

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, 8th July, 1999

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.426

CONSTRUCTION OF A WOMEN'S CELL IN BUSIA POLICE STATION

Mr. Wanjala asked the Minister of State, Office of the President, what steps he is taking to build a women's cell in Busia Police Division to cater for women culprits who are currently accommodated in an open space without any protection from cold and rain.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Maj. Madoka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I apologise for coming a little late. However, I beg to reply.

Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, the Government has set aside a plot for the construction of a new divisional police headquarters in Busia. This should include adequate cells for both men and women. We appreciate that at the present moment, we do get congestions at the several police stations.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I appreciate the answer from the Minister, but women in Busia Division who are arrested are harassed and taken to open cells. They are not even booked in the "Occurrence Book" and at night, the policemen pretend to be assisting them but end up raping them. With the AIDS epidemic in the country today, women are really suffering in Busia District. Could the Minister tell us how fast he will ensure that a separate cell is built for women in Busia?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have just said that we are going to construct a new divisional headquarters which will also make a provision for cells for the women.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what we are asking this Minister is specifically, when the construction of this new Divisional Police Headquarters is going to start?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not give a definite date but we are going to do it during this Financial Year.

Mr. Kathangu: Bw. Naibu Spika, tunajua kwamba Ofisi ya Rais ina shida kwa sababu hawatumii pesa kwa njia iliyo sawa, ama hawana pesa za kutosha. Tunauliza Waziri kama anaweza kugeuza chumba kimoja katika kituo cha polisi cha Busia kuwa cha kina mama?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, presently, there are two cells but they are very small. So, when we get more men, because the rate of crime has increased, the women are moved out.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to get this clearly from the Minister. Is he saying that in these police cells, they mix up men and women? If that is what he is saying, then that is contrary to the law!

Maj. Madoka: That is not what I said. I said we do have two small cells. What happens is that if we have too many men in the cells, the women are normally removed from their cell and kept within the police station until they are moved to another place.

Dr. Kulundu: Could the Minister tell us how much money in the current Budget has been allocated for the construction of these cells in Busia?

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have the exact figures, but we have got funds for the development of police stations and this is one of them.

Mr. Wanjala: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister should be specific and tell us how much money has been set aside for the construction of a cell for women in Busia Police Divisional Headquarters? Policemen are

harassing those women sexually! They should give them bonds, so that they do not sleep in police cells!

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of when the women were sexually abused. Men and women do not share the same cells in Busia Police Divisional Headquarters.

Question No.418

LIQUIDATION OF KENYA MEAT COMMISSION

Mr. Munyao asked the Minister for Agriculture:-

- (a) why Kenya Meat Commission has been put under receivership; and,
- (b) whether he could confirm to this House that in the event that Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) would be sold, the first option would be given to the local community to purchase it at market price.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture (Dr. Wamukoya): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) KMC was put under receivership in September, 1998 as it was not functional and technically bankrupt.

(b) KMC is a strategic national asset and in the event of its disposal, the Government would consider the interests of all the stakeholders countrywide and also ensure that it is sold at the most competitive market price.

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know what to say about the Assistant Minister. Definitely, I will not thank him because he has told us very little. The KMC was technically viable. There was a study done before the KMC was started and it was even able to borrow close to Kshs1 billion from the National Bank of Kenya because it had some assets and some title deeds. Why did it go bankrupt and there were assets which were still held up by the Government and what happened to the land which was used to secure the loans from the National Bank of Kenya?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that when KMC was started in 1950, it was viable, but declined because of a combination of things; one of them was the existence of the Livestock Marketing Division which used to purchase animals from the northern parts of the country but this department was scrapped in 1986. Secondly, later on, the factory started aging and the machinery was not performing properly. So, these are the reasons why the KMC had a problem.

Mr. Shill: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Assistant Minister for saying that all stakeholders will be considered. I am representing some of those stakeholders. Could the Assistant Minister confirm or deny that some of the holding grounds for KMC have already been given out to some people?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is still 2,000 acres of land at Kitengela, available for the Kenya Meat Commissioner (KMC) if it is revived.

Mr. Shill: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to evade my supplementary Question? He has not answered my question! Could he confirm or deny that, some essential holding grounds for the KMC animals have been given to very big tycoons in this country?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Mr. Leshore: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that the Assistant Minister is trying to avoid the question. However, I would like to ask him: On two occasions, the President has assured this country that the KMC will be opened very soon. When will it be opened?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Leshore's own lips have said it. If I said it, it would be called hearsay. But the President has assured us that it will be revived. But I am not sure of the time-table.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that the Government is not committed to pastrolists or livestock keepers in this country. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House what policy the Ministry has, if it is not going to revive the KMC, to promote the livestock farmers?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is really committed to help the pastrolists. The KMC will be revived.

Mr. Mwakiringo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the KMC is a very important institution to the animal farmers. I know that, because we have one of its branches in Mombasa. Could the Assistant Minister confirm that the closure of the KMC factories in Mombasa and Athi River, was due to the wrangling of our own people, after the Japanese did the feasibility study to revive it?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the KMC had serious financial problems. It has a loan worth Kshs708 million with the National Bank of Kenya. It also owes Mitsubishi Company, which the hon. Member is talking about, Kshs200 million. These debts have not been paid. That is why the KMC has serious financial

problems.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a specific question was put to the Assistant Minister; that, there was a Japanese feasibility study to revive the KMC. The Japanese required the Kenya Government to make the appointment of senior personnel. There was wrangling and they could not agree on whom to appoint. Each of the groups involved wanted their own man to be appointed. That is what frustrated the Japanese effort. Could he confirm or deny that?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the first place, that supplementary question was [**Dr. Wamukoya**] wrong. I was trying to give the hon. Member the right picture. There was no feasibility study done by Mitsubishi Company. It only installed the canning lines. It was supposed to start business, but there were no funds to operate.

Mr. Wambua: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister is still trying to wriggle out of the question. Hon. Katuku asked if the Government is serious to revive the KMC; how much has the Government committed to revive the KMC?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of order! It is a supplementary question!

Mr. Shambaro: Ahsante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika. Ningependa kumuuliza Dr. Wamukoya kwamba, wakati KMC ilipokuwa inafanya kazi, ilishirikiana sana na Idara ya Uuzaji wa Mifugo. Kwa vile zote mbili hazifanyi kazi sasa, na nchi inakabiliwa na hali ya ukame, Wizara ya Kilimo ina mpango gani wa kuhakikisha kwamba, wafugaji kutoka sehemu kame hawatapotezi mifugo yao bila kufika kwa masoko?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is referring to the Livestock Marketing Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, which was wound up in 1986. This is because the purchase of animals was done corruptly and the Government was incurring heavy losses.

Mr. Keynan: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister confirm or deny that, Mitsubishi Company withdrew because the individuals who grabbed the holding grounds wanted to re-sell the same land to the KMC, and the donors refused?

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mitsubishi Company withdrew because of marketing problems. They found out that there was no market for canned beef in the European Union (EU). The EU markets were receiving cheaper canned beef than what the KMC could supply them. So, it was due to marketing problems.

Mr. Munyao: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, according to the answer given by the Assistant Minister, the KMC was a viable project. It was rendered unviable because the assets bought with money borrowed from the National Bank of Kenya were removed. The KMC gave the title deed as collateral for the loan and on default, the land was sub-divided and given to very good people in this country. The Assistant Minister knows that. So, when the Assistant Minister says that there is land there, he is misleading this House. What we would like the Assistant Minister to confirm is this: The Government of Kenya committed Kshs500 million in the project. Mitsubishi Company also committed Kshs200 million to buy spares. That totals to Kshs700 million. The information we have is that the equipment which were bought are being removed. Could the Assistant Minister confirm that the equipment bought with the loan will be secure and will not be removed? This is because the receiver is allowing the equipment to be taken.

Dr. Wamukoya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I firmly confirm that no equipment installed by Mitsubishi Company will be removed.

Mr. Shill: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to deny that the land in question, which is the holding grounds, has been given to individuals from Ukambani? Is it in order for him to deny that, while we know that hons. Nyiva Mwendwa, Mulinge, Makau and Mulu Mutisya were given the land and sold it to the NSSF? Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to deny that?

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Shill, we have gone through this very many times before. If you want to make that kind of allegation, you must be armed with evidence. Do you have any evidence?

Mr. Shill: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have it now! But I can produce it tomorrow, Sir!

Mr. Sambu: It is in the Public Investments Committee's (PIC) Report!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Sambu! When another Member has stood on a point of order, you cannot stand on a point of order. More importantly, when the Speaker is on his feet, you freeze, unless you have been warmed up! Hon. Shill?

Mr. Shill: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot substantiate the obvious? Give me until tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Shill! I have made a ruling in this House several times that, if you want to make an allegation, you must be armed with evidence. To ask me to give you until tomorrow, is just not possible.

Mr. Osundwa: It is in the PIC Report!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! If what he is alleging is in a report which has not been laid on the Table of this House---

An hon. Member: It has been laid on the Table of this House!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! If it has not been debated, you cannot anticipate debate on that report.

An hon. Member: It is a property of this House!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, these rules are made for your own good. They are not Mr. Joab Omino's rules! You know if I were to ignore them, you would be calling each other names here. But you cannot anticipate debate on a report which has not been debated in this House. So, you cannot stand up and tell me that it is in the PIC or the PAC reports. So, please, hon. Members, let us take ourselves seriously. What you are doing here is dishonour to this House. In other words, what you are saying is that if you are mentioned in such a manner, the Chair should do nothing. But the Chair will not do nothing, so long as these rules are in existence. So, let us work together to enforce our rules, not the Chair's rules, so that we give dignity to this House.

Mr. Shill, do you have evidence or you do not?

Mr. Shill: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, because of the technicalities that you have raised, I will withdraw. But the problem is with the Assistant Minister---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Shill! When you withdraw, there is no further debate. You have withdrawn and that is all.

Mr. Sambu: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to deliberately mislead the House when we know that, the evidence is in the PIC Report? The Head of Civil Service and other Permanent Secretaries were summoned to give evidence and that the question of Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) was raised and the report has been tabled here. Why does he deliberately mislead this House, while we know that the PIC Report, which has been laid on the Table of this House, is factual?

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Sambu, you are now giving evidence, but this is not PIC. This is the Chamber of the National Assembly! If you want to be helpful to the House, bring that document here and the matter will be solved. But he is talking about a document which I have not even read. So, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of what he is talking about. So, if he brings that document here, that will be the end of the story. Next Question, Mr. Anyona.

Question No.038

SPECIAL CONTINGENCY PROGRAMME
FOR KCPE CANDIDATES

Mr. Anyona asked the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development:-

In view of the many 1998 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) candidates who qualified, but failed to obtain admission to Form One, if he could:-

(a) consider a Special Contingency Programme to admit these candidates to Form One as proposed in the memorandum submitted to him by the Kenya Social Congress (KSC) Ref.KM/03/99 dated 10th January, 1999; and,

(b) consider abolition of the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) to provide a basic Universal Primary Education (UPE) of twelve years in the country as recommended in the KSC Memorandum and in the National Poverty Eradication Plan, 1999-2015.

The Assistant Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply---

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members! First of all, look at the time. We have 11 Questions to go through before 3.30 p.m. **An hon. Member:** This is very important!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Once a Question has been approved and it is on the Order Paper, it is equally important like any other.

Proceed, Mr. Ruto.

The Assistant Minister For Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply---

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Katuku, our Standing Orders forbid Members not to be standing when another hon. Member is on his feet.

Mr. Katuku: The KMC is very important to Kenyans!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! You cannot resolve KMC issue under Question Time. If you want to debate KMC bring a Motion. But we cannot spend the whole of Question Time debating KMC. Bring a Motion on KMC, and it will be allowed all the time you want to debate it, but you cannot resolve it under Question Time. Bring a Motion, I will approve it and then debate it.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Shidiye, I must now ask you to leave the Chamber for the rest of the afternoon. You are now a stranger in this House.

(Mr. Shidiye withdrew from the Chamber)

The Assistant Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. Ruto): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The working proposals in the Kenya Social Congress Memorandum largely coincided with Government measures implemented to increase Form One places by at least five per cent by 1999. The proposals were, therefore, overtaken by events.

Most public secondary schools, especially the frequently under-enrolled day schools, were urged to increase the Form One streams and improve their facilities to accommodate more students.

The Government will continue to encourage organisations, communities and individuals to establish more private secondary schools to supplement the expansion efforts of public schools.

My Ministry does not consider it prudent to start Form One classes in all primary schools because that would eventually encroach on the primary schools' land and other physical facilities. Besides adversely affecting the future development of schools, it would also complicate schools administration and hamper our prospects for attaining Universal Basic Education by the year 2010. Instead, leaders and communities should be encouraged to expand existing secondary schools while establishing new ones independent of existing primary schools.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Primary Teachers Training Colleges are scheduled to resume teacher training this financial year. They will also continue to offer refresher courses and in-courses for teachers besides hosting other educational activities. The college facilities would not be available, therefore for Form One class as proposed by the memorandum.

All is not lost for children who miss Form One admission, given that our education system prepares the youths for further education, training and self-employment. Such children should be encouraged to join youth polytechnics and other avenues to self-employment in the Jua Kali sector. This will develop the informal sector of our economy which is a major strategy against unemployment and poverty.

(b) As the House is aware, His Excellency the President appointed the Davy Koech Commission to review the education system. The Kenya Social Congress supported the Commission and the party's memorandum is among the many submissions before the commission whose report is expected soon. It will be premature, therefore, to decide now whether to abolish the KCPE as that would pre-empt the Commission's report.

I appeal to the House and to all Kenyans for continued patience as we await the Commission's report and recommendations.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the memorandum that we submitted to the Ministry at the beginning of the year, we did indicate that we were compiling a larger memorandum to help the Ministry, particularly to improve education standards in the country. The memorandum is ready. For the benefit of the House, I would like to table it so that the Assistant Minister can take advantage. Could the Assistant Minister tell us how many children in spite of what he has said failed to get Form One admission and what has been done about those ones who are not able to join any secondary schools? How many are they?

(Mr. Anyona laid the document on the Table)

Mr. K.I. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the children who were not able to get Form I places were 240,000. We are certain that a large number of them have joined youth polytechnics and other avenues that are available after primary education.

