kenyans in the Civil Service who will perform. The problem we have is control; such that a Permanent Secretary or a Minister is safer doing nothing. Unless we empower those in the Public Service to be free to make decisions, set targets and work freely to attain those targets; we might talk in this House for five years about corruption, bad roads and many other things, but we will not get anywhere. An individual can control that much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country has grown in population. The system of management at the moment could have worked in 1963, but with the increased population, we need to have trust. The only reason I will demand to have absolute control is because I do not trust those that work with me. If you do not trust those you work with, it means you must constantly check on what they are doing. This has come in form of creating insecurity at the organisational level and the interest at the organisational level is not in line with the interest of the public.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all of us understand that we came up with a levy on fuel recently, the which was meant to be spent to improve our roads. But this money does not go to the roads. If we used this money specifically for the maintenance of roads in this country, we would, for instance, reduce the importation of spare parts. The public sector and the Civil Service will have more man hours at their offices and we will have reduced traffic jams. But this money is not used for that purpose. It is not even spent on the areas that are most productive. This borders on misallocation and misdirection of the resources of the country. I think the President was open enough in his Speech to call on all of us to come up with proposals. I think if we shy away from pointing out the major problems in the organisation of the Government, then we will not be helpful to the President and we will not be helpful to his Speech. First and foremost, if the system as it is cannot do it, somebody somewhere must find a way of giving power to the civil servant to do his work as he is supposed to do it. That somebody can only be this august House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we can talk repeatedly about poverty because we know the common Kenyan knows that he is poor and even most of us are feeling the pain of the poor economy of this country. But we are not going to get anywhere if we do not come up with very serious, tangible and actionable proposals, and clearly set out a target of what we want to do and how. The problems of this country did not start yesterday. They started with a caste mentality, where certain people believe that if you have it, then they do not have it. So, the only way they will have it is to make sure that you do not have it. That saw the collapse of numerous banks, the closure of numerous businesses by the African entrepreneur in this country, not because the African entrepreneur was incapable, but because somebody else felt that if we have it, he will not have it. This middle class or caste mentality, coupled with lack of trust in anybody who works with you, has compounded itself into the current problem. This House has to come out and find out how the public servant shall be empowered to make decisions and be given targets to meet and deliver. Thank you.

Nominated Member (Dr. Leakey): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise today to participate in this debate and, as you may have noticed, I rose with some difficulty. I rise specifically not so much because of the content of the President's Speech, but because as you may have noticed recently, I am one of those who are disabled.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say at the outset that I think if we have to be an Eighth Parliament that has compassion about our country, one of the first things we should do is to recognise that the disabled, of whom there are close to a million within our nation, need to be given more consideration than they are. On the occasion of the State Opening of this Parliament, I came on a wheelchair partly to have the experience. It was impossible for me to get into the House, it was impossible for me to get out of the House, it was impossible for me to join the hon. Members at lunch and it was impossible for me to join the Head of State at the party because of the physical obstacles that exist in this House for the disabled. Something should be done and it is beholden on all of us, on both sides of the House, to make sure that this matter is addressed. It should be addressed not just in the House. The disabled of Kenya definitely have been sidelined and they must be given more consideration. It may be of interest to Members sitting opposite as well as those behind me to know that I was associated with the initiation of the National Fund for the Disabled. When I ceased being a public employee; when I resigned my former job, despite having served that Trust for 15 years, I was kicked off the Board because of political consideration, despite the fact that I was disabled and a founding trustee. That is what is wrong with our country. Everything that is being done has a political overtone. If we are to move the country forward, we must address it not only within the House. I believe there is some sincerity within the House, but it must go beyond the

House and we must, as several hon. Members on the Government side have already indicated, recognise that the culture of change must go into the Civil Service and the administration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it must go to the DCs, the PCs and all others. They must go to those institutions which they are appointed to because they are competent. They should not be protected because of where they come from. The incompetence and the mismanagement of this country is a direct result of the system of patronage and political protection.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Presidential Speech underlines the need to work together. What we should do, in my opinion, is to recognize the fact that the people of Kenya must be given reasonable hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel. For there to be hope, there has to be trust. Trust will come from co-operation. It is not enough for the Government to concede a phrase in a Procedural Motion and leave this august House saying we have co-operated with the Opposition. We have to co-operate and recognize that the truth must come out about how this country is being run. One hon. Member talked of land grabbing in Bungoma. In the issue of *The Kenya Gazette* which I found in my pigeon-hole yesterday evening, there is reference to the de-gazettement of the Tiwi-Kaya, a piece of land traditionally owned by the Digo. It was gazetted by the Government for a good reason but it was de-gazetted last week by the hon. Minister for National Heritage. Was it done in the interest of the people of Kenya or was it done because of greed on the part of a few individuals who stand to gain in this? This is an issue which should be addressed adequately.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the same issue of *The Kenya Gazette*, I read of a legal notice to adjust the boundaries of the Ngong Forest. Are those boundaries being adjusted because of a national interest or are they being adjusted because somebody has grabbed the land and the Minister has conceded to this because of pressure from somewhere else? This is where we must start. We have to go beyond the House and we have to tell the truth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, other Members of Parliament, who are more eloquent than myself, have addressed the issue of the ailing economy. We will not get investment from our own people, let alone from outsiders, if they do not believe that there is a moment in this country when people can sit down and put Kenya's interest first. This is where the buck stops on that side of the House. Few in the Government have taken the responsibility to govern. If you cannot, then do what you should do; resign and let those who can, govern.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that there is anxiety on both sides of the House, but I equally believe that if we are to deal with corruption as we have talked; and if we have to put the economy on its feet and create jobs, there must be accountability. It is good talking about the tragedy of the 26 girls who died but the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development allowed the dormitory to exist where there were no fire extinguishers. How many dormitories exist today where a similar tragedy could happen just like that? The Minister for Education and Human Resource Development is accountable to us solely for this issue. It does not take money but competence to ensure that the right people are doing the job. That is the challenge and if you cannot do it, then get out!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say that we have allowed our environment to collapse. We are pouring chemicals into our rivers and the lakes to the extent that it will cause genetic disorders for generations to come. We are creating problems for our people by allowing gases and chemicals to pollute the air that we breathe. The cancer that we will have to pay for in this country for generations to come is derived from the total incompetence of the present Government, in my humble opinion. We are losing our forests and yet we have forest guards. The trees have been cut down and the forests are in a mess. We have to restore the institutions of this country which were once the pride of Africa.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Leader of Government Business was at one time the Minister for Tourism. He knows how difficult it is to create confidence and we will not create confidence by saying "everything is fine"; we will do it by recognizing our problems and making the industry work again.

In my submission, the Presidential Speech touched on important issues. The question is: Was there sincerity and is there the will to do what is to be done? Constitutional reform which has been alluded to is not the issue necessarily. It is a way to provide checks and balances. That is why we want constitutional reforms and that is why we want to create an environment where business can thrive. If the Government has to lay off the Civil Service by 20 per cent, they must know that there will be financial cushioning to let them land on a thousand new businesses. We must be a House that is compassionate not only to ourselves but also to our country.