Mr. Werah: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like also to know from the Assistant Minister whether he is aware that about 70 per cent of all the students who did KCPE in North-Eastern Province have not got places in Form I. My fear is that this 70 per cent of the students who have not got places in Form I will become educated bandits in our area. What is the Ministry doing to get places for them, so that they can earn a living?

Mr.K.I. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, banditry is not part of what we train our students to do after primary education. I am sure they are going to be gainfully employed, as that region is mainly a pastoral area. Others will join youth polytechnics as I have indicated and there is nothing like banditry as a vocation.

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the written answer from the Assistant Minister says here that most public secondary schools, especially those which were under-enrolled, were urged to increase Form I streams and improve their facilities. He goes on to say that the "public are encouraged to build more schools". This Government had assured some very poor districts that it will build schools for them. There are places where people cannot even afford a meal and the Government is feeding them. What is the policy of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development regarding to those districts where there is need to increase schools?

Mr. K.I. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have indicated, the public and the communities in general, are encouraged to build extra schools. We are not aware of any specific areas that cannot afford to build an extra classroom.

Mr. Maitha: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. In the whole of Tana River District, North-Eastern Province, part of Kilifi District and Ukambani area, people are being fed by the Government. If the Assistant Minister is not aware, then he is not receiving any reports. What is the Government doing about these districts which are very poor to build more schools?

Mr. K.I. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Member is referring to temporary food shortages and possibly, the areas where food is supplemented. We do not believe that these areas are so poor that they cannot build schools.

Mr. Gatabaki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, considering that the Chair, the Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development, myself and most of us went through free primary, secondary and university education, even if the population has increased, we had the policies of the Government regarding collection of funds. What has happened during the last ten years, such that the Government cannot provide free primary, secondary and university education?

Mr.K.I. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is asking a completely different question from what I have and if he feels there is need for such a question, we are ready to give a proper response.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the National Poverty Eradication Plan, it is already Government policy that by the year 2015, there will be universal primary education in this country. The Assistant Minister talked about waiting for the David Koech's Commission Report and the decision has been made here. Is the Koech Report going to change this policy? At what level of universal primary education is the Assistant Minister talking about? Is he talking about Standard 8 or Standard 12 because these children are too young to know what should be done? They cannot repeat. Where do they go to?

Mr. K.I. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a difference between what the document from Kenya Social Congress is referring to as basic education and what we are referring to as a basic education. We are talking about Standard 8 and the document is talking about Standard 12, as he would like to call it. We are talking about universal primary education; meaning Standard 8.

Question No.432

FAILURE OF SCHOOL MILK PROGRAMME

Mr. Achola asked the Minister for Education and Human Resource Development:-

(a) whether he could explain why the School Milk Programme is not working in Migori District despite funds having been voted for the same by this House; and,

(b) in view of the failure of the School Milk Programme, whether he could consider scrapping the scheme immediately and instead use the funds to buy the required books and equipment for pupils of Migori District.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Anybody from the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development? Order! Hon. Ruto, the next Question is also yours.

The Assistant Minister for Education and Human Resource Development (Mr. K.I. Ruto): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to reply.

(a) While I appreciate that the School Milk Scheme is not working in Migori District as it should be, I wish to say that this could not happen because of financial constraints. The little money allocated was spent in clearing accumulated debts on the programme.

(b) My Ministry cannot scrap the School Milk Programme in Migori District, and elsewhere, as it is an integral part of the School Children Programme, because of the crucial objective of alleviating malnutrition among the children and enhancing retention and attendance in schools. This is in line with the Government policy of poverty alleviation.

The supply of textbooks and equipment to deserving districts, Migori District included, is being addressed by the Ministry through the Textbooks and Equipment Scheme.

Mr. Kihara: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister admit that this Scheme is not working anywhere? This Scheme was started on a public platform, it was never planned for and, therefore, it is not working. Could the Assistant Minister scrap it nationally so that, that money is spent elsewhere because the Scheme is not working anywhere?

Mr. K.I. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the programme is working and the Treasury has allocated Kshs20 million this year which is not sufficient to give milk to 6.5 million children. But at least, we will go on.

Mr. Sungu: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it really in order for the Assistant Minister to mislead this House when we know that School Milk Programme is not working in Kisumu District? How can he say that the Scheme is working when it is not working? Is he in order?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! It is not in order for him to mislead the House, but he is here to say what he has said.

Mr. K.I. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have indicated that the programme is working. I do not understand anything else.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their places)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Mr. Achola!

Mr. Achola: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Although the Assistant Minister is claiming that the School Milk Programme is working, if you look at the Printed Estimates for this year, there is no money allocated for it. So, in the first place, he is telling untruth to this House. But that notwithstanding, could he explain to the House what measures the Ministry has put in place to ensure that the milk actually reaches the schools as intended?

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is one of our rules that is in danger of full violation. That is, when an hon. Member is speaking, nobody should pass between that hon. Member and the Chair. I think it has become a common practice for that to happen and I think we should arrest it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The standing orders are very clear. When an hon. Member is on the Floor, no other hon. Member should pass between that hon. Member on his feet and the Chair, because that interrupts, not only that hon. Member, but all the rest. So, please, let us observe that rule.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Since hon. Achola has drawn our attention to the fact that the School Milk Programme, in fact, has been struck out from the Recurrent Estimates that we have, this Assistant Minister has, therefore, been misleading this House. Is it not in order that we asked him to withdraw the reply he had given and apologise?

Mr. Ruto: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Financial Year, there is an allocation of K£1 million.

Hon. Members: Where?

Mr. Ruto: In the Printed Estimates.

Mr. Achola: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know where the Assistant Minister is reading his figure from. I have the Printed Estimates for this year, and there is nothing allocated to that Programme. So, I do not know which page he is reading from.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Really, Mr. Ruto, you are not fully briefed on this matter. I will defer this Question, so that you can go and reconcile the figures voted in the Printed Estimates. That will be the safest thing to do under the circumstances. I think the Assistant Minister should go and look at the Recurrent and Development estimates. In the Development Estimates, there is a figure allocated to School Milk and Feeding

Programme. So, let him go and reconcile those figures, then he will come back with a more satisfactory answer. We are all interested in getting the correct answer. So, the Question is deferred until next week.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Considering what we have witnessed from the Assistant Minister, and considering that we have the Leader of Government Business here with us, could he pass our sentiments to His Excellency the President; that incompetent Ministers who cannot do the job be fired?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! The Standing Order which allows you to stand on a point of order is not for passing judgement on other people. It is for bringing the attention of the Chair, hon. Members who are out of order. If in your rather self opinionated way you feel that, that Assistant Minister is not competent, you keep it to yourself, until and unless he is out of order. So, that is not a point of order.

Next Question!

Question No.065

UPGRADING OF GITA/CHIGA HEALTH CENTRES

Mr. Sungu asked the Minister for Health when he will upgrade Gita and Chiga health centres to maternity units.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Wako): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, both Gita and Chiga dispensaries are run by the Kisumu Municipality, and hence, fall under the Ministry of Local Authorities. We have referred the matter to the Ministry of Local Authorities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Sungu, that Question, really, ought to have been directed to the Ministry of Local Authorities, and I have so directed. So, you will be answered by the Ministry of Local Authorities. I have asked the Assistant Minister to ensure that the Question is transferred, and the Clerk to the National Assembly will ensure that the answer is brought to the House.

(Question deferred)

Mr. Sungu: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, because I actually directed the Question to the Ministry for Local Authorities and not the Ministry of Health. I do not know how it came out that it was transferred to the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question!

Question No.386

SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN COAST PROVINCE

Mr. Maitha asked the Minister for Health:-

- (a) what he is doing to alleviate the acute shortage of medical personnel in Coast Province; and,
- (b) if he could indicate the number of trained medical personnel in each medical facility in the provincial and district hospitals as well as shortfalls in terms of personnel for each facility.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Dr. Wako): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) In order to alleviate the shortage being experienced at the Coast Province and the country at large, the Ministry will strive to obtain the required funds to recruit the various cadres of medical personnel as they graduate from the various training institutions in the country and overseas.

(b) The number of trained medical personnel in the provincial and district hospitals and the shortfall is as follows:-

	Authorised	In Service	Short-fall
Coast Provincial General Hospital	1,074	973	101
Malindi District Hospital	212	153	101
Kilifi District Hospital	305	170	135

Hola District Hospital	251	130	121
Ngao District Hospital	114	60	54
Kwale District Hospital		84	75
			9
Msambweni District Hospital	198	122	76
Kinango District Hospital	156	92	64
Voi District Hospital	169	192	23
Wesu District Hospital	150	129	21
Taita Taveta District Hospital	288	271	71

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the admission by the Assistant Minister that there is a shortfall of personnel in the whole of Coast Province is a clear indication that some dispensaries and health centres do not have trained personnel and some of them have been closed down. The Ministry of Health has been training nurses, but it has not employed them for the last three years. Could the Assistant Minister tell us what he means by saying that he is going to train others when we have already trained personnel who have not been employed by the Ministry of Health?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of any dispensary or hospital which has been closed down due to lack of personnel. I have said that we are asking for money to recruit the various cadres of medical personnel as they graduate from the training colleges, because they have not been employed.

Mr. Parpai: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Assistant Minister in order to mislead this House that he does not know of any dispensary or health centre that has been closed down for lack of personnel when I informed him yesterday in his office that two dispensaries from my constituency have been closed down for lack of personnel? Is it in order for the Assistant Minister to "cheat" hon. Members on such a very serious issue?

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Parpai, hon. Members of this House do not cheat, they vary the truth!

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the truth of the matter is that he is more of a "cheater", because he did not come to my office as he has alleged.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I think, the Chair ruled the other day that there is no such English word referring to a human being as a "cheater". So, withdraw that word.

Dr. Wako: He should first withdraw, because he actually said that he was in my office yesterday which is not true. So, he actually cheated!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order!

Mrs. Mugo: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I believe the Assistant Minister is misleading this House, because in many hospitals, including Kenyatta National Hospital, which is a referral hospital, one intensive care ward is out of use. First, the equipment has broken down. Secondly, there is lack of enough personnel, because the few who are trained have been taken by other private hospitals which pay their staff well. Can the Assistant Minister tell us what they are doing to ensure that the staff is well paid and the equipment repaired and the clinics and hospitals are well-staffed using Kenyan taxpayers' money?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of any ward which is closed in Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH). However, I know that we have two spare wards in Kenyatta National Hospital which we normally use for emergencies.

It is true that we are losing most of our personnel to private hospitals, both within and outside the country due to remuneration. We have already presented our recommendations to the Harmonisation Commission appointed by His Excellency the President. So, we are expecting the Government to do something.

Mr. Maitha: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now that the Assistant Minister has accepted that we are losing a lot of personnel, and that the hospitals are understaffed, can he bring a Motion to this House to increase salaries for all trained medical staff to be on the same scale as those of the private institutions, if we want to retain trained staff in Government hospitals?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Member can bring the Motion. But as far as the

Ministry is concerned, we have presented our views to the Harmonisation Commission, which will harmonise the terms and conditions of service for civil servants.

Dr. Kulundu: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I suspect that the chaos we are witnessing in the Ministry of Health is as a result of poor planning and budgeting on the part of the senior staff in the Ministry. If that is not true, can the Assistant Minister tell us how much more money he needs to cover that shortfall in personnel, countrywide?

Dr. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot say off-head how much money is required. But we have a shortage of trained personnel of over 3,000 who have not been employed to-date. If we get the money, I would be able to employ them and reduce the shortfall of manpower.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Wafula.

Question No.070

NON-PAYMENT OF WAGES TO BUNGOMA
RURAL ACCESS PROGRAMME WORKERS

Mr. Wafula asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing:

(a) if he is aware that some 26 people employed by the Bungoma Rural Access Programme, Kanduyi Camp, have not received their salaries since December, 1997; and,

(b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what he is doing to ensure that those employees are paid.

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Khaniri): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that some 26 people employed by the Bungoma Rural Access Road Programme, Kanduyi Camp, have not received their salaries since December, 1997.

(b) The amount owed to those people and others elsewhere in the country has been given first priority in this year's Budget. They will be paid as soon as the district starts expending this financial year, at least, by early next month.

Mr. Wafula: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the answer given by the Assistant Minister and I do not wish to take a lot of time considering the time. I know the salaries for employees of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Rural Access Programme, are budgeted for and normally passed by this House. Why should the Assistant Minister tie these salaries to the problems facing the District Treasuries?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reason why there was delay in payment of the salaries was because of inadequacy of funds and not the district cash-flow.

Mr. Katuku: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a few weeks ago, I had a similar Question in this House; it appears that the Ministry has a problem in engaging and paying those casual workers who work on the Rural Access Roads Programme. Could the Assistant Minister give an assurance to this House that the procedure will be streamlined because the people who are engaged to do that work are suffering, especially in my constituency? There are some who have not been paid also for the last four months.

Mr. Khaniri: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I undertake to give that assurance to the hon. Member. As I have stated, we are preparing those payments and by early next month, they should get their dues.

Mr. Kombo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, those people have not been paid since 1997 and we are being told it is because of inadequacy of funds. Does that mean there was no budgetary provision for them in the last financial year 1998/99 and yet, we knew that there were employees on that programme?

Mr. Khaniri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was budgetary provision for that, but as I said, we did not receive enough funds from the Treasury to satisfy our Budget.

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE

UNLAWFUL FUNDS COLLECTION BY MALIKU CHIEF

Mrs. Ngilu: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President, the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the Chief of Maliku Location has been collecting up to Kshs200 from any person who fails to attend the Chief's *Baraza* and has severally been harassing people for unspecified crimes?

(b) Under what law or authority is the Chief collecting the money?

(c) Has the money collected to-date been remitted to the Exchequer for accounting purposes?

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

(a) The Chief of Maliku does not and has not levied a fine on any person in his location who fails to attend his baraza. The allegation arose from misinterpretation of a resolution by the local people on the construction of school buildings on self-help basis in the whole location. Incensed by the failure by some people to honour the school meetings in which construction of the school buildings is undertaken; the people decided that those people who do not attend those meetings should pay Kshs200. The same money would then be used to employ additional labour. The chief does not enforce that resolution, but it is honoured by everybody who wishes not to offer manual labour.