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

The Member for Chagamwe (Mr. Kajembe): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Presidential Address was a guidance to this House and the nation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about an ailing economy in this country. We should also talk about what has brought about this situation. In 1963, the Kenya Shilling was at par with the rest of the East

African countries. Today, a dollar is equivalent to Kshs60 but when we compare it to the currencies of the neighbouring countries, we will see that in one of the countries, it is equivalent to Kshs600 while it is equivalent to Kshs1,000 in another country. This shows that we are still much better than our neighbours. The economy of this country is ailing because some leaders in this country, for example, the NCEC, have caused fear among investors by highlighting instances of corruption and insecurity in the newspapers. After doing so, they go to dine with ambassadors in big hotels here in Nairobi. They even travel to foreign capitals to go and smear the name of this country. They do this because they are power-hungry. I wish to tell them that KANU is there to rule. The issue of corruption has become like a song. We should address ourselves to facts. One officer of the Government may be corrupt but it is not the total Government leadership. It must be understood that President Moi is doing his job well as a President and he cannot do the job of a district commissioner or a provincial commissioner.

The President cannot do the job of the provincial commissioner, district commissioner or the district officer for that matter. We have heard a lot about insecurity from leaders who go to London every morning and evening, and who meet ambassadors in Nairobi every evening for dinner. They are the ones who contributed to the ailing economy of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention a few things concerning my Changamwe Constituency. We have two pipes and service teams funded by the World Bank in collaboration with the Kenya Government and the Mombasa Municipal Council. Those who have been allocated plots in the project areas now live in confusion.

This is because, they have an agreement with the Mombasa Municipal Council. The National Housing Corporation (NHC) has gone to the allottees in Chaani and Mikindani and told them that the plot charges should be paid directly to them. The agreement is between the allottees and the Mombasa Municipal Council. The NHC should stop going directly to the allottees in these project areas. Being the representative of these people, I would like to say that, these allottees will pay their charges directly to the Mombasa Municipal Council. The NHC should pull out of this arrangement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in tea and coffee-growing areas, there is cess which is given to the local authorities, so as to run them. In Mombasa, we do not grow tea or coffee, but we have the port. The port generates 40 per cent of the total revenue in this country. Time will come when I will bring a Motion to this House to seek that a certain percentage of the revenue collected at the port goes to the Mombasa Municipal Council to repair roads, hospitals and other services. It is a very sad affair that travelling from Nairobi to Mombasa is very difficult. It is a very bad road. Something must be done to refurbish the Mombasa-Nairobi Highway.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, land allocation has been so intense that the locals in my Constituency have nowhere to live. They have been pushed out. Allocations of land in Miritini should be halted to allow the local people to live peacefully. At the Changamwe Housing Estate in Mombasa, open spaces, road reserves and six plots have been allocated. It is too bad! I will take time and see the Minister for Local Authorities to ensure that those allocations are nullified. This is because they have become a hazard to the people in that area.

Let us talk the truth. For the Kenyan economy to grow, we need to work together with the hon. Members of the Opposition. We must be honest to our country. We must not speak in this august House about collective responsibility, and in the evening, go to ambassadors to tell them that there is corruption. I think that is not fair. I was impressed by hon. Kajwang' when he said that he is not happy with President Clinton of America. I think that is a very good statement. The West has campaigned so much for the downfall of the Kenya Government. Kenyans want the KANU Government and President Moi to continue ruling this country. Today, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and donors have stopped giving money and grants to this country. This has no merit at all. It is non-political. But it is because of the propaganda that has been going on with the other leaders, especially the hon. Members from the Opposition. If we want to see Kenya growing economically, and tourism doing well, we must have a collective responsibility to rehabilitate this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so many hotels at the Coast have been closed down. That is not harming members of KANU or its supporters only, but it is a problem for every Kenyan. When an hon. Member said that there is no employment, where shall we get employment if hon. Members of the Opposition are the ones who globe-trot and tell ambassadors not to give Kenya aid, and not to invest in Kenya? I think we should give our people hope.

The Member for Machakos Town (Mr. Kikuyu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give my views on the Speech given by the President when he was officially opening this House.

As per expectations of many Kenyans, the President failed in his exposition of the Government policy in that Kenyans were expecting him to show us the way, and how the Government wanted us to conduct the affairs of the nation, so that we can remove them from the quagmire of economic and political instability. This way, we are

in for a better future.

Here, he just said, "can we join together and give our views on how to develop this nation". For the last 35 years that KANU has been in power in this nation, they have never asked for the views of the Opposition. First, it was KADU which was wooed to join them. Secondly, it was the APP which was wooed to join them. Then it was Odinga of the KPU whom they detained. Every other time, it has been KANU killing the Opposition.

Today, they are asking the Opposition to tell them what to do to save this nation. We want to tell KANU that if it is short of ideas on how to run this nation, they should resign honourably, and give the chance to the Opposition, so that we can express our leadership qualities, which they have been stepping on all through.

It is regrettable when you get the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development standing here just to praise and sing on the President's Policy Speech, when he is actually telling us nothing about the education policies of this nation. All the Ministers send their children to private academic schools and abroad. They have left our children to go through the 8-4-4 system, which they know is useless. They sit in the Cabinet and say, "let them continue with the 8-4-4 system".

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they say that let our children go to Oxford and Harvard so that they can come and manage these poor people. For how long can we allow a nation to be run on two parallel lines, when we have a population of two billionaires within a population of 30 million beggars? I do not believe in that. If we continue like this, we may not see this country to prosper as we have been expecting. The Government has formulated policies saying that we are going to be industrialised by the 2020, yet no hon. Members from the Government side who have spoken here have said how we are going to achieve that. They are always talking about imposing taxes on the already overtaxed Kenyans. The burden is too heavy to bear. You are pushing us too much to the wall. It may come a time when we cannot go further against the wall. We do not want this country to sink, we want to save this nation and it is for the Government to act urgently and come up with solutions - not overtaxing and laying off workers. This cannot work because as long as the money you are collecting ends up in the pockets of a few and you do not deliver the services, you are doing nothing. We Kenyans are ready to be taxed as heavily as the Government may want, but can we get the services? Why do you tax us and when we go to the hospital, we find no medicine? Why do you tax us and our children do not have exercise books nor chalk? Why do you tax us and there are no road in the country, the infrastructures have decayed totally? Do you tax us just to feed stomachs of about 10,000 people?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should be clear in its policy on how they want the economy of the this nation to be run. It does not make sense to sack a few subchiefs, a few secretaries or subordinate staff in the Ministries when one Minister is having six limousine cars at his disposal. The moment a poor person becomes a "minister," the following day his wife is also a "minister," his child is a "minister," and the servant is a "minister." They have to be carried in Government Volvos. Why?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even a district commissioner needs an askari to guard him. The other day we had the Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development, Prof. Saitoti, with a fleet of cars running around him. Prof. Saitoti has done nothing wrong to this nation. Now he is not the Vice-President and he is not guarded and nobody has killed him. Why do you need to be guarded; wasting Government money and property for no effective reason? And then you come here and say that the economy is running down. It is the Government which is running the economy down. Kenyans do not have any power to waive customs duty or any tax to any trader in this country; it is the Government which waives it and then the same Government, after waiving billions and billions of shillings of duty, comes and says "the economy is bad;" "can the Opposition come around and we see what to do about it?" What is all this? You simply come up and surrender your responsibilities!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a question of the Government getting clear on its policies on what they want and not arbitral policies. The Ministry of Water Resources has been running water very properly until somebody somewhere in the Government; a thief who wanted to steal money I do not want to use the word "thief" because it is unparliamentary; I had better say a "corrupt person" started what we call "Kenya Water Pipeline Corporation" which is delivering no water any where, especially after the Italian Government funded the Nol Turesh Water Project from Kilimanjaro to Machakos, Athi River and Kajiado. It does not matter where it was going, there is no drop of water in Machakos Town; if you sleep there, you cannot get water to wash your body. Women have tasks of carrying debes on their backs. What is the Water Pipeline Corporation for? Is it not duplication of services? We have the Ministry of Water Resources and the Kenya Water Pipeline Corporation. Can the Government not cancel one and have the other working? The Government must show us its priorities rather than continue misinforming us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the priorities within the Government, including these utterances of saying that without a policy, let the coffee cess go back to the farmers and the councils are left without money to make roads.