(b) Arising from that, parts "b" and "c" do not arise.

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Chief of Maliku Location is not the chairperson of the building committees in the location. The chief has formed a habit of raising funds every Sunday evening. They meet at Maliku General Store to collect that money by force. For those who do not pay the money, the following Monday morning, he sends the elders from every village to collect either the money or chicken or whatever they get from that home. That money is also taken to the DC every Monday morning. We want to know how much money he has collected and who has authorised him to do that because he is not the chairman of the building committee. I want the Minister to assure the House that, that habit will stop.

Maj. Madoka: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot say how much money was collected because in the first place, as I have said, the chief has no authority to collect such money. The Kshs200 was levied by members of the community and it went straight to those particular schools.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Look at the time. Really, I cannot allow any more time because it is 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Munyao: Really?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Even your gray hair will not stop us from going to the next Order. So, next Order!

Mr. Munyao: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. You are a good friend of mine, but let me ask my supplementary question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Look at the Order Paper for today. It is said that Question Time should not go beyond 3.30 p.m.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Hon. Munyao, I have told you that not even your gray hair will help. Proceed! Next Order.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I will defer the Question, but we will go to the next Order.

(Question deferred)

BILL

First Reading

THE PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister for Finance (Dr. Masakhalia): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in accordance with Standing Order No.101 (a), I beg to move that The Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Bill (Bill No.7) be referred to the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade.

(The Bill was referred to the relevant Departmental Committees)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: next Order.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Order for Committee read being Fifth Allotted Day)

MOTION

THAT, MR. SPEAKER DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 09 - Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation

The Minister for East African and Regional Co-operation (Mr. Biwott): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT, a sum of K£11,192,470 be approved in respect of Vote 09 - Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this amount will be applied in the following manner: The Personal Emoluments will be Kshs540,702; Contribution to East African Co-operation - Kshs3,500,000; Contribution to COMESA - Kshs3,543,887; Contribution to IGAD - Kshs2,240,000 and other services which include mainly operational costs such as maintenance of vehicles and other incidentals. As far as travelling expenses are concerned, it is Kshs2,367,839.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Members are fully aware, the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation is co-ordinating Kenyan efforts in the following specific functions: One, its co-ordination of matters pertaining to the groupings in liaison with their secretariats. Two, preparation of country position papers for discussion in various meetings. Three, co-ordination of country delegations to attend regional meetings, to co-ordinate implementation of efficient project programmes for the region and handling all correspondence pertaining to the region's integration programmes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry also handles matters relating to cross-border initiatives for Eastern and Southern Africa and also working closely with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the European Union. The creation of this Ministry reflects the importance that the Government attaches to the issue of regional integration, in view of the globalisation and integration that is taking place at the moment throughout the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the areas in which we have achieved progress in the East African Co-operation which as hon. Members are fully aware, was launched in 1994, include the following: On the fiscal, monetary and policy harmonisation, an agreement has been reached on micro-economic framework on convergence for the three East African countries which are forming the East African Co-operation and soon, the East African Community. Also, the three countries have agreed and they are now implementing the East Africa currency convertibility. In other words, it is now possible for East Africans to trade more freely with their own currencies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other areas in which there has been progress in the fiscal and monetary policy harmonisation include the signing of the Tripartite Double Taxation Agreement and the avoidance of double taxation within the three countries which was signed in 1997 and I think, it has already been gazetted in this country. The Finance Ministers do hold consultations before and after the Budget, in order to harmonise their budget proposals and bring into line the policy measures that are adopted within the East African region.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the movement across the border, it has now been agreed that there be separate counters to serve the East Africa nationals in their international airports. We are also in the process of issuing the East Africa passports to East African nationals on a national basis. There is also to be---

Mr Gatabaki: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Is the Minister aware that Kenyan products like the Kenya Breweries continue to suffer unfavourable treatment?

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members. That is not a point of order and really, the Minister is introducing the estimates of his Ministry and you are going to have two days to debate those estimates. You have ample opportunity to say whatever you want about the Ministry. So, we really bide your time, until the debate is open and you stand and I will recognise you as I do always.

Mr. Gatabaki: Okay. I am most obliged.

(Laughter)

The Minister for East African and Regional Co-operation (Mr. Biwott): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was talking about the reciprocal border crossing points, which East African countries have agreed to open. For example, there is Lwakhakha on the Kenya-Uganda border.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the infrastructure development, the three East African countries have identified what they call East African Regional Network and they have advertised it throughout the world and it is estimated that once it is fully developed, it will cost us about US\$4 to 5 billion. One such example of a road that has already been established is the Mukuyu-Isebania-Mwanza Road which was completed in 1997. The three countries have also signed Road Transport and Inland Waterways Transport Agreements. These were signed on 30th, April 1998. On the implementation of the East African digital telecommunication linkage, this is going on very well. On the political co-operation, the East Africans have agreed to single out security as one of the most important aspects of the stability of the region. To that extent, a co-operative effort has been established whereby the police and the administration meet regularly in order to discuss security matters and also to map out ways and means of co-operating in matters of security in order to make East Africa a safe place.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair)

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

We believe that without security, there can never be development. There is also a parallel consultation taking place between the Ministers of Defence of the three East African countries on a liaison basis, in order to ease tension and to build confidence among themselves.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as hon. Members may have already seen, East Africa has now got a flag, which is called the East African Flag. Once we integrate more, that flag will become more prominent. We are also expecting to sign a treaty on 30th July, 1999 in Arusha. The signatures will be appended by the three East African Heads of State. At this particular moment, as I speak, technocrats are meeting in Arusha to hammer out that document. It is not easy, especially when it comes to matters of trade. But they are labouring hard. I am also pleased to report that this House's Committee which specialises on foreign and regional affairs and trade, has also---

Mr. Kihoro: On point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Minister has just told us that the three Ministers are going to meet in a closet in Arusha, but he is not talking about the Budget for a referendum for the East Africans to be able to decide on the--

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

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope the Minister will come to the question of the referendum about the three Ministers meeting in a closet.

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

Mr. Kihoro: My point of order is that the issue of the East Africa Co-operation is being taken in the wrong direction because the East Africans are not being involved.

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

The Minister for East African and Regional Co-operation (Mr. Biwott): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think I owe the hon. Member a lot of education and let me take this opportunity to bring him up to date with what is going on in the East African scene.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as it is now, there is established in East Africa, by agreement, an institution called the East African Co-operation. That institution has a secretariat which functions at Arusha. That secretariat operates under the direction of what we call the Executive Committee which is manned by permanent secretaries from the three East African countries. There is also a Commission called the Tripartite Commission, which is a Committee of the three Ministers of the East African Co-operation. Then, there is the Authority which is composed of the President that signs the East African Co-operation agreement and which is expected to sign the East African Treaty come July 30th, 1999.

What I talked about earlier on was a Committee of experts that is looking at the document which will form part of that treaty, when that treaty comes. But I believe that during the Debate on this Vote, Members will have an opportunity to discuss every aspect of the East African Co-operation and also, the regional Co-operation as a whole, including COMESA and IGAD, as well as the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP).

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that security is a very important aspect in the East African Co-operation and we are giving the greatest consideration to that matter. But in order to be consistent, we

are also relating the development of the East African Co-operation to the aspirations of the African Continent. The cultural heritage, economic and political ties which existed before the balkanisation is showing good signs which have come about because of the wise leadership of our Heads of State, through the establishment of the East African Community, which is in line with the Abuja Treaty of 1984.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, our ultimate aim is to create a common market. That is actually the myth of the East African Co-operation. We want a bigger common market. We want a larger area and a larger population for our industries to flourish, for our people to get employed and for the living standards of the people of East Africa to improve. That is the actual aim and objective for the creation of the East African Co-operation.

As for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), I would like to emphasise that COMESA is yet a larger creation of the bigger market, which is also aimed at becoming a common market. The East African Co-operation is the first aspect of COMESA. In other words, it is the first track of the COMESA. Its aims and objectives are to create a free market in East Africa. The COMESA aims at creating a free market for a larger area which comprises 400 million people, while the East African Co-operation aims at creating a common market of about 80 million people, but this is expected to grow to about 100 million in a few years. So, to that extent, there is consistency between East African Co-operation and COMESA. I have always used the example of Benelux countries; Belgium, Poland and Luxembourg, because they have a first track within the European Community. So, the East African Co-operation is the first track of the COMESA area. What are the aims of COMESA? The COMESA aims at creating a common market by October, 2000. We hope that by then, East Africans will have created something which will impress the rest of the world and which will make us develop even faster.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, COMESA has already acceded to a 90 per cent tariff reduction. They are also aiming at removing non-tariff barriers, for example, protective restrictions, licensing, imports, permits, restriction on foreign exchange and so on. They are also putting more emphasis on certificates of origin in order to avoid dumping and ensure that trade takes place among the COMESA members only. They are also working out a document which is common to all so that we can network and work as if we were operating in one country.

They are also collecting data on a regional basis and creating one custom board document so that each country works exactly in the same manner. They are working out a custom board guarantee scheme to facilitate transit and reduce the cost of financing transit goods. They are also gathering trade information in order to make it available to the businessmen in the COMESA area so as to make them aware of economic potentials within the region. They are at the moment developing a website in order to communicate more freely and harmonise their transport charges. They are implementing COMESA carriers licenses which were introduced in 1991 to replace national permits currently. These are in operation in 19 inland countries. They are also working out an advanced cargo information system that allows railways and ports authorities users to track their cargo from the source to the destination. These are just but a few examples.

Then, what are the future plans of COMESA? The COMESA at the moment is trying to implement a COMESA free-trade area. They are aiming to achieve that by the year 2000. They are also implementing measures that are required for a COMESA common-investment area. They are drawing a road map for COMESA common external tariff and will start its implementation. They are also working out ways and means to improve the business activities in the private sector in the region. These are supported with access to commercially viable information through further development. They will continue to facilitate the intra-regional movement of goods and services through the implementation of transport communication facilitation. They are also involved in a programme to ensure that there is peace in each region through such meetings that have been taking place, for example, the one which has been taking place in Lusaka on the Congo crisis. We are operating through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. Therefore, we are working closely with other regional integration organisations in Africa to ensure that there is co-ordination of activities wherever possible. We intend to establish a regional investment agency which will cater for the imbalances that exist at the moment in the development stages of the member states.

There are a few specific undertakings which our Ministry has agreed to follow. For example, to follow-up and monitor implementation of various articles and protocols envisaged in the COMESA treaty. Kenya took the Chairmanship last time when the meeting was here at the KICC. Today, we are steering the COMESA and we will be steering it for the next two years. We are also expecting to launch a COMESA free-trade area by 31st October, 2000. All in all, we have made quite good progress.

May I also mention another organisation which our Ministry is involved in; that is IGAD. IGAD is an organisation comprising of Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. Somalia is also part of it although at the moment, she has no Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the specific programmes which IGAD deals with are mainly food security and environmental protection. They also deal with infrastructure, for example, the Moyale-Isiolo Road. They also deal with conflict resolution, especially the conflict in Southern Sudan and also the current problems existing in Somalia. The greatest thing that I would like Kenyans to know is that they are now operating within a regionalised and globalised world and they should be thinking in terms of the region. Whenever they are making their industrial plans, they should be looking at the region as a whole. Whenever they are making their plans on commerce and services, they should also be looking at the region as a whole. For example, like now when we have *El Nino* rains related problems, we should be looking at countries like Uganda to import maize or the neighbouring countries to import whatever we can from there. Also we should see what products they are producing which we can buy, so that together we look at each other's market as our joint market.

Once again, may I summarise what my Ministry requires in order to operate smoothly, effectively and efficiently and to discharge the responsibilities assigned to it to the satisfaction of this House which approves that money; and to Kenyans as a whole, who have entrusted us with that responsibility to negotiate with others. Also to ourselves so that we can feel proud that we are people of integrity serving our country diligently and also to give great satisfaction to the Committee that monitors and discusses with us the programmes of our East African co-operation.

You will notice in your budget proposals that under the Recurrent Vote which is R -09, my Ministry requires K£11,192,470. Out of this allocation, K£1,695,501 will cater for general administration and planning while K£9,506,969 will be spent on regional co-operation initiatives relating to East African co-operation, COMESA and IGAD. Please note that my Ministry does not implement any development projects and hence we have no Development Vote. Ours is to provide service. If hon. Members would like to know the break down so that they can monitor, and also in the interest of transparency and accountability, I will give you the full details: The personal emoluments is K£540,752, the contribution to East African co-operation is K£3,500,000 and contribution to COMESA is K£2,543,897. The contribution to IGAD is K£2,240,000. There are other services such as travelling, maintenance and the rest which amount to K£2,367,839. The total is K£11,192,490.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am delighted to second this Motion. The issue of regional economic co-operation has taken a leading stage in matters of economic and trade affairs in the world today. It is important, therefore, that Kenya also lays emphasis in its own membership in the regional economic growth already established in the country. All the countries in the world, including those ones that are developed today, are placing greater emphasis on building strong economic regional co-operation. First, as a way of conserving the wealth within the region, but much more importantly, to become much more competitive in the current global economic framework. That is why we find that Europe, despite being an extremely developed region today, continues to uphold economic integration. It is envisaged that by the year 2000, the European Union will have a membership of 20 states. Indeed, within the European Union, Europeans want to pull their resources together. If it is a matter of trade, they want to have one uniform agricultural policy, to have enough food not only for their people, but more to export; even in the technological and trade matters, so that they can be more competitive when trading with the USA. The Americans too have also formed another partnership with Canada and Mexico. If you go into Asia, the Asians have already formed the Pacific Base.

We, in Africa, cannot expect to make any meaningful progress in economic matters if, indeed, we do not start putting in place regional economic blocks. Eventually, such blocks should become the building blocks for a much bigger African economy. What has happened today, and I am speaking from my own experience, is what has happened in the relationship between Africa and Europe. The European Union happens to be the destination of a great deal of our own products, especially, the raw materials in agriculture, and a number of manufactured products. It is also the source of the largest amount of investment resources and a great deal of programme aid.