The cess money is with the farmers and they do not have bulldozers. The money is there all right but how will they make the roads? **[The Member for Machakos Town]**

The Government should sit and give us a clear policy on how they want this country to be run. When there are tribal clashes, it is genocide baptised as tribal clashes. We do not want KANU to leave a legacy of Kenya that was like Rwanda or Burundi. We want you to leave a legacy of a united nation where the efforts of an individual are rewarded and a person is paid for the work he does; what he can contribute towards nation-building, and not because of ethnic, tribal, regional, racial or religious background. We do not want people being supported by patronage when they do nothing. We have heads of parastatals in this country who have killed the most flourishing parastatals which could have given this country money, and after they have killed one, they are moved to another and indefinitely killing one after another by stealing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, we are telling the KANU Government to be frank on what they want Kenyans to do and not to cheat them.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Minister for Labour (Mr. Nguvu): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this important Motion. First, I would like to congratulate you and the Speaker, for having been elected to that appointment and I also thank the people of Kangundo for having elected me as their Member of Parliament. They are the most important people for they made me to be here today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been talking here on this very important Motion on the Presidential Speech, which gave us a lot of information as to what direction Kenyans should take for the future and what we should do for the future of the people of this country. The President was very clear in his message to all Kenyans to face the future together as a united people, because without unity there is very little that we can do. I know there has been a lot of allegations against the Government; allegations which are meant to distort the image of our Government which has done so much for this country since Independence.

Some of the hon. Members in the Opposition have been in this Government for many years. They have served in various Ministries and parastatals. They have done almost everything that this side is doing at the moment. They cannot tell us that they have been upright in all their dealings. It cannot be true. Some of the things we are talking against today are the things which were done by our opponents on the opposite side. It is my hope that we came to the Eighth Parliament to discuss issues and find solutions to some of the problems which have beset us. These problems are not just from the Government, but they are from all of us. We have all contributed to what we are today in one way or another. So, they cannot claim to be clean in everything they have been doing in this country. We have a responsibility to leave Kenya a better country than we found. This is very important.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think this Government has been pushed too far by the Opposition. Members of the Opposition and lobby groups have pushed the Government on matters which they know very well are not true. They have been accusing the Government of atrocities in the Rift Valley Province and other places. They have accused it of corruption, as if corruption is only a Kenyan vocabulary. Corruption is a two-way traffic and it is not only confined to Kenya, but all over the world. It is practised by Members of the Opposition and other people. We should ask ourselves: What are we going to do to eradicate corruption? We have a responsibility to eradicate corruption. We cannot stop it completely; it is not possible. It has never been stopped anywhere in the world. That is a fact and I am sure we all know that corruption has been there and will be there as long as human beings are there. I do not condone corruption because I have never been involved in corruption. I know that, that fact cannot be clear to some of these hon. Members who talk about corruption every now and then.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another problem that has befallen this country is that of print media. There are some magazines and newspapers which are all over the streets which malign our leaders. They peddle false accusations with an aim of creating ill-feelings among Kenyans. All Kenyans must live in peace with each other. We must learn to live in peace with each other. Keeping bitterness in our hearts and spreading malicious propaganda, just like some of the hon. Members have been doing, will not help. We want to live in peace with each other and to do so we have to talk, for the benefit of this country. Why do we want peace with each other? If you keep bitterness in your heart, you are not likely to solve anything. We want Kenyans to live together by doing away with any ill-feelings which may have been created in the past.

We know that bad things have happened in Rwanda. I went to Rwanda sometime in 1992 and I did not think the Rwandese had any problem at all because they were living happily. But only after a few years, there was a big problem. I want to advise my colleagues in the Opposition and all the leaders of this country not to harbour bitterness. If we do that we never know what is likely to happen tomorrow. We want our children to have good expectations for the future. They must have something to be proud of in the future. It is up to us here to do that by discussing our problems in this august House. We have been brought here by our people from various constituencies to serve them, not to fight. We are elders who are supposed to be respected and we must also respect

ourselves.

We must not speak as if we are living in a world of problems. The devil should not be given an opportunity to rule this country. We must stop him from entering into this House so that we co-exist in peace with each other. We must support our leaders. There are some leaders who abuse old people as if one day they will not be old. They also accuse other people of crimes they cannot prove, as if they will not be leaders tomorrow. They even tell us to resign and that they will be better leaders of tomorrow. Why did they not provide this good leadership when they were there? They have served the Government in various capacities and they should have provided that kind of leadership for us to emulate. We must join hands for the benefit of this nation. This is not a one-way traffic leadership, but the leadership of this country belongs to all of us. That is why we were elected to lead this country and to help it grow economically and politically. We cannot say that we are not held responsible for whatever is happening here. So, let us all unite and support the current regime. Let us support President Moi. He has done his best under very difficult conditions and some of these conditions have been caused by some of our leaders for lack of respect and recognition.

We must recognise our leaders, support them and unite Kenyans.

The Member for Bumula (Mr. Sifuna): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to talk on this Presidential Speech.

The problem that we have in this country is not created by the common man; it is created by this august House and other leaders in various Ministries. We, people in the Opposition, are not at war with the KANU Government. We are simply trying to tell them to adjust and behave as true Kenyans. When we point out the mistakes that the KANU Government is committing, we do not quarrel. We are just telling them exactly where they are going wrong and the Opposition must be accepted. Even in Heaven God has some opposition in the name of the devil who is ever trying to check what God is doing. Even married men have opposition in their houses in the names of their wives. They check and find out what they are doing. You cannot just go and come back anytime that you feel like just because you are a man.

Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, therefore, I am appealing to my brothers on the KANU side to remove the virus of corruption from their blood. You will never be taught how to see and that is why even when a disabled person goes to the stadium he tries to point out the player who is not playing well for his team. When we, in the Opposition, tell the KANU Government that they are doing something wrong, they should try to adjust. They should not assume that we are just pinpointing mistakes which they are not making. We are fully prepared to co-operate with the Government, if they are committed for co-operation. There was one Member of Parliament who said in his maiden speech that all of us are corrupt. Let me remind him that I, in particular, and all Members from FORD(K), are not corrupt. It is the KANU Government that is corrupt.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

That is why the whole world knows that the KANU Government is corrupt and to prove that, one day when the Opposition will take over the Government, we shall welcome their views and we shall correct where they have gone wrong. However, I can promise that we shall never be corrupt the way they are.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been talking about what the Minister for Finance, Mr. Simeon Nyachae said. The other day he said that he was contemplating slashing the salaries of civil servants by 20 per cent because he does not know why we do not have money in this country. Let him tell his people to wake up and collect revenue and taxes from *Wahindi* who are looting the economy of this country and not the small common man on the streets. Do not over-tax the common man. Let him live in peace. Why should we complain of having no money and yet we are creating so many headquarters on *Harambee* basis all over the country? By so doing, we are occasioning further expenditure on the Treasury. This is because we shall have to employ the new District Commissioners. Even if one was a district officer and you have to promote him, so that he can earn the salary of a district commissioner. The same should apply to office messengers, policemen and everybody. Why should we create so many districts? A mwananchi does not want a district commissioner at his doorstep. All that the mwananchi wants is to have proper standards of living and if the mwananchi is rich, even if they say that the district commissioner is in London, he will just fly over there because he has got the means. But what will happen if the district commissioner is at your doorstep and yet you cannot even pay ten shillings to buy a stamp or anything else at the district headquarters?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the KANU Government, and Ministers in particular, have been

nicknamed "Nairobi flies." They are very dangerous to the economy of this country. So, when they complain and yet they are the ones who are creating problems, what do you want us to do? Wake up, you, "Nairobi flies!"