What will happen in the year 2000 when the current Lome Convention ends? Any relationship between any country and the European Union will be meaningful if that relationship is based on a regional economic base. It will be important for a country to belong to a certain regional economic blockade. Then trade arrangements are going to be worked on that basis. Indeed, certain mechanisms are going to be put in place. Those mechanisms are those ones known as "REPAS;" the regional economic Properties, so that if Kenya wants to sell anything to the European Union, it will not be that easy, unless as the East African Co-operation, (EAC) or the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African (COMESA). We will need to reach an agreement with them so that we give them certain preferences and they also reciprocate. Unfortunately, that is the position today, by virtue of the existence of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

So, the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation is spearheading today an important initiative

for this country; so that we can attack the problems of poverty, and to integrate the Kenyan economy in the global economy. The EAC is an area that all of us would wish to embrace. We recall today, with nostalgia, the existence of the East African Community. It was a very important and one of the foremost regional economic integration group in Africa and in the world. It was a very well developed one. It allowed the people of East Africa to work together and to be one. Unfortunately, it did break because it lacked the political will and the goodwill of the people, because they were not so much involved. Of course, there were other forces who did not believe in moving ahead.

The initiative of the East African Co-operation is one which can succeed, because it is pushed by the private sector in all the three countries. They want the EAC to go on. Because the whole objective is to form a free common market to enable free trading within the three countries and that it is the private sector which is spearheading it, then it will succeed. I also do believe that when the EAC Treaty is signed and is subjected - definitely - to a debate in Parliament and to the people, then it will reflect the wishes of the people. It will be difficult in the long term to be able to break the EAC, as it was the case before with the former East African Community.

What are the benefits of the EAC? First of all, it will bring the people of the three countries together, who are brothers and sisters. If you look around, you will find that the boundaries between the three countries were set up artificially. Much [**The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development**] more importantly, it will conserve the resources of the three countries. We shall be trading together, instead of exporting our own hard currencies outside the region. We will preserve the region here and expand our own production means. For those who want to invest in this region, for example, in Kenya, they will be looking into a much bigger market than just merely Kenya. That will mean the existence of a much bigger and wider productive system, which will employ more people. Unemployment is the problem that we want to deal with, and this is one way of solving the problem of poverty.

The EAC will also attract more investment into this country; like those from outside. Investors first want to know how big the market is. For example, those who want to invest in Kenya will look at the much bigger EAC market. No doubt, there will also be a lot of savings, because certain common institutions will then be formed, considering the economies of scale. In the case of the COMESA, it has about 400 million people. It is a very big market and that is why we are a member of COMESA. Today, there can be no doubt at all, that in Africa COMESA is more developed than any other market. We cannot even compare COMESA with ECOWAS or SADEC! Kenya plays a very important role in COMESA. It is also important to note that the largest consumer of Kenyan exports is COMESA. It means a lot to Kenya. Somebody talked about Uganda being the largest market for our exports but Uganda is still within COMESA. So, this is one area that we should support every initiative; and on this particular score, especially today that the President of the Republic of Kenya is the Chairman of COMESA. We should support it because that is where jobs are going to be found. Because of the free movement that is going to come in the various arrangements, Kenyans cannot only work here but also elsewhere within the region.

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

(Question proposed)

Mr. Kihara: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy to have been accorded the privilege to respond on behalf of the Opposition.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to state that I support the Motion and the budget of this Ministry. As it has been said here and we agree, the need for co-operation in the region cannot be over-emphasised. This is the age of economic trading blocs and we cannot afford to be left behind. As it has been said, when this question of regional co-operation is raised, many people, especially the business community ask us whether the political will is there to see this thing through. We have assured them that we know that our Government recognizes the need for this arrangement and, therefore, we believe that the political will is there.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are lucky because we have had the East African Community which is now defunct and, therefore, we will be able to draw from the experiences of that community to avoid the mistakes that were made and that led to the breakdown of that community. We know, and that is why we are trying to make this a people-driven treaty, where we are involving the people. There is a Committee of this House which is looking at the treaty; we have had a meeting with business people at the School of Monetary Studies and we looked at the document for the East African Co-operation because we want it to be people-driven. It is for the same reason that we want the Constitutional Review to be people-driven. If we admit that the East African Co-operation should be people-driven so that it succeeds, then we want the Constitutional Review process to be people-driven if it has to survive and serve the people.

In the East African Community which collapsed, we know that the three East African countries were pursuing different ideologies at that time. Some were for socialism, others were for capitalism while others were for something in-between the two. Now, we are operating on almost the same ideological wavelength and on that score, we are going to succeed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to address a few areas where I think the budget that we are about to approve should apply in order to promote the East African Co-operation. During the days of the East African Community, we had common services such as the railways, airways, post offices, research organizations and so on. Some of these organizations cannot be brought under the control of the Government because we are in the process of privatising them. I believe that it should be possible if the atmosphere and an enabling environment is provided for those privatised companies in our different countries to work together or even to merge. I have in mind companies like the privatised railways, post offices and so on. These can merge, given the right atmosphere. Research organizations like EAGRO(?), forestry, veterinary services, agriculture and industrial research. These are areas where we can come together. They were there and we know the experience of that time and we can very easily bring them back.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has said that our ultimate aim is the common market but I believe that our ultimate aim is the East African Federation and it is time that we started taking some steps towards the realisation of the East African Federation. East Africans support very strongly the idea of an East African Federation. Our people have got very many things in common; they have a common language and most of our leaders attended the same universities together, for instance, Makerere and it should be very easy to do this. We should now take some steps towards the realisation of the East African Federation. I think the Minister should show us the path as to the route towards achieving the East African Federation. If we are going towards that direction, then I think there are certain things which he can begin to do now. The Minister has talked about the convertibility of our currencies. I can remember those days when we had the East African Currency Board which came up with the East African Shilling which served Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and the present day Yemen, which was then called Eden. There can be no much problem in starting things like those ones where we have had some experience.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we can also start to abolish work permits within the East African Community to allow movement of labour within our countries. This is again towards the aim of achieving federation and integration. We should create an atmosphere for cross-border investments, including abolition of double taxation. If I pay my taxes for income earned in Uganda, I should not be taxed for the same income again in Kenya. The Minister has said that they have concluded an agreement for that and I commend his team for that. I am also glad because I hear that there is some progress that has been made towards launching the East African Passport.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was a programme of abolishing tariffs altogether across our common borders for goods originating within the East African Community and I think that should now be looked into so that it is implemented without much delay. By so doing, we can also eliminate smuggling between our countries by harmonising our taxation measures. The Minister has said that we should harmonise our Budget dates and so on. If the taxation of oil is the same in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, it will not encourage anybody to smuggle oil from one country to the other. So, if we can harmonise our taxation measures, we can, to a very large extent, eliminate smuggling.

Recently, we were in Tanzania and our Armed Forces were there for joint exercises with the Tanzanian Forces. This is something which is commendable. We would like to see that happening more often. We should also utilise our joint Armed Forces to eliminate cattle rustling and banditry across the borders because our international borders always experience these problems. This problem is experienced in between the Karamojong and the Pokots; in the border between Kuria and Tanzania, the border between Somalia and Kenya and the border between Ethiopia and Kenya. In these areas, we experience these problems of smuggling and cattle raids. We can use our forces to stop smuggling. There are certain things, within the Ministry of Transport and Communications, which must be attended to immediately, if we were to allow for faster integration and success of regional co-operation. For example, I have in mind the Mombasa-Nairobi-Kampala Road, which we have talked about for many years. We should always keep that road in good condition to serve our country. We should also make our railway system more efficient than it is now. Our railway system is in a terrible state. The other day, while travelling to Mombasa, I saw the coaches of the train that clashed at Tsavo, still lying where they fell six months ago. There used to be days when, even after a slight accident, the railway line and the surrounding area was cleared in a matter of days. The coaches of the train that clashed at Tsavo are still lying there. You can imagine the impression that they create to the travelling public. For the purpose of our integration in the region, we need to improve our railway system and make it efficient. Air travel also need to be looked into. Cheap

telephone services should be made accessible to all our people. We need to ease communication between our countries. Mobile telephones are not affordable in this country. We think it is because of monopoly.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the port of Mombasa is another area where we need to improve our efficiency, if we have to enhance the integration and co-operation between our countries. It must be made competitive so that our neighbouring countries do not begin diverting their cargo to Dar-es-Salaam. We should allow free flow of traffic between our countries. I find unnecessary roadblocks in Kenya. I have not been to Uganda or Tanzania recently--- No, I was in Tanzania recently, but I did not see roadblocks at all! But here in Kenya, between Nairobi and Nakuru, you will find about five to six roadblocks. The roadblocks do not allow free flow of trade between our countries.

There are other areas where the Minister should look into. The hyacinth problem in Lake Victoria has not attracted the attention it deserves. The three countries should not only co-operate to eliminate the menace, but they should also invite other countries with interest on Lake Victoria like Sudan and Egypt, to assist in the elimination of the hyacinth.

In this region also, we should look into possibilities of developing joint hydro-power stations in places like the Murchison Falls. The Murchison Falls can provide power more cheaply than some of the areas that we are trying to harness our power. This can be done to include other countries in the region like Rwanda, Burundi and so on.

We should also explore trading in stocks and shares for public quoted companies. The shares should be made available to citizens of partner states. This would create opportunities for investment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not get the figures for COMESA, but I believe that the figures the Minister has given as our contribution to COMESA are justified. Considering the benefits that we are likely to get, the K£2.6 million we have given to COMESA is justified. Also, on the contribution to IGAD, which concerns itself with a very important role of dispute resolutions, we hope we will not be preaching water and drinking wine. We should put our house in order, and then go out to put other houses in order. Some of us are very concerned with pictures which come out of Sudan. The pictures which we see depict the human suffering of the people of Sudan. It is very tragic! We hope that the IGAD will address this question with the urgency that it deserves. The suffering of women, children and the elderly is just too much. We do not know what course could justify the human suffering in Sudan. There are also other disputes like the one involving Ethiopia and Eriteria. We would like our Government to exert whatever influence it can master, to bring the two warring parties to a negotiating table, to resolve the problem once and for all.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the majority of the personnel in this Ministry are economists. But the Ministry is very small to have its own accounting and personnel units. It has an establishment of under 200, but those in position are about 132. I think we should look into possibilities of combining several Ministries to have one personnel and accounting unit, rather than each Ministry having its own units.

Finally, I think one cannot talk much about this Ministry, because it is a good one. It is something that we support. I only appeal to the Minister that during negotiations, when he goes to Arusha and other places for discussions, he should not forget Members of Parliament who are interested in this subject. There is a Committee of Parliament which looks after this. We would like him to incorporate us when he goes for negotiations in Arusha, COMESA or wherever they go to discuss the East African and Regional Co-operation.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Raila: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Motion, and make the following remarks. The Minister has asked us to approve K£11 million to implement his programmes in this Financial Year. There are certain issues which the Minister mentioned, and which are of concern. Some of them are actually worrying for some of us. When we talk about the East African Co-operation, we think of what happened in the previous co-operation. We are concerned that we should not have a repeat of what happened at that time. Therefore, it is very important for us to go into details of the reasons that led to the collapse of the former East African Community.

In my view, one of them was the approach. At that time, the approach was top-bottom. This is because the Treaty was negotiated by leaders, signed and then brought here for implementation. We said that if we want to avoid that pitfall, we should now have a bottoms-up approach. We should have a people-based approach. The approach should be people-driven, just like we are saying that, the constitutional reforms should be people-driven.

I am worried that we are now going to sign the Treaty in Arusha on 30th of July, 1999, before that document has been tabled before this Parliament, for elaborate discussion and approval by Members of Parliament.

(Applause)

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has not been debated. As far as I am concerned, it was only tabled, but it has not been debated. I do not see any business that is more important, apart from Budget this year, than this. This is a matter of urgency---

Mr. Kajwang': On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I just want to inform hon. Raila that the East African Treaty is law-making. It will be a law which will affect the three sister countries, and yet, this is the House which makes laws, but it has not discussed it. It is a tragedy!

Mr. Raila: I am grateful to hon. Kajwang' for that information. So, I think that we should try as quickly as possible to bring this document for discussion. We should, in fact, bring a Bill for an Act of Parliament as required by this Treaty itself.

The Minister says, we are talking about moving towards a common currency. Noble! We did have an East African Currency Board. What caused the problem? The problem was that each and every Head of State at that time, wanted to have their own images on the currencies. That was the reason why, in fact, the East African Currency Board was dissolved.

The Minister is telling us that they are trying to facilitate a cross border-crossing. He has said that they want to facilitate free movement of goods, people and services. But he is also now telling us that there will be an East African passport. Why should we then introduce passport if we want to have a free movement of people? I have in mind, for example, a fisherman on the Mfangano Island. Why should that fisherman be made to come to Nairobi or wherever to get a passport? Why can he not be allowed to use his own identity card, when are talking about making it easy for people to move freely? In the European Union, you do not need passport. You only need an identity card and you can travel from Ireland all the way down to Greece. Why do we not work towards that? Why are our leaders not working towards that? I do not think that passports are good enough. Identity cards should be documents that should be used for travelling within the East African region.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has talked about COMESA. He has said, the community is the building bloc towards a big integration. It is now universally accepted that the answer to globalisation is regionalisation. That you create greater regional units, so that you can enhance your bargaining power within the international community. So, this is noble and that is the reason why we all welcome COMESA. But I am worried about certain developments within COMESA. There is a tendency to try to demonise South Africa within COMESA. That South Africa is being made a pariah nation. South Africa is an African country, and we must learn to live with it. Rather than trying to create walls, I think, it is time that we began to facilitate negotiations between COMESA and SADAC. South Africa has a very important role to play, because it is one of the most developed economies on the African Continent and we should be proud of it. Japan has had trade imbalances with this country since Independence. Japan refused to buy our tea and coffee to balance trade and yet we are not talking as loud about Japan, as we want to talk loud about South Africa. It is better to have trade imbalances with an African country than Japan or Germany. So, we should create dialogue rather than confrontation. If we create a bigger region, we will have a bigger bargaining position.