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, coming to the Ministry of Local Authorities, it is high time that the chief officers of various local authorities earned their salaries directly from the central Government rather than leaving this problem to the various local authorities. These chief officers must be transferred from time to time. There are some clerks and treasurers in Bungoma Municipality and Bungoma County Council who have been there for the last 15 years and have never been transferred. Therefore, it is high time that the Minister for Local Authorities did something to make sure that these officers rotate. They should not be permanent. Even we, after five years, are asked to go back and seek mandate for re-election to come to this House from wananchi. Why should they be permanent in one station for more than 15 to 20 years? That is one way of creating corruption in those Local Authorities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) should try and get more money in order to pay various teachers and particularly our children who are being trained in various private teacher training colleges. When you give them permits to enter private teacher training colleges and you do not want to employ them and yet these trainees are Kenyans just like any other Kenyan and they are even more qualified than those in various Government teacher training colleges--- So, the Ministry of Education should do something on this issue.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, at one time we had the Nyayo Motor Corporation. The Government spent a lot of billions of money on this particular project and to date nothing has come up from this project. What is happening? This is one area where the Minister for Finance or the Minister for Commerce should come up and address the issue. Why should we pump billions and billions of our money in such a project and yet we are not getting anything from it? That is why we say that we are spending money where it is not required.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we come to the recruitment of officers to the army, there is a tendency to find that the army officers will travel all over the country and select some few young men but after being admitted at college, those very recruits are returned home after one or two months. However, I have never seen those recruiting officers coming back for replacements to ensure the quota system for that particular district is maintained. You will find that they replace those children with their own sons and daughters. Something must be done on that line. There is no point of going to Bungoma and select four to five boys as cadet officers and then after two to three months, the same boys are returned back by the recruiting officers who will never go back for the replacement at all. If that quota was for Bungoma district, then they must look for replacements within Bungoma, Kakamega, Vihiga *et cetera*. They should not replace these officers with people from one particular district or tribe and then they tell us that they are not tribalists. No! They are tribalists. Particularly, those people in power are tribalists. Seeing is believing and we have seen it and it is high time they showed us a good example that in future when children from any given district are selected, and if by any chance they are returned back, they must go back and select others afresh from the same district and not from Kabartonjo.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been talking about unemployment---

The Assistant Minister for Energy (Mr. Manga): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this very important Motion.

I will start by congratulating all hon. Members who were elected or nominated to this august House. I know it was not a very easy exercise for one to win an election. In the same breath, I would also like to congratulate the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for being elected in their respective posts.

Having said that, I want to discuss the Presidential speech which was delivered during the official opening of Parliament. I would like to start by highlighting a few points which the President brought up. First of all, the President talked about peace. Peace is a very important thing in any community. We know that a few months ago, some parts of our country experienced problems because of lack of peace. People have been blaming each other over who started the clashes immediately after the general election. The President assured the nation that, the Government will not hesitate to take action against anybody who attempts to disrupt peace in this country. We all know that the Government did what it could to bring peace back to those areas. I would like to thank all those who participated, including hon. Members of Parliament, who worked actively and very hard to make sure that peace was restored. I would also like to thank the security men who worked day and night to make sure that peace prevailed. Peace is a very important thing in order for us to progress. Whatever we say or do without peace, nothing will happen. Therefore, it was quite good of him to suggest that all must unite in order to help the Government to maintain peace in this country.

The President also talked about how the Government is dealing with the effects of the *El Nino* rains in this country. The President said that the Government is working very hard to repair the infrastructure like roads, water sewerage and systems which had been destroyed by the *El Nino* rains. However, everybody should participate in the exercise. I would like to thank the NGOs which worked very hard to help the victims of the *El Nino*. I would especially like to thank the Plan International personnel who worked very hard in North Eastern Province to ease the problems faced by wananchi as a result of the *El Nino* rains. The Government has set aside an emergency fund to deal with these problems.

The President also talked about the famine. Some people might say that famine is caused by inefficiency of our Government; that the KANU Government has not been quite efficient and, therefore, famine had to come. However, we know that this is a natural calamity; a calamity that has come as a result of *El Nino* and drought. We have to face it. For the last three years, the Government has been supplying relief food, and yet, some people are asking what the Government is doing about the famine in North-Eastern Province. We are happy that our partners in development like NGOs have also tried very hard to supply food to those who badly need it. The President is concerned about those people who are suffering because of the *El Nino* effects and he said that the Government will not sit down and leave those people to die of hunger.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other thing the President talked about was unity. There has been a cry from the Opposition saying that the President should talk with them about ways of sorting out all the problems facing this country. The President clearly said it here that he will be inviting the Opposition leaders to discuss with him. I am sure that the President was quite genuine in saying this.

I am happy to say that I am seeing something different in the Eighth Parliament from the Seventh Parliament, especially our reaction towards one another. I would like to urge hon. Members from both sides of the House, that we need unity in order to solve our problems. It will not help us to exchange words or apportion blame. The Opposition should not say that the Government is bad, neither should the Government blame the Opposition. It is not also for the Opposition to say that this Government is corrupt or this party is corrupt. Since we have been elected to this House, we are obliged to make sure that we agree on what we are doing because we have a common goal of helping our people to develop. We can only do that if we stop the quarrels, abuses and so on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year, this august House was turned into something else. The world could not believe seeing hon. Members of Parliament fighting in the Chamber. It was really a shame. I think most of those who were doing that were voted out in the last general elections. Actually, we now have Members in this House who are serious. I want to appeal to everybody here, that we should co-operate and have that unity the President talked about, so that we can move forward.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that by uniting, we will be able to move forward, though, we are saying that the economy is weak.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Member for Siakago (Mr. Ita): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to make my comments on the exposition of public policy made by His Excellency the President, when he opened this august House. First of all, I will begin by announcing my appreciation to the people of Siakago for electing me. I also wish to register my appreciation to the Democratic Party of Kenya. In fact, had it not been for the DP party, which allowed me to contest on its ticket, I would not have been in this House, after being ditched by KANU almost at the last moment. The DP allowed me to contest for the seat, and I was elected by my people to represent them in this House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard some people whispering, wanting to know who I am. I would like to inform them that my names are Silas Ita, the Member for Siakago Constituency. To begin my remarks on the Presidential speech, I want to start by saying that Kenyans everywhere are yearning for solutions to the many problems they are facing. I believe every Member here will agree that that statement is true. At times, I get surprised when Kenyans yearn for solutions to their problems and the Government replies with another problem.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for instance, Kenyans are crying that there is no medicine in the health centres and hospitals and the Government's reply to this is: "We have no money." We are getting into what you call: "The problem crying syndrome"

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

[Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a problem is raised by Wananchi to an institution, which they think can help them and the institution gives them an answer which is a "problem." The fact that there is no medicine and our infrastructure has collapsed is not something which has started today. It started some years back and it has got known solutions. Kenyans have elected leaders, beginning with a number of councillors and Members of Parliament to attend to their problems. A number of civil servants have been appointed in various positions with responsibilities to serve the wananchi. What are we getting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir?

The problems are becoming many and more complicated. It is as if it were the leadership that is expected to solve these problems for wananchi, is unable to do it. It is really something that needs to be addressed to by this House because if you looked at the commitment of our people when they were conducting the general elections, they were very much committed they were electing leaders at all levels and hoping that their problems would be solved. It is pathetic, for the few days I have been in this House to see and understand that we are just exchanging challenges and, insults here and there, when our people expect us to be thinking seriously and solving these problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to suggest at this point that those who are in Government and leadership positions have a check-list of what problems do surround their responsible positions and then begin to tackle them. There is an assumption that most problems will be solved by money and that is not true. For instance, may I quote a few things that I have come across in my constituency. I have heard that a metal bridge which has been lying idle at Kamburu for over ten years, and we requested that it be used in another area in the same district is now boarded for sale to a private sector. That does not require money to solve that problem. It is for the Minister responsible and the Ministry responsible to find out whether that is true and relocate that bridge to solve the problems of wananchi in the area. It does not require money.

People in my constituency wanted to open two Harambee secondary schools this year. They have made their preparations; everything is ready, and they have even employed teachers and I am told they cannot get authority from the Ministry of Education to open those schools. As a result, 90 children will go without secondary education this year not because of money, but because authority to open the schools is not forthcoming, and yet those 90 children will be left idle and loiter around without education. Similarly, that does not require money, but it is a question of knowing that there is that problem and the Minister making appropriate decision to solve that problem. So, the assumption that all problems wananchi are complaining about; all the problems the Opposition are bringing to the Government Ministers require money, does not hold water. Those gentlemen on that side and particularly the Ministers, can resolve and help our people to do with other meaningful things.

For the few days I have been elected and since the announcement of primary education results (KCPE), a number of people have approached me to find out what to do to take their children to school. In checking my list, I find out that most of the children in my constituency who were admitted to secondary school this year, were children from unemployed and single mothers who could not afford the school fees. What is this Government or country going to do about it? I believe this is a spreadover problem. Can the Government consider exemption of school fees and other payments for those unemployed people, otherwise we are going to waste a whole generation without going to school? If we frustrate these children, then what is the purpose of leadership in this country? If the leadership cannot take care of the children for the future of this country, what is its purpose? If parents are not employed and therefore, they do not have money to take them to hospital, the infrastructure is collapsing, what are we going to do?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard Members talk about collapsing parastatals and industries. Let me say that each case of collapsing parastatal gives very good reason as to why this country is sinking. It gives reasons and very good lessons why this country is sinking. If we look at every parastatal and factory that has closed in the last seven to eight years, then we do not need to go very far. We can begin to see where we are going wrong and then we address the problems. I think, the problem is that, we have failed to address issues even when we know their solutions. We have failed to take the courage. Where is the courage of our Ministers? When we read the list of Ministers after the appointments, we say: "We have now courageous people to tackle issues".

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Ekirapa): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to make a few comments on the Presidential Speech, which many hon. Members on both sides of the House have commented on. Before that, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Amogoro Constituency for giving me overwhelming support to come to this House. I will make a point about that later. Amogoro is one of those--

An hon. Member: Tribal districts!

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Ekirapa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,

one hon. Member is calling it a "tribal district", and I will make a comment about that later on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate His Excellency the President for the Speech he made before this House and particularly; for challenging hon. Members of this House to be innovative and decisive in the comments they are going to make in this House, in order to address the problems our country is facing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been listening to contributions by various hon. Members, especially those who were here in the Seventh Parliament. In a way, I must say that I feel a little disheartened because I thought that those of us who were elected to this House recently, were elected by an electorate that is aware of the problems that this country is facing currently. They expect us to come and deal with those issues. I hope that hon. Members will come here and actually address those particular issues, principally, the economy of this country and the constitutional issues about which our people are concerned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, everybody is aware of the economic problems this country is facing. We really do not need to be lectured on the history. Hon. Members should not come here to tell us what happened in the previous years. One hundred and twenty of us in this honourable House are new Members. We are anxious to go forward and listen to ideas by hon. Members on how these problems are going to be resolved. They should not tell us what happened 10 years ago, since some of us from both sides of the House were not there. We have come here to suggest solutions that will resolve those problems for the benefit of our country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the manufacturing sector of our economy, the manufacturers are crying because their businesses are not doing well. I hope that Members of this august House will actually deal with that situation. They will come forward and make practical proposals on how we can assist the manufacturing industry of our country to go forward, so that our people who are out there without employment can get employed. And, so that those manufacturers are able to pay taxes, so that Treasury can receive revenue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am hoping that small scale traders who want to start small businesses will get the guidance of this House. This august House will suggest ways and means of how these small scale traders, for example, the Jua Kali artisans can move forward and develop their small economies. It is not useful to them for us to come here and say why they have not advanced upwards three times. I would suggest that Members come forward and make practical proposals on how our people can be helped.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are a lot of people out there who are unemployed. Some of them are starving outside this august House, hoping that their new Members are going to come up with new ideas that will help them secure employment. If we do not come up with practical proposals--- I feel that both sides of the House have very competent people, some of whom have been chief executives, business people, politicians and all other professions. If we are unable to come up with solutions that help our people out there, then I would personally say that my coming to this Eighth Parliament was in vain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is the issue of constitutional reforms. I would like to support the action that has been taken by this august House to appoint a committee that will be looking into the Constitutional Act that this House passed. I would hope that everybody will accept that this House has got representatives from every corner of this country and that, we are competent enough to deal with the constitutional issues. But, in order that every community is given its fair share, I hope that there will be a system by which all the communities will be given an opportunity to express their views, so that we come up with a constitution that many years from now, we do not have a similar experience that future generations will come to this House and again, want to change the constitution. I hope that leaders who are here will take this constitutional issue very seriously and ensure that their respective communities will contribute to the debate on the constitution. In my community, I would expect that they speak on their behalf, even though they have given me the complete mandate to speak on their behalf. I hope they will have a chance to say exactly what their concerns are in areas of security, development and identity.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, if some people think we can have some kind of convention here in Nairobi which would determine the future constitutional provisions of this country, then I beg to differ and say that we are mis guided because, again, future generations or future Members of this House will come here and debate the same issue. I, therefore, want to support the idea that Members of this House have been elected unanimously by their constituents, they represent the aspirations and wishes of their people and they have their mandate to determine what the future constitution should look like. All communities must also be given the opportunity to express their wishes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to go back to the issue of the economy. To come hear and trade accusations and recriminations and abuse one another is not going to take this country anywhere. We would like to be serious enough to be able to come here and discuss issues and not personalities; not to abuse other people but to deal with issues that are affecting our country today and to propose solutions so that in two months time, when our respective Ministers come here with their estimates, we would be able to assist them constructively in coming up with estimates that are going to help these very issues about which our people are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are talking about agriculture. This country is today a net food importer and that, I think, is a shame. We should be able to deal with the problems facing our farmers, the question of the cost, of inputs, the cost of labour, the lack of markets for their produce; these are the issue that I feel hon. Members should concentrate on and come up with genuine, practical ideas on how these should be dealt with, instead of coming here to blame this side, or blame the Government--- We are not interested in apportioning blame. When a person is sick, he needs to be treated and not to argue about which doctor should treat him, but the best doctor in sight should treat the patient. I would like to suggest that we, as hon. Members who have been brought to the Eighth Parliament, elected by an electorate that is aware of the economic problems that we have, should take it seriously that we have the responsibility, all of us without exception, of dealing with those problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is the question of co-operation which we have been talking about. Co-operation will not come about if Members on that side keep on blaming Members on this side for corruption and other vices.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Member for Gwasi (Mr. Nyauchi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my constituency is new. Suba District, in which my constituency falls, is also new. I heard one of my colleagues say that it is one of the political districts and, probably, I am here courtesy of that kind of arrangement and to that extent, I will probably support the arrangement to the extent that it has enabled me to come to this august House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, I wish to make a few remarks with regard to the Speech by the President. Most of the remarks I wish to make will also touch on issues which, in my own view, were not adequately covered during the official opening of this august House.