The other countries are not interested in developing Africa. We have now a case, for example, where the USA is trying to sue South Africa for patent rights. This is because South Africa is trying to make available a drug that can prolong lives of people who are infected with HIV. It is now known, that in developed countries, people can live with HIV almost indefinitely using the combination; that cocktail of Protis Inhibitors. That drug is available to almost all the citizens in the Developed World at affordable price, but it is not available to the people in the developing countries. Yet now, if South Africa wants to do it, the countries in the Developed World are more concerned with commercialism; with so-called, international property rights, rather than the lives of people in the developing countries. So, we have to fend for ourselves in this part of the world. And the bigger we are, the stronger will be, our bargaining position. That is why we must learn to live and work with South Africa.

We also live in a region that is in turmoil; the Great Lake Region. Kenya should use its unique position to try to facilitate dialogue within the Great Lakes Region. There is conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, some countries have moved in, taken in their troops without invitation, and there are countries which have been invited to try to bring peace in that country. Kenya should not sit aside. Kenya should use its unique position to try to facilitate dialogue and bring peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In doing so, we must be prepared to come out and say straightaway who is the offender. It is not right to say both countries have got armies in the Democratic Republic of Congo. There are those countries that have gone to the Democratic Republic of Congo by invitation. There are those countries that have gone into that country supposedly to protect their interest in the neighbouring countries. What interests are you protecting in a neighbour's territory? So, we should call a spade, a spade, if we want to bring peace in this region. So, I think that Kenya will stand out as a leading country in this region if we facilitate dialogue between Eritrea and Ethiopia. But we should be firm against aggression, like recently, when Kenya's territorial integrity was invaded. That was an action that we

would expect of this Government all the time. That it should be prepared as a nation to defend our integrity when it is invaded by a foreign country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having said that, we should try as we know the Government is trying, to facilitate dialogue among the fighting groups within Somalia. I think the start is by accepting that there is an order in the Republic of Somaliland or the former British Somalia. That can be used as a beginning point in trying to bring all these other warlords together, so that they can see that they have more to gain by negotiating than by acquiring more arms to kill themselves.

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

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Kamotho): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to support the Vote of the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation. It is good that the Minister has moved this Vote of his Ministry because this Ministry is extremely important to our national existence. I say that because the trend around the world is towards regional integration. And as Kenya, we cannot be left waiting as members of the East African Community and COMESA. We have a very, very important role to play in order to enhance economic growth and integration in the region.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we in Kenya are the beneficiaries of the East African Co-operation. I am saying this because during the last few years our international trade has largely depended on the regional market. Today, the goods that we are exporting within our regional market constitute over 47 per cent of our total international trade. This indicates our significant participation in East Africa region and in the COMESA region.

It is my hope that many hon. Members took a day or even an hour to see what was displayed in COMESATEX during the COMESA Summit in May this year. I am sure they were able to see what the 21-Member countries of the COMESA are producing and what they can offer to one another. They could also be able to see what Kenya has within the COMESA regional market. I said, it is important that we continue participating fully in all activities of the region in order to utilize the regional countries of the COMESA as our market for our goods and services. This is because our exports are continuing to grow and I am sure they will continue to grow.

It is also worthy noting that, as a result of resuscitation of the East African Community, Kenya was the second largest foreign investor in Uganda. That is very significant not only to Kenya but also to Uganda. Therefore, the effort to ensure that we realise the objective of the East Africa Region as one nation, will be of tremendous benefit to our people because it will facilitate freedom of movement of our people across the border. Our people will be able to move across the border in search of employment, opportunities for businesses and also to interact freely with their brothers and sisters across the border. This is because for a long time, we people of East Africa have always been one people. Our people have pulled together in the past and they have interacted without a lot of hassles. We must also realise the importance of Kenya in terms of conflict resolution in the East African Region. Most of the countries surrounding us in this region have been and are in turmoil, but it is only Kenya which is an island of peace. It is only in this country where people run to when there are problems in those other places. So, we must continue nursing peace in this country for good relations.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to inform the good Minister that, if he ever traversed southern Turkana and saw the level of plunder and murder being occasioned by Pokot bandits, he would not call that a heaven of peace.

An hon. Member: That is cattle rustling!

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is cattle rustling. I think the hon. Member will have a chance to talk about that when he catches the Speaker's eye. As I was saying, the strategic position of this country in the East African region, and the fact that we enjoy relative peace and stability in the region, are important. We Kenyans should strive to maintain peace so that we can continue playing our role in trying to reconcile the people of Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and those in the Great Lakes Region. This is because if these countries are peaceful, then Kenya has hope of its economy improving. Particularly the Horn of Africa is our own market. Therefore, it is important that we make greater contribution in ensuring that IGAD makes its success. This is because if there is peace in the Horn of Africa, then Kenyans will benefit through trade and many other activities. The Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation which is charged with the responsibility of facilitating economic activities for Kenya within the region is of utmost importance.

For example, because Egypt has also joined COMESA, it is important that, we try to collaborate with Egypt and Ethiopia in order to develop the Great Northern Road. This road which runs through Isiolo-Moyale to Cairo, will be able to open up a lot of possibilities and opportunities for Kenyans to do business. In addition, it is important also that Kenya plays a larger role in developing the East African Telecommunication system. This is because Kenya's strategic position will facilitate more and more investments. It will also enable us to market our

goods in the region much more freely.

So, in support of the Vote for the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation, I would also want to urge that we move faster towards realising the targets and the goals we have set; ensuring that we have zero tariffs within the COMESA region.

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

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to support this Vote of the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation, but with some qualifications.

First, on 30th July, 1999, the Presidents of the three East African countries are supposed to be signing the Treaty of East African Community. What they are signing is for all practical purposes, a shell. A shell, because the most critical consideration that went into the setting of the date for the treaty signing until a month ago, was a desire that from the first day of August this year, there will be zero tariff rating between the three countries of East Africa. That was going to be very interesting and very useful to Kenyans. The national interests of Uganda and Tanzania have made them force us to postpone that for at least one year, up to a similar time next year.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think, that is important because, I want to argue that, when you listen to Government Ministers shedding all praises about Treaties and regional blocks, it is like we have to do it because other regions of the world are doing it, not because it is in the national interest.

I support the cause of East African Co-operation; I support the ultimate goal, which, unlike the Minister said, is common market, the ultimate goal is political federation. At least, according to the Treaty. The short-term goal is the common market which is supposed to be the facilitator for the ultimate goal of political federation. I support the ultimate goal of political federation, but there are some fundamental problems that we should not run away from. I have had occasion to raise this to the Minister; that there is a major ambiguity in us pushing towards the common market with Tanzania, before Tanzania has made its stand clear on whether it is pulling out of SADC or not. This is because, South African industrial produce accesses the Tanzanian market at preferential tariff, since Tanzania is in SADC. When we remove tariff walls between Tanzania and Kenya, we are opening the flood gate for South African goods to enter the Kenyan market. This negates the original reason why we were trying to build a common market with Tanzania and Uganda.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, communication network is critical to closer regional integration. That one I agree with the Minister. The problem we have is, there are many donors who are interested in supporting road network for East Africa; the corridor roads, so-called. But there is no legal person to enter contracts for the construction of such roads beyond the individual Ministries in individual countries. While this would have been normally acceptable, the problem we have is that, certain donors will not want to entrust certain Ministries in certain countries with money, which will otherwise have been willing to put to East African road networks. So, maybe, it would be in the interest of the country, which will be the main beneficiary of improved network of communication in East Africa to seek the establishment of an entity around the Executive Secretariat which can enter contracts for the construction of road networks for East Africa, instead of leaving to individual countries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Vice-President mentioned that he thinks the current effort at East African Community is going to succeed because it is driven by the private sector. We have been hearing very good words about this thing being people-driven. It sounds very nice, but there are two problems. The first one is, the private sector is a very thick sector. With the increasing globalization, the interest that make the private sector want larger regional markets can shift overnight. The ultimate anchor of East African integration should not be spontaneous behaviour and desires of the private sector, which of necessity are transitory. In similar light, the Minister for Trade mentioned here that Kenya is the second largest investor in Uganda. This is true, but is it the Kenya Government? Is the Kenya Government facilitating? The reality is: Decline of confidence in the domestic economy is driving Kenya based investors to the Ugandan market. That is not something we can celebrate. It is not evidence that we are now becoming imperialists in the neighbourhood or that we are now integrating and embracing Uganda. It is a statement about relocation, just like the fact that a substantial number of professionals particularly of Asian background are relocating from Kenya to Australia. It does not mean that Kenya is now exporting personnel or we are so advanced to offer technical services to Australia. It is a statement that by and large is negative about conditions in our own country. It might be a statement about improving confidence in the environment for investment in Uganda.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I have been saying that I support the effort of East Co-operation, I hope when the Minister stands up to reply, he will make a definitive statement to the House, that his Ministry is going to take measures to implement an obligation they have under the treaty. Article 7:2 of the Treaty says the following:-

"That each of the partner States undertakes to take all steps within its powers to secure the

enactment and the effective implementation of such legislation as is necessary to give effect to this Treaty; and in particular, to confer upon the Community legal capacity and personality required for the performance of its functions, and to confer upon the legislation, regulations and directives of the Community and its institutions as provided for in this Treaty, the force of law within its territory".

When the Minister replies, he should tell this House when he intends to bring a Bill to be enacted into an Act of Parliament, like the 1967 East African Community Act which makes the representatives of the Kenyan taxpayer consciously cede some of the authority of this Parliament to another entity to tax Kenyans. Treaty making and even discussing the Treaty in this Parliament is not a sufficient alternative to an Act of Parliament legalizing that the Community can tax Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to say a few things about COMESA. Whereas, I think, the East African Community is very important to Kenya in our national interests, because we are net exporters of industrial value added goods to the Community, COMESA, as such is not a market to Kenya. Somalia is a market for Kenyan *miraa* whether there is war, there is a Government or no Government. There is very limited expansion of our export of *miraa* to Somalia when there is peace. Egypt is not a market for Kenyan produce in any significant way, instead, it is a threat to the national interests of Kenya. The only country that matters to Kenya in terms of trade to the North of Africa is Ethiopia. We must find ways to access the 60 million people in that country. Those are a potential market for us and they are interested in imports from Kenya. They look towards us as solidarity with a country with substantial Christian culture. But, why are we embracing Egypt which produces sugar, rice and cotton at a tenth of the price we produce those commodities in Kenya. Why are we looking to destroy our own formative industry by opening up the current tariff schedule that is being published for COMESA, reducing tariffs on agricultural produce to three per cent? Egypt will wipe out our agricultural market here. This is because, there is nothing we are exporting to Egypt, to justify us embracing them in the name of globalization and regional entities. Indeed, the main force behind regional blocks right now, is globalization; international capital.

International capital finds it easier to discipline the regimes of tariffs in Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, if it is done collectively, than going and sorting out those little pieces there. They want to mess us. They are not doing it because they like us. The forces of international finance want the ease of extracting and repatriating profits. They are not doing it because they like East Africans. We have to start thinking about our national interests. There are certain captive markets we do not need to enter any coalition or regional block before they are our markets. Rwanda will buy Kenyan processed petroleum, whether it is in East African Community or not. Somalia will buy *khat* from Nyambene, whether it is in COMESA or not. We have to start thinking selectively what is in the national interests.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to propose to the Government seriously, that it rethinks its commitment to COMESA, particularly the list of goods that are up for tariff reductions. My son went to COMESATEX exhibition which the Minister for Trade was praising, and he bought only one thing; an imitation T-shirt of Arsenal Football Club, made in Thailand. To me, that was a sad statement about what we are talking about. It is not accidental, because Thailand is going to be featuring prominently in COMESA and Kenya. Already last month, there was a consignment of produce from Thailand whose bill of landing was changed on the high seas to appear like it was coming from Egypt, in order to enter the Kenyan market at subsidised tariffs. We have to start thinking about enhancing our competence in assessing rules of origin before we start thinking about adventures like embracing Egypt which is going to mess us up.

Mr. Angwenyi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to support the Vote for this important Ministry.

This Ministry conforms to the current economic situation in the world where economic blocs are being established the world over. For example, the European Community (EC) or the North American Free Trade Association where giant economies have merged to create even bigger economies for the benefit of their people. I would even suggest that this Ministry takes over the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, and the Ministry of Trade and their responding Ministers become Assistant Ministers for East African and Regional Co-operation. This Ministry is going to attend to the needs of the people of Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we realise those other two Ministries have not benefited Kenyans. That is why I was proposing that the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation should take over the functions of those two other Ministries and be enhanced so that the "Total Minister" takes over that bigger Ministry!

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the importance of the East African Co-operation cannot be gainsaid. As we realise, we are net exporters in this region and we should guard that region very, very seriously to ensure that there are no people coming into that market to compete with us. We should enhance our relationship with Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. In fact, it would have been beneficial to us, if we came to the assistance of Burundi when they were being massacred by the militia, to enhance our relationship with that country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we used to have the East African Community (EAC), but it failed somewhere in the 1970s. We must learn why it failed and correct those mistakes so that, what we are going to create now does not fall. If it fails, it is Kenyans who would suffer most. With an enhanced East African Co-operation, the Port of Mombasa can actually generate enough revenue for this country to finance our budgetary needs for the whole year. Our airports which are very highly developed would raise enough income for this country to finance our budgetary activities for the whole year.

Then on the other hand, we look at the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), we do not find as much benefit in that organisation as we would get in the East African Co-operation. As it had been said by my colleague earlier, the COMESA is going to destroy the Kenyan economy. The COMESA is going to open up for the crooks in Kenya to import goods through the COMESA countries that are going to destroy our agriculture and industrial production, goods that are going to destroy our economy in effect. There was a case during the COMESA meeting here in Nairobi a month ago, whereby one of the Kenyans imported rice from Thailand to Egypt. It was packaged in Egypt, as if it was a product of Egypt and brought it to Kenya tariff free. That importation destroyed the market for the poor Mwea and Kano rice producers. In fact, it increased poverty to our people. So, we must look at the COMESA very seriously and see whether it is in Kenya's interest to enjoin ourselves in the COMESA. We must know the benefits that are going to be derived from the COMESA before we completely sign the treaty on the COMESA.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, like it was said by my colleague, Egypt is very highly advanced and we are unlikely to be net exporters to Egypt. In fact, Egypt is a worse threat to Kenya's economy than South Africa. At least, South Africa employs our people in their country and it also accepts our goods. But Egypt has blocked the entry of Kenyans and Kenyan products into their country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have realised that we have increased the Budget for this Ministry. In fact, we should have increased it even more, because it is an important Ministry. But as we do that, we must guard our interests to the best of our ability. I am sure that the Ministry would want to endeavour to deliver to Kenyans the benefits of that co-operation, but we would like the Ministry concerned to bring to this House a Bill to establish an Act of Parliament that would establish our relationship with the COMESA countries; a Bill that would be discussed by this Parliament on behalf of the people of Kenya to ensure that it guards our interests and promotes the Kenyan trade. We want to protect our agricultural industries or infant industries despite the fact that people are now clamouring for globalisation. As we realise, we cannot enter into an American market even with a small quantity of goods which threatens the economy of that country. For instance, we cannot export to America vehicles although they say they have a liberalised economy. They have raised quotas for the importation of automobile vehicles and clothing. As we produce more clothing in our Export Processing Zones (EPZ) factories, we cannot export that clothing to America. We have been given quotas simply because they want to protect their own textile industries. So, we in Kenya should protect ourselves for the sake of our people. We must know the benefits of every action we take to Kenyans, especially in terms of creating employment opportunities, income generation for our people and also promoting our industries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I know that most of our Ministers want to head lucrative Ministries like this one. I would urge the Minister concerned not to look at the lucrative aspect of the Ministry, but to look at the benefit of that Ministry to this country. If we were to succeed, then a lot of things that are said about him should be cleaned up.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country needs the infrastructure to implement and execute the intentions of this co-operation. When we allocate funds for a road like Nairobi-Mombasa Road, we should ensure that it is done to finality. I am sure the Minister for East African and Regional Co-operation has got enough leverage to expedite the work on that road so that we can supply goods to our partners in Uganda and northern Tanzania. As I said, we should also allocate adequate funds for our airstrips and airports to ensure that they are efficiently managed and they can efficiently transport people and goods throughout the region so that we can get the benefit of this co-operation.

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

Mr. Kihoro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to talk in support of this Vote. This is because, in my view, it is a fairly modest Vote with only an increase of Kshs3.5 million. However, I would also want to put a number of words of caution. This is because I believe that we should not just get on board on any

organisation that comes along, without ourselves as a country assessing what kind of benefits and advantages we are looking for in that organisation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I speak with a degree of commitment to the East African Secretariat, hopefully which I understand, could in future, even though I am not quite convinced, lay the foundation for an East African Federation. I believe that political union in East Africa would be of great benefit to our people, especially in terms of free movement of our people between the three countries. However, my fear is that what I have seen on the ground, does not tell me that there is a lot of commitment on the part of the leadership. If I look at Uganda since President Museveni came to power in 1986, I find that he has been more interested in what is happening in the Great Lakes Region than actually in East Africa. He was interested in what was happening in Rwanda. Currently, he is neck-deep in the Congo and the aftermath of an initial act of adventure becomes a quagmire; a Vietnam for Museveni. I find that the Ugandan commitment to the East African Co-operation is very much wanting and it would be of great advantage to Kenya, if we could have a heart-to-heart talk with President Museveni and also with President Mkapa in the light of Tanzania.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, something has been said about Tanzania's commitment to SADC and it is strong and deep. They have had a lot of experiences together, especially during the liberalisation of South Africa. I believe, especially after the breakup of the East African Community in 1977, that the two countries do not feel as committed to East Africa, maybe as Kenya is committed. Therefore, it is important that when you get time for this question of East African Co-operation, to understand that whatever degree of commitment to East Africa, the two other countries have been attracted elsewhere in the last 20 years and it is important that we go into this matter aware that, that would not be of an advantage to Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, trade should be encouraged, but I believe trade that does not benefit our people would not be of advantage to Kenya. We are very clear that we are getting involved now. The two countries that have got economies that are very strong, especially in COMESA, are Egypt and South Africa, and when we remove the tariff barriers that exist, I wonder what is going to be of advantage to the Kenyan industries. That is my concern because if we remove the tariffs, it makes sure that Egypt and South Africa can stay put in their own countries and not invest materially and physically in Kenya. Industries that could well have been set up because we had a tariff protection in Kenya cannot be set up because we have removed the tariffs and Egypt and South Africa can continue manufacturing from their own countries, expand in employment and our people will end up just consuming without actually having any industries being set up here.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is just a word of caution, in respect of the two countries. But in respect of East Africa, I believe that what is proposed to be done is satisfactory. Maybe, in my view, they should only go further in terms of encouraging greater interaction among the three peoples in East Africa and maybe, even having a provision for a referendum in East Africa where we are going to have our people getting more involved in what is happening. This is because I believed that if we are going to have the three Presidents meeting in Arusha, Dar-es-Salaam or wherever, and end up agreeing on matters about East Africa when we are not also involving our people in anything from a referendum, maybe to an election to what was there during 1967 upto 1977 which was an East African Regional Assembly, whereby it would be possible even for an authority in East Africa to be able to strengthen the co-operation among our countries, I think it is not going to be of great advantage.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I also want to point out is the matter about the East African passport. This is because I know and I have been told by many people, that all along, there has been a document that has been used in East Africa in terms of travel and I wonder in this particular situation, why the Ministers decided to call it an East African passport instead of just a travel document. A passport must be used to travel outside East Africa and a passport that is not going to be recognised by any other country, it remains a travel document, a pass but certainly not a passport, when you cannot be able to travel outside East Africa. It is important that, that matter gets clarified because I would propose that we proceed on a basis of having an East African identity; an East African identity card that is going to be available to the East Africans so that when after all the debates about co-operation ends, we can be able to respect the Ugandans and Tanzanians who are in Kenya and vice-versa. This is because there have been occasions in this country and also in the other two countries, whereby East Africans have suffered. I believe, if only we could have an East African identity card that is going to be free and almost identical to what we have as Kenyans, I think it would be of great advantage in encouraging our people to interact and to work together.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, about COMESA and the removal of the tariffs, I also find an unfriendly development that arose, especially in terms of the ground that was prepared about two months ago, on the grounds of Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) and I understand that it has been already turned into a car park. I think it is only honest and fair that if we have decided to convert part of KICC into a car park, it

should be said so loud and clear. If you stand on Parliament Road today, in the name of East Africa, something like that has happened and it is only important to accept that there are very many East Africans who spent hours at KICC at lunchtime and now that has been turned into a car park through [Mr. Kihoro] a bit of stealth and misunderstanding. I do not know what it is but it is true that from a trade fair in front of Parliament Buildings, it has become a car park. So, that is also a matter that I find has been associated with East African Co-operation and maybe, not desirable.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important that we start encouraging Kenyan industries because very many industries have actually, because of the state of our infrastructure, been able to move from Nairobi and Mombasa and set camp elsewhere. It is important that when we talk about co-operation, when we know that 80 per cent of all production in Kenya is agricultural-based. When we talk about removal of tariffs, we must be specific about what benefits are going to be, in terms of Kenyan industry; 80 per cent of Kenya's production is agricultural and I believe it is so with Tanzania and Uganda. So, when we get that 80 per cent of the goods that we produce here are the same ones that are being produced across the border, I would want to be informed about what trade would be for. It is only until we encourage our industries, when we can be able to manufacture all those things-- If you walk on the streets of Nairobi, just look by the side and you find the kind of things that are selling there and until we produce these things in this country, we cannot have anything to talk about industry. And that is what we must encourage; local industrialisation that is going to be indigenous and also nationalistic. This is because I believe an European coming here and setting up industries and selling to Tanzania across the border, only a little bit of advantage comes to our people in terms of employment. However, if also we could have our own people owning such industries, it is going to be of great advantage to our people. They will benefit in terms of profits and employment.

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

The Assistant Minister for Local Authorities (Mr. Mwakalu): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am making this contribution in support of the Vote.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was the great African visionary, Kwame Nkrumah, who wrote that Africa must unite. Instead of taking into account the content, the meaning and the vision, we chose instead to call him "a political megalomaniac" and a dictator of the first order. When he said so in the early 1950s, here in East Africa, we had started way back in 1948, the trappings of an East African Common Services Organisation. We carried through with that, although individually as East Africans, we were the foreign possession of Great Britain. We went through the common services and developed the beginning of an East African identity. When the time came to actualise the political economy of that identity, we paid mere lip service to the idea of East African Federation. We went separate ways; broke up the common services; came back with the East African Community; we killed it; we went further to look for an East African Common Market and now, even regional co-operation. I am afraid this goal may once again betray us. This is because until there is political union of the member states in this region, any form of co-operation will either be mere lip service or will betray the reality that we are dancing to the tune of international capital, which transcends boundaries, regions and borders, to dictate our very weak national economy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not an accident that CALTEX is in Texas and that CALTEX is as well in Malindi and is elsewhere in Uganda and Tanzania. It is not an accident that TOYOTA is governing all over this world, or that VOLVO is based in Gothenburg, Sweden and also in Voi. Until and unless we understand the workings of international capital and how they dictate our political economies and how they dictate even our nationalism, then we are going to pay a great deal of lip service, re-destroy our own identities here in East Africa and end up actually, carrying out narrow nationalism, arguing in essence, that it is better to be the head of a mosquito than the tail of an elephant.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it may be time that when we look at the common market model or with the larger market or the larger population, we should realise that if there was a federation, then we would have little to worry about the tariff boundaries and either or not, we specialise in regional industrialisation. One thing I know is that if we could realise the East African identity, probably the land problem would not arise in Kenya, because we would have more land in Uganda and Tanzania to share among the people of East Africa.

Dr. Kituyi: Land to grab!

The Assistant Minister for Local Authorities (Mr. Mwakalu): If we are going to talk about this regional co-operation, but at heart, actually talking about exporting Kenyan nationalism to the region, then they will naturally resist that exportation of Kenyan nationalism. But if we had erased those boundaries, then we would have only one thing to talk about, and that is the East African people, the East African Federation, the East African personality. Maybe when we talk about this East African and Regional Co-operation, we go too far to the element of the larger population. Yes, we can have a larger population numerically. But what is its consumption

capacity? What is its effective purchasing power? Merely low! In a case where over half the population lives below the poverty line, you cannot talk about any one purchasing the manufactured commodities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are contradictions here, amongst co-operating countries. We, the co-operating countries are producing identical commodities. How do we make sense out of this, in terms of benefiting or not? The East African and Regional Co-operation will make sense when and only if we have brought about the political reality of our union, and much more, the political reality of the union of Africa as a whole. We must transcend narrow, chauvinist nationalism which is actually detrimental to the very essence and concept of regional or continental co-operation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya is quite strategic in this region. I would like to buy that concept. It is strategic vis-a-vis Eastern Africa. It is strategic in relation to Ethiopia, where we can have mutually beneficial ties. Ethiopia now needs us; she is landlocked. We have a bonanza to develop Lamu as a port and use it to provide for those areas that are beyond and closer to Southern Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda. That can also help us open up the Athi Plains with a railway connection from Lamu. It would also help us with the Port of Mombasa which is operating at one-third its capacity, to actually expand that horizon. But here we are again, troubled by the politics of profiteering. We want to privatise and sell away "the sacred cow"; the Port of Mombasa. For whose benefit? Shall we sell the "Mombasa cow" to go and buy the same milk from another private owner? That is seditious and it is treasonable.

(Applause)

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kenya is strategic vis-a-vis Uganda. We talk about actually, over half of our trade being with that landlocked country. It is time we explored ways and means of not isolating Uganda politically or in its foreign policy, but actually, integrate and bring Uganda to remind us of the strategic nature of our mutual relationship. So that, if Uganda has a problem, let us read not how much coffee we can smuggle from Uganda, but how we can help Uganda stabilise its order, its security apparatus and also, the stability of its people and its political economy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is only when we have a stable Uganda that we can talk of an orderly Kenya. I am aware that this country is also strategic vis-a-vis Rwanda, Eastern Congo, Somalia, as well as Burundi. We must extend regional co-operation, not only on the economic front, but in matters that touch on our foreign policy as well. Indeed, Zaire has two per cent of the entire world's power potential in hydro-electricity. It would be a lot cheaper to have a relationship that is strategic with Zaire or with Uganda and the Owen Falls Dam so that we can have these resources cheaper than we have to spend so much to produce it from our own very poor rivers. There are areas that we can explore on mutual beneficial ties with the neighbours of our region, but first and foremost, we must accept that we are one and the same people and we have the same destiny in terms of the political economy of the African people. After all, we all came from the same background; colonial positions and before that, slavery.

We have been net exporters of profit, and how are we going to reverse this? Not under the rule of capital or the rule of international economic order which is in disorder vis-a-vis our relationship today because of the ever-growing non-equivalent exchange. We can produce anything in the Third World, but it will continue to fetch less money and, therefore, greater indebtedness. We are not independent and if one day we are going to be independent, we must redefine our identity in relation to the world in which we live. This is not a world of philanthropy, but it is a world of exploitation of the rich versus the poor.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, regional co-operation has always had the disadvantage of being initiated from above; it is not people-driven. It is not grassroots oriented. It is gravitated towards those who can make maximum profits. So, when the three key leaders in East Africa disagree, the common market is "dead"; East African Community is "dead". Then we close the borders and we are all of a sudden enemies amongst the people of East Africa. We have gone through this! We nearly went to war!

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Mr. Kajwang': Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute. After Jembe Mwakalu, I do not know whether I will make a good speech because he has made his very well.

This Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation is very tiny. In fact, it is a small department. Last time when COMESA was here, I was wondering who was in charge. COMESA is about trade, but the Minister for Trade was put aside. COMESA is about foreign countries coming to Kenya, but the Minister for Foreign Affairs was put aside. So, I was wondering which is this Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation which is in trade and foreign affairs and it seems to be everywhere, yet it is so tiny? I was looking at

its budget of K£11 million, and half of that money goes to paying COMESA and IGAD Secretariats. I am wondering how K£8 million could run a Ministry? This is not a Ministry! Was it created to give our good friend who is also the friend of His Excellency the President a Ministry? This is very serious!