To begin with, on the economy, it is my submission that where we have gone wrong on the issue of the economy of this country is basically due to lack of management. I am not an economist, but we seem to be managing the economy by crisis. That is to say we are able to see where the problem is well in advance but nothing is done until it is in critical stage. If I would give an example, the Nairobi-Mombasa Highway has been deteriorating over the years. Late last year, we had the problem of the long rains associated with the *El Nino* weather phenomenon. If we had started managing the road by constant repairs, the long rains would not have brought the disaster that occurred. But that is just one example. This kind of a problem is everywhere. Whether in our schools or any other institutions, we have management by crisis. I wish to call upon my friends on the opposite side to discard this concept of management by crisis and give us proper management because this is a country which has to be run not by crisis but on a day-to-day basis. Secondly, I wish to touch on the issue of poverty which was expounded by the President. I wish to submit that our basic problem is that we have had our priorities wrong. Poverty has increased in leaps and bounds over the years and it is not like we are doing anything concrete to alleviate it. One of the solutions which we should have put into place, for instance, is to encourage a lot of private sector participation. But is this really done? Because if this was done, the issue of poverty and unemployment would have been alleviated. If we take a simple example of the air waves, the Minister concerned has never thought it wise to come with concrete examples as to how air waves can be freed and with it, I am sure, we would create many jobs and hence, alleviate poverty in our midst. So, it is this kind of dragging of issues which affects the lives of Kenyans that basically it is bringing a lot of problems to this country. In one of the newspapers recently, I read that the Minister for Finance is thinking of reducing salaries of, not only teachers, but also civil servants. Surely, unless the Minister does not know how much the teachers and civil servants earn, what they actually earn is what I would call a pittance; and if he is going to reduce it, what are we really saying? What, in my own view he should do, is to see how he can motivate the civil servants, let them work, but we should come out from a situation where they pretend to work and the Government also pretends to pay them. It takes us nowhere.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of agriculture, promotion of agriculture is interrelated with the promotion of infrastructure. There is no use for anybody to say that we wish to promote agriculture when infrastructure is in such a sorry state that you cannot take your produce to the nearest market. So, we should try and see the interrelationship between all these--- It is not agriculture alone, we know, for instance, that tourism has been one of our biggest foreign exchange earner and it takes a number of years in terms of stability and security, to promote tourism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a country like Bosnia has got a lot of tourist attractions but nobody would take a risk and visit that country. Security is very vital. Our tourist industry has collapsed today and, as a result, we have got massive unemployment both in Mombasa and Nairobi. So, the Presidential Speech did not touch on some of these very fundamental matters like security. These should have been highlighted more by the President.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am basically a fisherman but on loan to politics for a little while. I was surprised that there was no mention of the fishing industry in the Presidential Speech which is the core of what my constituents do. We lack the basic requirements for development, for instance, the infrastructure. The roads are

almost non-existent. There are no coolers to preserve our fish. I call upon the Department of Fisheries to come up with good methods of preserving fish in order to generate high incomes for constituents and the nation at large.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my colleagues have touched on the issue of corruption. I think there is no use for us to talk about corruption here when year in, year out, we have read what the Controller and Auditor-General's Report has said. We have yet to see any prosecutions of the persons named in those Reports. I urge the Government side to take concrete steps and prosecute those who are named in the Controller and Auditor-General's Report.

Finally, I am not a Member of the NCEC but we must recognize that we are all Kenyans.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Mudavadi): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to make some remarks on the Presidential Speech.

First of all, it is clear that during such a presentation, it would be extraordinary for us to expect that the Presidential Speech would contain a lot of detail on all sectoral issues. It is important that the House highlights those areas that they feel are of concern. However, the Presidential Speech had a few critical areas which were the core of the problems which are afflicting us today and it may be useful for us to elaborate a little at a cost of being repetitive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the supremacy of Parliament is something that we must uphold. This is important because one of the things that can undermine the very basic tenets of the state is when we do not recognize the institutions that are in place constitutionally to assist in the governing of that state. During the last Parliament, we saw in some instances, the supremacy of this institution being given to other institutions that did not have a clear mandate. I hope that through co-operation and discussion, this Parliament will re-assert that position. If we have to be subservient to any authority, it should be to the genuine will of the people of this country and not the whims and wishes of a few people who may manipulate an idea or two from time to time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think it is also important to emphasise that constitutional review process is of critical importance as underlined in the Presidential Speech. I hope that through the Constitutional Review Commission and the Committee that has been constituted to look at all the loopholes that might be in that Act, we will move forward urgently. We do not want a situation where the term of this Parliament will come to a close before we have made any changes to that Constitution to be in line with what Kenyans desire. We must be very clear to our people. We do not want vacuums or uncertainties. Leaving this in abeyance for too long, is one of the biggest sources of uncertainty in the sense that no investor is going to think seriously about putting their resources here, if the political direction of the country is not clear and there is no proper guideline as to how things are going to run in that country. It is imperative that the constitutional process runs hand in hand with the reconstruction of the economy. We should not, under any circumstances, think that we can put one before the other. They must run parallel and I urge hon. Members to give it full support. They should make recommendations very quickly, so that the process can start in earnest.

The other issue which the President touched on is the fact the economy is having difficulties. This is important because to find solutions, there must be an acknowledgment. It is through deliberations in this House and interaction with other Members of our society, for example, the farmers and the business community, that we shall be able to find common solutions to our challenges. Hon. Members of Parliament know how difficult it is to be in our constituencies today. The problems we face in terms of demands for assistance from the people cannot be sustained. We have got to find ways of making sure that our people can fend for themselves and their children, so that this issue of poverty does not become a major deterrent and security problem. We all know that the biggest issue that can undermine the constitutional process or the reconstruction of the economy or the supremacy of this House is when our rank and file in this country are hungry. They have no place to sleep in, they have no medicine and they cannot take their children to school. This would be the beginning of undermining all the institutions that we have created in this country. Therefore, the solutions lie not in acrimony towards each other. We must have confidence in each other, but I must acknowledge that confidence is not a thing that comes out of mere words. It is a process that builds over time. It has to do with how we handle issues together, so that we can build that confidence.