I am suggesting that when we go to serious constitutional review, Parliament should be creating Ministries so that we create a Ministry called Foreign Affairs and Trade and that co-operation will be covered in that. Really, why do we have a Ministry of Foreign Affairs? It is for trade and it should be going out to make friends for us so that we can trade and make money. So, when we create Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Co-operation, I do not know what we are doing. This is a serious matter.

When I did my A-Levels, I was doing Economics and we were asked to write a paper on the likelihood of the East African Community surviving. That was in 1976. I got an "A" because I said it was going to collapse; it collapsed in 1977. Why? I had looked at it and had seen that it must collapse. The Presidents of Tanzania and Kenya were not drinking water together. The President of Uganda was a military man and they did not like each other. I said this thing could not survive because it was created by three Heads of States and they were quarrelling. It could not survive. That is why this one is going to collapse also because it is going to be created by Heads of States before they involve their people. In fact, it has collapsed before it is signed!

I come from the lake region and I knew during the East African Community, Kisumu Port was functional. In fact, the Kisumu Airport which is now almost bushy, was an international airport. It was killed to create Mombasa and Eldoret airports which are doing nothing. Then we should be trading with Mwanza, Bukoba, Jinja and Msoba. Just because the President comes from Eldoret, all the wealth must go to Eldoret, even when it is not strategic. For us to make money in East Africa, we need to develop Kisumu Port. Then the water hyacinth closes the sea---

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Lomada): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Member on the Floor in order to say that the President comes from Eldoret when he knows very well that he comes from Baringo?

Mr. Kajwang': Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I withdraw that.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to inform the hon. Kajwang' that His Excellency the President has bought land where he is building a retirement home near Eldoret.

Mr. Kajwang': Thank you for your information. Instead of wasting time---

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. There is a Standing Order that forbids any Member of Parliament from invoking the name of the President, as authority for what the Member is saying or for that matter, discussing it.

Mr. Kajwang': Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not invoked anything. The East African Community which is going to be signed, has not been discussed by this Parliament. In Uganda, it has been discussed by the locational, divisional, county committees and it has reached their Parliament. In Kenya, the Minister comes here to tell us what it is about, as if we are just school boys. We are here making laws and East African Community is law! Then he just comes here and tells us that Heads of States are about to sign it and signatures will be exchanged. We are a Parliament of a great Republic of Kenya!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the East African Community creation was done properly, it would be a big benefit to this country. Even if we do not sell any goods, we can sell services. Our ports can sell services in terms of millions of dollars more than we can sell anything else to Uganda. It can sell those services to Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Zaire or Sudan. Kenya is strategically placed to give services in terms of our ports, airports, telecommunication and even railways, if we did not kill it.

I urge the Minister for Transport and Communications to consider doing something about railways and our ports. If there is need to integrate them into one efficient big system that can serve the whole of East African region, it is better to own a portion of it and run it efficiently than purport to be owning something which does not run. Economies of scale will definitely bring investors here. Nobody wants to invest in Burundi, for example. One cannot go and build a big factory of cement in Burundi when he cannot sell it there. So, if we are going to have a bigger market, then, people who are serious in business will come and invest here. We have better infrastructure and better services which we can offer.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I now want to talk about the oil sector. The oil sector is turning to be a serious problem in this country. It is capable of increasing inflation, run down businesses, or bring them up, depending on how the prices move. We have a cartel of a few international oil dealers operating in this country. They are like Caltex, Shell/BP, Kobil and others. They do not allow anybody to enter that business. The talk of liberalisation of the oil sector in Kenya came along with the advent of plural democracy, and we supported it,

because the proponents talked about democracy. Then, when we liberalised the oil sector, the multinationals sat together and started controlling the market prices of all oil products. But they know that they are hurting us. When the price goes down in the oil producing countries, the price goes up in our country. There is a Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy who just cries everyday.

Dr. Kituyi: He is 65-years-old!

Mr. Kajwang': He cries like this: "Why are we having a price like this? Now, why not reduce it?" Is that the job of a Permanent Secretary? Is it his job to just cry, and he is 65-years-old and cannot go home?

(Laughter)

This is a very serious matter. Our people are now entering into the oil sector. They have actually started buying from the same multinationals; M/S Caltex, Kobil and others. But they do sell it very cheap, because their overheads are low.

An hon. Member: They should be encouraged!

Mr. Kajwang': Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, instead of encouraging them, one sends Nairobi City Council Askaris with bulldozers, to bring down their businesses.

An. hon. Member: Shame!

Mr. Kajwang': And the gentleman who is ordering that is the Nairobi Provincial Commissioner, who comes from Central Province and the business he is destroying belongs to the people of Central Province. When I raise that issue, the PC says that I am doing so because I am a Luo and I want to finish him because he is a Kikuyu. How can I finish a Kikuyu for a Kikuyu and yet they are destroying each other?

(Laughter)

This is serious economics! That cartel is destroying this country. When the price of fuel is high, everybody suffers. When our local entrepreneurs want to bring down the price of oil, we instead bring them down again, because the multinationals have influenced us.

We should start looking at the interests of this country, if we want to run it and benefit from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). In fact, as I am talking now, in Rwanda, there are no multinationals, like Mobil, Caltex/BP, Kobil and Kenol. But still the country has got its own fuel. The same case applies to Burundi. In Uganda, half of the fuel is controlled by the local people, and the industry is being run well. I do not know why we need these multinationals all over our country. In any event, we have cheaper fuel now from Sudan. We have built oil pipeline from Mombasa but we do not want to extend it to Kampala. We have also forgotten that we can also build an oil pipeline from Southern Sudan, via Mombasa, to Lamu, just like my brother, hon. Mwakalu had put it.

We can also improve our oil refineries. We will make more money by refining that oil. The refined oil will be cheaper because it comes from a COMESA country. We could benefit more from that, than buying our oil from other countries, through these oil multinationals.

Then we had the National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK). It did good business, until these multinationals, which act like a cartel said: "You even wipe out the 30 per cent which was given to them."

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

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Muchilwa): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Motion.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister for East African and Regional Co-operation and his staff for the very able manner in which they organised the recent COMESA Heads of State Meeting and COMESATEX in Nairobi in May. Both meetings were a great success, and they emphasised the high organisational capability for which Kenyans are known for. The Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation is, as has been said, probably, the smallest Ministry in the Kenyan Government. But its responsibilities are huge. Kenya, in this region, is more industrialised than any other country. We have set for ourselves a target; to be a fully industrialised country by the year 2020. Industries produce goods that must be sold in markets, both locally, preferably, and in fact, in most cases, in export countries. Markets for our Kenyan goods; our *sufurias*, Omo, Joma and even the more advanced manufactured goods that are assembled here, like motor vehicles, are in the regional areas. The markets are in the East African areas, and the surrounding regions, starting with Uganda, as it has been said. The money we earn from the East African market is as good as the money earned elsewhere. If anything, it is very important for us to preserve the East African markets, not just

because it is buying our manufactured products, but because it is much harder to find these manufactured products from a country like Kenya, than to sell raw materials or products like tea, coffee and so on. So, these East African Co-operation (EAC) markets and other surrounding markets must be nurtured carefully so that we have very close political and economic co-operation to enable us not only to retain them, but also to expand them.

That is why a Ministry that has been created to look after them, like the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation, is very important. If you have very big customers who can make or break your company, you assign special people to look after them. This particular Ministry has that responsibility. So, this Ministry should not be played down; like asking why we should have such a small Ministry. It may be small in size, but it is performing and doing the right things. Eventually, we want to be industrialised and we must have a special team to do that work. I am personally satisfied and happy that such a shrewd Minister is heading such a team. With the EAC and COMESA markets, our industries will grow and they will absorb our neighbours. We have unemployment problem, which we cannot run away from. We cannot just look aside and say that we will not develop our industries. Those industries have to sell their goods in these markets. The same markets will absorb the extra people who we train in our country. If you go to Rwanda and former Francophone countries, you will find that they lack teachers. Even in Tanzania, they lack teachers, because they concentrated in teaching Kiswahili in their institutions for too long. With an enabling and friendly atmosphere, which has been created by the EAC, we will be able to take our people to work in these countries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important that this particular Ministry goes ahead and facilitates our inclusion in the wider East African market. This way, we will be able to expand our tourism industry. Personally, I was very upset when we waived visa charges for citizens from developed countries to come into our country just to be tourists. Exempting somebody who is going to spend K£100,000 from paying K£10 is really not doing much. By removing visa charges for tourists is, first of all, denying our embassies some money and so they cannot operate. More importantly, visas enable any country to scrutinise the people who come into that country. If we do not want any money from such visitors, which we need, it would be better for us to give the tourists free visas, so that we are able to know better the visitor coming into our country. Particularly, it is important to know the kind of people visiting our country these days, when there is so much terrorism.

Regional co-operation has advantages. However, we have to take extra care. I have heard arguments on the Floor of this House against South Africa joining the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and against Egypt. We have no capacity to call upon other countries to stop Egypt or any other country from joining COMESA. In any case, saying that we do not want those countries to join COMESA shows that we are afraid of competition. Why should we be afraid of competition in that market? We should be ready to compete in that market. The competition with Egypt, South Africa and any other country, will enable our industries to improve their manufacturing standards, so that we can achieve our goal of being a newly industrialised country by the year 2020.

The co-operation will ease the movement of people and goods within the region. However, we have the time problem. We need to be careful and watchful in certain areas. For example, we have the problem of people dumping sugar into this market. I will not be surprised if people use Sudan to bring in sugar from elsewhere and say that it is Sudanese sugar, so that they totally obliterate our local sugar industry. We have to be very careful about that sort of thing. Since we have realised that tariffs do not deter crooks from flooding the local market with contraband sugar, I would like to suggest that we seriously consider having in place some import quotas. Other countries have import quotas in place. There is no reason why we should not do the same. Using World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules as an excuse for not imposing quotas is not good enough, because this thing is hearting our industry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to suggest that the Kenya Bureau of Standards should introduce a standard for sugar based, probably, on the fitness of the commodity, purity and so on. This will enable us to determine re-packed sugar from elsewhere. This will show the difference between imported sugar and that which we produce locally in the country.

With those few words, I beg to support.

Mr. Ngure: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to support the Vote of the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation. As a Member of the Committee that was looking into the East African Co-operation Treaty, and which is basically in charge of the East African Co-operation, I am as well pleased. Under this Vote, we are talking about K£11 million. If we take away the K£8 million to be paid to IGAD, COMESA and the East African Co-operation Secretariat, we will remain with K£2.9 million to run this very important Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the East African and Regional Co-operation Ministry is one which will make this country better. It will make up for what had, at one time, been the ambition of the partner of the

States in this region. We know that the collapse of the then East African Community was a source of a top to bottom agreement. It was an agreement which was mooted by the political leaders of these countries, which was passed down to the people. However, we were fortunate in that at that time we had inherited common services. Right now, we are starting from the scratch.

Therefore, we should think of reviving the co-operation. We should not lose sight of the fact that the final goal is political federation. If we wish to work towards political federation, we should think very seriously about common trade and standardisation. We are not going to have a community where we hope to sell our goods across the border, or sell what is manufactured by our *Jua Kali* industry if we do not have a common standardisation. Therefore, the Ministry should work hard within the parameters of this very tight Budget, to see that the Kenya Bureau of Standards looks into the quality of our commodities, so that they qualify for the regional market.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the idea of political federation, I would like to say that we should not forget that the collapse of the then East African Community was because of political jealousies. We should now transcend some of the political jealousies. We should, first of all, consider ourselves as Kenyans before we consider other communities. Maybe, some of us were not involved as such, but we were of age. All we were told was that the road block to political federation was the fact that some people considered ethnicity. Some people looked at the ethnicity across the border and said: "Okay, we are the majority in Kenya, but we might not be the majority in a federated East Africa". If we can shade this mentality aside among the member States of the East African Co-operation, I think we will achieve our goal towards political federation, which should be the ultimate way of surviving in the world.

When privatising the various sectors of our economy, we should look at strategic facilities such as our ports, the roads, the railways, and the seas. We should ask ourselves: "If we privatise these facilities, will it mean that private investors will allow movement of coaches into Tanzania? Will we now work for him to get the benefit of free trade? How are we going to merge our railways corporation once it is privatised, maybe, with TAZARA?" There are very many things we must consider while privatising some of our institutions. We must ask ourselves whether by doing so we are moving towards the East African Co-operation. If we do not exercise caution in the privatisation of these facilities, we might end up being very cumbersome to the big East African Co-operation we are creating.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a well known fact that, if we are going to move into the East African Community, we should open lake transportation. Through lake transportation, we will have access to the better parts of the three States that are going to form the East African Community. At one time, our people had built boats and thought that it was easier to transport oil. But now that the pipeline has reached Kisumu, it is easier to transport oil from Kisumu to Entebbe and Mwanza. But after the fellows had invested heavily on those big lake boats, transportation of oil was stopped by the Provincial Commissioner under the pretext that they cannot erect roadblocks in the lake. If we are going to have those impediments to our trade, that we cannot erect roadblocks in the lake, then I do not think we will benefit from the greater regional co-operation.

When we look at COMESA, if you compare the budget that is allowed for its operations, and the contribution from member countries of the East African Co-operation, it is nearly the same. The difference is only K£1 million. Yet, if you go out on the streets here, you will find that, most of our people only know the East African Co-operation. They did not know the COMESA until we brought the COMESATEX. I do not think we should give IGAD K£2.2 million, while we are giving the East African Co-operation Secretariat K£3.5 million. This is the place, whether we like it or not, our people are trading in the partner states. The more we allocate our contribution there, the more we can have our personnel in the East African Community, looking after our people who will be trading in the East African States. We will be better off in this way than by our country giving the same amount of money to IGAD, which is only doing peace work. The IGAD, as far as I am concerned, is just trying to negotiate peace between the Southern and Northern Sudan. To the common man, IGAD is not a trading block. It is not even the co-operation between states. So, I do not think we should spend this amount of money on IGAD. The money had better be spent in utilising our influence within the East African States. We have not signed the Treaty, and on our side, as a Committee, we have finished scrutinising the draft. Very soon, for the benefit of hon. Members, we will present the Committee's Report to the House. The Minister will present the Bill and before signing our Report, it will be tabled in Parliament. We have looked into the fact that if the three Heads of State do not agree at the Summit, or if one does not agree, the terms of the Treaty---

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Could the hon. Member, who does not want to sit, be requested to concentrate on the Vote. He should not anticipate debate on a future Motion!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Manyara): Mr. Ngure, I think you are a Member of that Committee. You are anticipating your Committee's Report!