An economy relies on confidence. If there is no confidence in terms of policy and implementation, if there are distortions, we shall continue talking and we shall be out of this House after the five years, and the problems will still abound in this country. So, if we can put our heads together and work, I am sure we can start developing solutions and, indeed, there are ways. If I may just touch on the Speaker's remarks during the same day that the President made his Speech, he did highlight the question of the departmental committees, and the new approach through the Standing Orders of this House, through which the Government and Kenyans can conduct their business. I think it is incumbent upon us as the Members of Parliament, and particularly all the parties

involved to really bring this to the attention of their members, so that Members who have specific interests in various sectors can play active roles within those departmental committees, in helping the development of solutions together for various problems that affect this country. Whether it is agriculture or the economy, or matters that relate to our policy in terms of foreign issues and so forth. These are important areas that, I think, with the new Standing Orders, we have a clear basis on which to start this measure of confidence-building and solution-finding collectively as a group.

I would like to say that when we change the economy, and we want to deal with things like corruption, we must look at more broadly. We must look at it as a systemic (something within the system) that needs to be sorted out. I think dealing with an individual or two is not the solution to fighting corruption. We must be able to know, that for instance, when import licences were put in place, that was an avenue for corruption and it should be eliminated. We must know that when you have somebody who becomes the sole licensor for a particular item, and he uses it as a rent-seeking mechanism, it should be eliminated and make it easier for people to get licences, whether it is within the local authorities or the Government. Where we have prohibitive laws, I think a systemic approach to the broader issue of tackling corruption will have a more lasting solution than dwelling on an individual or two. I am not saying that if somebody is corrupt, he/she should not be prosecuted. But for how long will we be taking people through the court processes? How long will those cases be heard? In India, there are cases which have taken more than 38 years. If I start fighting a case today and I die, my offsprings then take up the case with different lawyers. These are things that can cause havoc and we need to tackle the system from within and make it better. I am sure that this House has the capacity if it applies it to deal with this particular problem.

Secondly, let me underscore the constitutional review and the Constitution. It is not in itself, a job provider. It will not eliminate poverty. It will not eliminate corruption. But it is the framework under which we must operate and be able to tackle those individual problems. We could have the best Constitution in the world, but if we do not have the will and the resolve to tackle our individual problems, honestly and jointly, even that Constitution will become another piece of paper.

With those few remarks, I would like to support the Presidential Speech and say that this Parliament has a challenge, and we hope we can live up to it, so that we do not have accomplished hecklers, but serious Parliamentarians. Thank you.

The Member for Kibwezi (Mr. Mboko): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to make my contribution on the Presidential Speech. After reading through the Speech, I found that the President touched on many issues which are synonymous with the problems that are facing this country. His Speech touched on the security and infrastructure. My query is whether the Government is committed to tackle the things that the President mentioned. This is because when you say that security and insecurity are everywhere in the Republic, what are you talking about? People cannot walk freely even at the doors of Parliament. If you stay in this House after 7 o'clock, you can not walk even to the Inter-Continental Hotel without being mugged, yet we are talking about security. It is up to the Government to take up these issues very seriously, and deploy the security forces to protect Kenyans so that they can feel secure in whatever they do. You cannot expect any investor to come and invest in this country when the security matter is not fully addressed. The ball is on the Government side.

We talk about basic needs like housing, food and shelter. In this country, the housing sector has become unaffordable to make Kenyans. Many people who live in towns cannot live properly because they sit on a six by six room, and yet they say that they are independent. Even during the colonial days, the authorities then used to offer better housing facilities to the citizens. When we talk about these things, I find that we must have a commitment from the Government side to provide enough houses with affordable rents.

When I read through the Speech, there was one important matter which was not addressed. The youth and children of this nation go to school and the parents are investing so much in paying their school fees. When they complete their studies, they become nobodies in this country. They become vagabonds and nobody takes care of them and yet, they are the people who forms the majority of the citizens of this country. These people are not offered jobs. There are no plans to create employment for them. We have university graduates and Form 4 leavers who have been on the streets for years and they have no hope of getting jobs. The Government is not addressing this issue and yet these children are our sons, brothers and daughters. It is a matter of common sense that for any growing population, the economy must also grow to service the rising population. It is foolhardily to think about these issues when we cannot make our infrastructure and factories work. We cannot make our farms to produce and we know the youth are growing. Each end of year, we have graduates from various institutions. When they come to the job market, they cannot be absorbed. What do you expect? These people must live a decent life. Even if it means living on yourself, they will live on us. We cannot cure the security situation unless we cure the employment situation. It is very important that when we talk as hon. Members, we have a duty to do

to make sure that the youth of this country fully enjoys the benefits of Independence and sovereignty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I am talking here, there is the agricultural sector, and I am happy and glad that the Minister is here. I think what we need in this country is a very good food policy. Now we have been told that because the food growing areas have not been able to harvest enough food the Government needs to import cereals into this country. But yet we talk about given a period of time, that after this period, the food which will be imported will be taxable and I think that is a way of encouraging corruption in this country because it must be a few selected individuals who knew that food will be imported duty-free. But if we allow food to be imported by everybody, now that there is no food, the price of food stuffs would remain at the lowest level. But if we allow just a few people, they will do that and when the situation is very bad, they will hoard the food in their stores and the prices will go up and what will happen is that, the common man will suffer because he cannot afford the food price. So, it is better for the Minister to take that matter very seriously and address the real issues. He should address the real problem of food security and make sure that Kenyans do not go hungry forever.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I look into the agricultural sector, in some areas like Ukambani, up to now, particularly in Kibwezi which I represent now, people have no title deeds since Independence and yet you cannot improve your farming unless you have access to credit facility and nobody in Kibwezi can give you credit and yet we want to perform. Kibwezi is one area which is serving this country and earning a lot of foreign exchange in horticultural production and yet we are doing so through the nose. We want the issue of title deeds in Kibwezi to be speeded up. Those areas which have not been surveyed should be surveyed.

Concerning infrastructure in Ukambani--- I am very sorry to say in this House that the Akamba people have been marginalised. You cannot travel properly. You cannot reach the district commissioner's office in Makueni now, whether it is a dry period or a rainy season. The roads are just impassable, you cannot go, and yet it is a full fledged district. It is in an area where food production does very well, both horticultural and cereal production, yet you cannot do marketing. Nobody can go to Makueni to buy food because he cannot reach there. If you leave for Makueni today, you cannot come back. There are no telephone facilities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we talk about other things like electricity, the line from Kindaruma, Kiambere, Kamburu to Mombasa passes through Kibwezi and Makueni, yet the Makueni people and even the district headquarters have no power, nor water supply and yet we are expected to live a better life.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I need to touch on Ministries like Education and Human Resource Development and Health whereby in His Speech the President expressed the wish that the cost-sharing component be waived from the poor people. Yet, as we are talking here in this august House, the poor children in harambee schools, national schools, provincial schools, are being sent home because of schools fees. That component of cost-sharing should be waived. Go to hospitals, unless you have the money you cannot be treated. As I am talking now people in my constituency are dying of malaria, cholera, water borne disease and the rest. There is not even a single Government vehicle which can serve the constituency. If you go to Makueni they do not have any ambulance to serve the people and yet we need those poor people to be considered. It is my opinion that the Government moves with haste to serve the people of Kenya diligently without fear or favour and without tribal considerations.

The Assistant Minister for Natural Resources (Mr. Twaha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the people of Lamu West for giving me this privilege to serve in this House during this Eighth Parliament and I would like to thank His Excellency the President for appointing me an Assistant Minister in his new Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said from yesterday on the problems facing Kenyans today and I think we had all agreed that the biggest problem is unemployment and poverty. I would like to suggest that in addition to swearing to protect the Constitution, all public officers should be required to swear to protect the value of the Kenya shilling. Some Members may find it amusing, but if we are going to alleviate poverty, we have to improve the purchasing power of the Kenyan worker. When we agreed to conduct the coffee and tea auction in Kenya in United States Dollars on the advice from World Bank and IMF, what we were doing is eliminating demand for the Kenya shilling and enhancing demand for the US\$. We have to restrain ourselves from committing this sort of political suicide, which is damaging our economy. There is absolutely no reason why Kenyan products should be marketed in foreign currency. If you want to buy anything from Japan today or Germany, you will do so in Deutsche Mark or the Japanese Yen. The purpose being that they are trying to enhance the value of their own currency and if you want Kenya coffee or tea, be prepared to buy the shilling first and then go to the market to buy the Kenyan produce.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another problem facing Kenya and which is related to poverty and unemployment is that the population is growing at the rate of 4 per cent per year. We have a reputation of having the fastest growing population in the world. I think that, we are not brave enough to tell the Kenya people there is something else to be done about this. Everybody is evading the issue. We are dealing with the symptoms and not

the disease itself. I was among the first beneficiaries of the KANU Government; I had the good fortune of drinking milk in 1979 and 1980. The provision of that free milk shows the good intention which His Excellency the President had for the people and the children of this country. But the President having expressed his love for the children, Kenyans decided to punish him by giving him one million children every year. This should be a daunting task for any manager to deal with. Kenyans should take responsibility for their own actions. We cannot legislate population control. This is a personal decision that every individual Kenyan has to make for him or herself. You will find that the resources are spread very thinly and the level of services will go down. His Excellency the President touched on the infrastructure which is very important for me as a Member of Parliament for Lamu West because for the last eight months, the road from Malindi to Lamu was cut off. There is a good side of it because the Government is tarmacking the road from Malindi to Garsen in Tana River. It has never been tarmacked before, but from Garsen to Lamu, that section of the road has been cut off. I have to highlight this issue in this House today because the only means of transportation from Lamu to the rest of Kenya now is either by navy vessels that the Government has provided, but which is not suitable for elderly people and young children because it is a 12-hour voyage, or air travel which is very expensive for most of the people from Lamu District and from my constituency in particular. So, I hope the extra revenue that hon. Nyachae will raise will be used to make our roads in Lamu.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope I have not offended anybody. I beg to support. Thank you very much.

The Member for Mwea (Mr. Nderitu): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Speech. I am Alfred Mwangi Nderitu, Member for Mwea.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the people of Mwea for electing me to represent them in this august House. I am also glad to be here to take part in the deliberations of this House to discuss Kenya as a whole. The Presidential Speech, in my view, fell short of what I would have expected. It fell short of what is expected by Kenyans. The Speech discussed co-operation, which is very good, and I am very glad for the few days I have been here to hear that our Ministers have at last woken up. They have now seen that we have problems here which need to be solved. The Government cannot solve these problems alone without us. I am glad to realise that everybody who wakes up here says: "Yes, we have a rotten side. We have a side which is not moving well." The question is: Can we go to the root cause of it?

We were elected about three months ago, but what have we done for our society? What has this House done for our people because they are dying daily? Immediately after the general elections, cholera broke out in Mwea, now it is over, but we have typhoid and malaria. We were being assisted by MSF, or doctors without boundaries from France. It took long for the Ministry of Health officials to come to our aid, although I saw none apart from the medical officer of health. Really, it was pathetic. Where are we? We do not even have a hospital or doctors; we rely on clinical officers.

Secondly, I would like to challenge the Ministry of Agriculture to visit Mwea and see for themselves the problems facing rice farmers in the Mwea Irrigation Scheme. We have the National Irrigation Board Act which is detrimental to the farmers. The Act says that if you have a child who is over 18 years, you expel him from the scheme. Where are they supposed to go? They do not tell us where these children should go. I feel that, that Act is obsolete and we need to do something about it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of security, we only have one police station in Mwea, which serves a division which is spread wide from Makutano to Eastern Province. This police station has no vehicle. In order for this country to move forward, all of us should realise that we have a problem and we are ready to work together. Historic issues, such as where we come from, who we are and so on should be shunned completely. We should empower the Chair to deal with hon. Members who make warlike utterances, urging one community to kill another community. I do not see why somebody should say that he is going fight. All of us are ready for war; all of us are ready for peace. If peace does not come, I think the inevitable would definitely have to happen.

Our country is going to sink as we watch. I would urge the hon. Members opposite to seek our assistance where necessary and we shall give it out for the sake of our children. I would like, after I am dead, to see this country flourish. Right now what do we have? Our sewerage system in the City has collapsed. This also goes for our water supply. Mzima Springs, in Mombasa has very clean water, but the ordinary person is taking contaminated water. Why is this happening? I am asking myself one question: Is it the Ministers who do not do their jobs or somebody has to press the switch for them to wake up? Who supervises the Minister who is the head of the department we are discussing here? Do they work on their own volition? Must they be switched on by somebody? I fail to understand and I am not blaming them *per se*. Something is wrong somewhere. There are offices at the provincial and district levels, what do they have to wait for; a switch, a red-tape phone or what? We see buildings collapse, but nobody wakes up until a Minister intervenes and he has to wait. It takes a long time for a hospital to get an ambulance. We do not have to come into this House to discuss ambulances. Somebody has a

job to do. They should ensure that our people have fertilisers and seeds. We are not going to come here to discuss about maize and beans. This august House should make laws for this country on how it should be governed and how our people should be defended. I am surprised that we come here to discuss about fertilisers and the National Irrigation Board. It will take us a long time to discuss how to remove bedbugs from the beds of our peasants in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are quite a number of things which every speaker is mentioning. I feel that we should agree on how to solve these problems. We should explore ways of getting rid of the bad blood which is spoiling the cohesion in our society. I feel that we are not serious because when a Motion is debated here, not much is achieved. It is my feeling that when we bring a Motion here, all of us should present lists of what we expect to be done in our constituents to the Chair which will then hand them over to the Ministers concerned and the Ministers concerned given a time-frame within which to respond to those expectations. In this way, we will know that everyday something is achieved. But today, we shall talk about corruption, but do nothing about it. We are going to talk about planting maize, but nothing is going to happen because there is no soil in this august House; it is only a carpet. In the House, we take clean water but the man out there takes contaminated water. There is no medicine in hospitals. Hon. Ministers, you are the people holding the mantle, you should guide Kenyans.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like, through the Chair, to request the Minister for Agriculture to prevail upon the National Irrigation Board to assist the Mwea farmers because right now there is slow and gradual breakdown of the Mwea Irrigation Scheme. If we do not arrest the situation now, we shall not be proud of the harvest at the end of the season. Many farmers are being left out of the rotation exercise which is going on. In Nguka Section, we have 50 per cent of the farms left out. Farmers from this place are coming to me, as their representative, to look for an alternative and if I have to do so, the National Irrigation Board has to leave Mwea. They are not going to spoil what we have put together for the last 35 years. Through the Chair, I would urge the Minister for Agriculture to look into that issue.

Marketing of rice is another area of concern. I do not see why rice has to be marketed in Nairobi and why the managers are based in Nairobi.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members! It is time to interrupt our business. The House is therefore adjourned until 2.30 p.m., Wednesday, 8th April, 1998.

The House rose at 12.30 p.m.