Mr. Ngure: I am not anticipating debate. It is only that my Committee has been disparaged here, as

having not done its work. I have just clarified that we are a Committee which is functioning and we will submit the Report.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Chanzu): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this important Vote. I wish to congratulate the Minister for the presentation he made on this Vote this afternoon. I also would like to congratulate His Excellency the President and Kenyans in general, for the peace prevailing in this country. The peace has made it possible for the country to spearhead the co-operation between the three countries. I would also like to congratulate the Ministry for the initiatives already made towards co-operation within the region, and for the recent COMESA Trade Exhibition which was held in Nairobi. It was a big success and an eye-opener to our people, bearing in mind that we are talking about an increased market. Therefore, there is a need for our people to participate in the wider market.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country hopes to industrialise in the year 2020. If we hope to achieve this, there is a need for a wider market. There is need for awareness and preparedness to achieve industrialisation by the year 2020. As a country, we must strive to produce in order to compete and benefit from the wider market. We must look into ways of enhancing the quality of our products as we prepare to participate in the wider market. Generally, there are economies of scale that we will derive out of the economic activities and trade within the COMESA region. We should be prepared to benefit from them. We will be able to share from the available resources within the region. We will also be able to share the available institutions of higher learning very easily. That will definitely bring down costs. We will be able to share the available technology within the region. This is a benefit derived from the economies of scale in the enlarged market.

There are a few things that I would like to reiterate, that should be taken care of, if we were to achieve meaningful results out of the co-operation. The across-the-border travel restrictions should be looked into carefully by the Ministry, and relevant organs of the Government.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this also applies to the coastal border trade barriers, so that we can have a free trade which can benefit the entire region. We have problems of infrastructure within this region. For example, roads are bad and funds must be found to make highways like Mombasa Road passable for easy communication within the region. There is a road that passes through Loitokitok and it is a shortcut to Tanzania, but it is terribly bad. I would urge that we get money so that this road is done in order to enable easy communication within this region.

The other aspect to be considered is telecommunications. If we have proper telecommunications systems like telephones, we will have easy communication. We should subsidize them in order for our people to avoid road communication. They can communicate over phones and be able to transact business.

Finally, as the Ministry prepares for the signing of the treaty, which will be done in due course, I would like to urge that sufficient groundwork be carried out so that by the time of signing it, we will not have shortcomings that led to the collapse of the former East African Community. With those few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Lomada): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute.

I would like to support this Motion. I want to thank the Minister for the able manner in which he organised the COMESA meeting here in Nairobi. It was very good and everybody liked it because it was attended by many Heads of State. In that case, I have a strong belief and I am very optimistic that this regional co-operation will succeed. Therefore, we should vote this money to enable the Ministry to carry out its obligations.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry will use this money for rent and our contribution to COMESA, IGAD and the East African Co-operation Secretariat. We should support this Ministry if we want it to succeed. This money will also be used to pay salaries to its staff, administration and other expenditure of the Ministry. I would ask the Minister to make sure that this money will be spend on the intended purpose. The officers working for this Ministry in the three countries should be efficient and good ambassadors their countries. They should strengthen the relationship that exists between the three sister countries.

At this juncture, I would like to say that this Ministry will promote co-operation among the three sister countries because we have a common problem within this region. This is the problem of cattle rustling. For example, it is very rampant between the Pokot, Karamojong' of Uganda, Turkana and Marakwet. Because of this co-operation, our people will sell their livestock to those countries as they used to do in 1960s and 1970s. Pokots used to transport livestock from Kapenguria to Kampala and get a lot of money. Today, we have a problem with the market. We do not have anywhere where to sell our animals because the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) is

not able to buy all the animals from different parts of this country. If we can have a free market within the three sister countries, then definitely things will be done in the right way.

I know this co-operation will bring peace among the people of the three countries. I believe COMESA has come about as a result of regional co-operation and it will help many people of this region in terms of trade. The COMESA member state will conduct trade among themselves. Our youths will have an opportunity to carry out their business within COMESA member states. They may travel to Tanzania, Botswana, Burundi and South Africa. By so doing, the regional co-operation will not only bring stability among the COMESA countries, but also the Heads of States will have the opportunity to discuss what is good for their citizens. So, there will be a lot of stability and tranquillity in the region.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the heads of state and their people will sit down, discuss and agree on the issues amicably. We have a problem today with Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda where they must sit down and discuss their differences and maybe agree on how to solve them. So, the regional co-operation will play a very important role in trying to make sure that our countries sit together to discuss problems. We have had a lot of problems in countries that border each other. We have had highway and bank robberies and thieves are causing a lot of suffering among human beings. I believe that with this co-operation, those people who are engaging in these vices will find time to travel and maybe do business and forget about these things which are dangerous for themselves and others. So, I would suggest that we support the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation because its success is the success of all the people of this country.

With these few remarks, I support this particular Vote.

Mr. Kiyonga: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to contribute to and support this Motion greatly. I must say that this Vote has direct consequences on the lives of Turkana people. This is a Ministry that is very important for us. I must congratulate them because we have seen what they have done since they began. We have seen that they have formed the secretariat, they support the COMESA work and at least, in a small way, they have done what they could do as a small Ministry.

Nevertheless, I have to say some few things about this Ministry as a way of putting through some few suggestions. I think the co-operation should be wholesale. This is because what I see in this co-operation is that, the strategy is only supporting some particular communities. It has not started yet, but I think the pastoral communities have not started benefiting from this Ministry and maybe that is something which my colleague who was on the Floor before me has just said. That is exactly what I also want to add.

There are three things that I want to say about this Vote. My interest in this particular Ministry is on how we can resolve the regional conflicts. This is because the Office of the President, which is supposed to resolve the problems of insecurity in this country, has failed. There are regional conflicts and we have seen a lot of guns coming into this country from other countries--- For example, Uganda and Sudan. But with this kind of co-operation, we will benefit from this Ministry. We know the (AK47)? corridor that begins from Somalia down to Angola. We have to stop those guns from coming into this country. The only solution to this problem is this Ministry. So, we all need to support this particular Ministry.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have seen how 1,500 Pokots crossed into Turkana to kill people for three days and no security personnel identified them. Since then, the whole machinery is dead. The chief does not identify them, and he does not report to the particular Ministry concerned. People killed one another and after they were all tired, some of them return and nothing has happened since this incident happened. So, that is why we have seen that, as Turkana people, the solution is to see how we can go peacefully and talk to some of these communities. We cannot do that if our borders are closed. The only border in this region that is now closed is the Turkana border. The Malava and Busia borders are open and normal business has started to operate again. But the Moroto border and the Kabong' border in Turkana North, which help should us to transport our livestock, the way hon. Lomada has said, is still closed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the fish industry in Lake Turkana is now dead. If the Turkana border was open we could export fish products to other countries. For example, Ugandans like fish. One kilogramme of fish in Turkana cost Kshs50.00 but the same goes for Ushs500.00, if taken across to Uganda. These are the small economies of scale we want to enjoy. A goat in Uganda costs Ushs2,500.00 whereas in Turkana it costs Kshs300.00. Why must I suffer while there is a market across? But the problem is that, nobody puts the right strategy in place, all the borders are open and money has been put aside for roads. I understand the secretariat in Arusha decided that the roads should link the Turkana, Pokot and the Karamajong. I hope that the Minister will help us. This is because the problem is insecurity.

Concerning the issue of insecurity, it is not the commissioners of police who should come alone and talk here, but all the leaders should come together to find a solution to the problem. Last year, I remember Members of

Parliament from Uganda and Kenya wanted to meet but that was down-played in this country and up to now we have refused to meet. I am appealing to the Minister to help us meet so that we can start that peaceful dialogue, because that saved a lot of lives of the Turkana and the Karamajong who used to fight. We started those kind of meetings but we had a small problem. Recently, when we wanted to meet, there was some small suspicion. We would really want to tell this Government that, if we get into suspicion and yet we are talking of regional co-operation, then we are not going to do anything. We are not going to achieve anything in this country if we are suspicious of Uganda and Tanzania. We have actually to tell them what we want to do and make people meet. It is really very bad to lock out the communities which want to share resources across the borders. There is a big drought in Turkana now and the Turkana people would want to cross to Uganda because that is the only place where we have the pastures. But we cannot go there because we are fighting with them. If there is peaceful means of sharing these resources, this Ministry should help us because the Office of the President is not helping us now. There is a problem in the Office of the President. So, I think the Ministry which should help is the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thirdly, this is a very small Ministry as most of the hon. Members have said here. I wish we could form a department of pastoral affairs in this Ministry. We have seen our fellow Karamajong recently getting a Ministry of Karamoja Affairs in Uganda. We will see if we will get support through a department of pastoral affairs. The Pokots and Karamajong of Uganda are benefitting directly. We will also want the Pokot of Kenya and the Turkana to benefit from this Ministry. If there was such a department, it would ensure that our fish and livestock from the Turkana Region are sold to Uganda. Since the Ugandans are agro-pastoralists, they can bring their surplus products across into Kenya. That is one way the Turkana can benefit from this system. However, if you talk of COMESA, these are just words! The other day my constituents were asking me what COMESA is and how it is going to help them, and what they could trade across if the borders are closed. But they understand this type of co-operation because they saw the secretariat, and the other day, the army went there. So, they can see some peace coming to the region.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am really appealing that we set up this Ministry to help these two communities. We would not want the Turkana and the Pokot people to wipe themselves out because for many years they have been fighting. I think we cannot continue that way. There is a lot surplus of guns across now and we are seeing many guns coming into this country. We want to recruit the Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) and put more guns there again. I do not think that is the solution. The solution is the Ministry of East African and Regional Co-operation.

With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Hon. Members, on that note, we will go straight to zero hour. I call upon hon. Mwenje.

POINTS OF ORDER

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS SOUGHT

CIRCULAR ON AXLE LOAD

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am aware that the KBC has stopped reporting on anything I say in this House, but I would like to tell them that Embakasi Constituency people are taxpayers, and they are entitled to know what their hon. Member of Parliament says in this House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to direct this to the Ministry of Public works and Housing. There is a circular that has been issued by the Ministry to the effect that they are going to publish a legal notice which will impose a fine on all trucks with more than one or two axles, for every extra load of one kilogramme of Kshs1 to Kshs5 per kilometre. If this fine is enforced, it is going to be very dangerous, because it means that all those small transporters will now be kicked out of business. This is a very dangerous move, and in the first place, illegal, because, it amounts to enforcing a rule which is oppressive and has not been passed by Parliament. The Minister should consider withdrawing and not even publishing that circular, because this is going to put many people out of business, particularly the small transporters who use trucks and lorries.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the previous Minister had advised them what to do, but I do not know why this circular is now deviating from what he had stated. The Minister should correct this issue, because it is very dangerous to transporters.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe the Minister for Public Works and Housing will respond on Thursday. But, the hon. Member could really assist him, if

he could indicate the circular number between now and Thursday, so that there can be quick reference to it. From what he said, there is no indication as to whether there is any reference to that circular.

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already given them a copy of that circular.

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

WITHDRAWAL OF TLB REGULATIONS

Mr. Mwenje: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my second point of order is a matter of national concern. As we sit here, there is a matatu national strike in this country. I think, it is only hon. Members of Parliament who are working. The strike is all over the country, and I am sure everybody knows it. Matatus are on strike, and they have been joined by many other people in Nairobi and indeed, the whole country. This is now becoming a national strike, and it is a very serious matter. This fact is known by everybody. This strike was also declared in yesterday's meeting.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, originally, the Minister for Transport and Communications came to Parliament and withdrew the enforcement of Transport Licensing Board regulations which had been publicised. The regulations included the removal of *manambas* manning various matatu stages. The Minister stated that this had been withdrawn. After one week, the President gave an order re-instating these rules. The Government is confusing citizens of this country, in particular, those who operate matatus. I sympathise with them, and the rest of the country has joined them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like the Government, through either the Office of the President or the Ministry of Transport and Communications, to state the right position; whether the Transport and Licensing Board regulations have been withdrawn or not, and whether the national strike should continue so that we ask people to go back to work. This is a very serious situation, and the Government of the day must be aware of the prevailing situation. If the Government cannot state the right position, it should resign today.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Mudavadi): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, again, on behalf of the Minister for Transport and Communications, let me say that he will respond next week. But, to the best of my knowledge---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): This was also directed to the Office of the President, and I had seen a Minister of State, Office of the President around.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Mudavadi): Well, then the Minister is here.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Dr. Anangwe): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. In the first instance, I learnt of this issue about 15 minutes ago. That notwithstanding, I do not agree with the presupposition that there is a national strike in this country. If anything, Nairobi is okay and in other urban towns matatus are operating. So, it must be a figment of his own imagination that there is a national strike!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that notwithstanding, on the issue of whether or not certain Transport Licensing Board (TLB) regulations have been withdrawn or not, I think the statement has been made, and it still stands that the TLB regulations will have to be followed as it had been directed by the Government.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Mr. Ndicho, as you are aware, this is "Zero-Hour" and there is no provision for debate. Mr. Muchiri, I believe you have agreed with the Minister to have the matter deferred until next Thursday?

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

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Dr. Anangwe): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We did consult and agree as already suggested.

DEATH OF RUIRU MAYOR'S DRIVER IN POLICE CUSTODY

Mr. Murathe: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement on the fate of the driver of the Mayor of Ruiru under interrogation in connection with the murder of the late Councillor Wanjuguna of Ruiru.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Dr. Anangwe): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Again, I learnt of that particular issue this afternoon. I promise that we shall prepare a Statement for

delivery on Tuesday next week in the House.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Imanyara): Hon. Members, it is now time to interrupt our business. The House, therefore, stands adjourned until Tuesday, 13th July, 1999, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.40 p.m.