

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 27th September, 2005

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

CLOSURE OF WORLD BANK-FUNDED KUTIP LOAN FACILITY

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

(a) Is the Minister aware that the World Bank and International Development Assistance (IDA) funded Kenya Urban Transport and Infrastructure Programme (KUTIP) loan facility was closed on 30th June, 2005?

(b) Is he further aware that there are unpaid bills under this project for works already completed but not paid for?

(c) When and how will the pending bills be paid?

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

(a) I am aware that the World Bank and the International Development Assistance funded Kenyan Urban Transport and Infrastructure Programme (KUTIP) loan facility was closed on 30th June, 2005.

(b) I am further aware that there are unpaid bills under this project for works already completed but not paid for.

(c) My Ministry, in consultation with the Treasury, is in the process of working out modalities of settling these outstanding bills.

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to note that the Assistant Minister is

aware. The contractor completed this project in 2000 and handed it over to the Government. According to the contract document, after completion and handing over, they were supposed to be paid after 28 days had elapsed. We are aware that the World Bank has suspended funding for this project. Could the Assistant Minister tell us the reason why the World Bank suspended the funding, because the Government is incurring big losses servicing a debt which was to be paid by the World Bank?

Mr. Kamanda: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is aware that the completion of this project was suspended in June, 2001 when he was then an Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Local Government. However, the World Bank closed the account in June. There has been a problem, and even some people have been taken to court regarding this project. The Government has carried out an audit and that is why it has taken that long to complete the project. As soon as the Ministry of Finance

finalises issues relating to payments, we will pay those contractors.

Mr. Sirma: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the Assistant Minister is unsatisfactory. He has said that some people were taken to court, but so far, there is no case in court in connection with this project. In 2002 the Government took to court a Mr. Ngare in connection with this matter. He was released and discharged by this Government. We know, for example, in America, a Mr. Sangupta who was involved in this issue was found guilty and charged. Why is this Government trying to protect Mr. Ngare?

Mr. Kamanda: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that Mr. Ngare has been released. I need to find out.

Mr. Sirma: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister is misleading the House, because so far, the Government has exonerated Mr. Ngare of these charges.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order. It is a point of argument.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.433

DETENTION OF MISS GRACE MUTHEU MBATHA AT MAKUTANO POLICE STATION

Mr. Speaker: The Question by Mr. M. Maitha has been deferred.

(Question Deferred)

Question No.573

DISMISSAL OF POLICE CONSTABLE LENKIRASI

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

(a) whether he is aware that Police Constable Olenaso Lenkirasi (No.53137) was dismissed from the police force in 2001;

(b) whether he is further aware that the officer appeared before Nakuru Chief Magistrate's court and was found not guilty on all the accusations levelled against him, and;

(c) why he has not been reinstated or paid his terminal benefits.

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

(a) The ex-constable, Olenaso Lenkirasi was dismissed from the force with effect from 11th January, 2001.

(b) I am aware that the officer appeared before a Nakuru court, Criminal Case No.1934 of 2001, charged with the offence of abduction with a view to dispose or murder, contrary to Section 258 of the Penal Code. The ex-police constable was dismissed from the force on account of disciplinary proceedings and not as a result of the court case. He was charged in Orderly Room and found guilty with two counts. One was discharging a weapon without reasonable or lawful cause, contrary to Regulation 3(19) of the police regulations. The other charge was being found guilty of neglect to the prejudice of good order and discipline, contrary to regulation 3(14) of the police regulations.

(c) The ex-officer was not reinstated because he was given seven days to lodge an appeal, but

he did not appeal against the dismissal. However, the officer will be paid his benefits as soon as he provides the particulars of his bank account.

Mr. Ngoyoni: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, let me make it clear that the accused officer appealed against the dismissal. Secondly, the accused officer was taken to court on an offence of abducting a child with an intention to murder. If this was so, could the Assistant Minister tell this House who this officer murdered? Who was the complainant?

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the charge of abduction is neither here nor there. The point is that the outcome of that trial has no relationship with the fact of his dismissal. He was dismissed on other disciplinary grounds. I have cited the reasons in my written reply. So, I do not have the particulars as to how the evidence was adduced, but ultimately, he was acquitted. The issue at hand is that of discipline. He was also found guilty of other offences.

Mr. Ngoyoni: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I may give some of my colleagues chances to ask questions, but, for the benefit of the Assistant Minister, the officer was actually charged in court because his wife bore a child outside their marriage. The person who sired that child is a chief of that particular area. At one time, that chief travelled all the way from Eldoret to Mararal and the wife thought her husband would punish her. In the process, the chief and the officer's wife conspired because, in their imagination, they thought the officer would kill that child. This is the reason why the officer was dismissed. Justice must be seen to be done. Now that the Assistant Minister has these facts, could he go back to Harambee House and find out why this officer today is jobless?

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while the account given by the hon. Member may be true, the upshot of the trial was that this officer was acquitted. However, he was subsequently charged with disciplinary offences under the police regulations and he was found guilty.

Mr. Ngoyoni: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. There is something which we must get very clearly here. The officer was charged in court because he fired two bullets attempting to kill a child. That is why disciplinary action was taken against him. Later on, he was arraigned in court. However, he was not found guilty of all these accusations. So, the officer was framed by two people who had the motive to finish him. Now that the Assistant Minister has these facts, could he order that this officer is reinstated immediately?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, my understanding is that Mr. Ngoyoni is asking Mr. M. Kariuki whether as a matter of fact, a department of Government can circumvent the verdict of the courts. In essence, the court finds the officer not guilty, but the department says, nevertheless, he was guilty.

Mr. M. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope that the House has been paying attention to my answer. The charge before the courts is distinctly different from the charge that was the subject of disciplinary proceedings. The charge before the court was abduction with the intent of disposal of murder. He was acquitted for that. However, subsequently, he was charged with a disciplinary offence of discharging a weapon without the lawful cause. That is under police regulations. For that, he was found guilty and for another offence he was also found guilty. However, no appeal has been filed with the Public Service Commission (PSC). Subsequently, the dismissal stands. The facts for dismissing the officer are different from those that were before the courts.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Ngoyoni, if you have information which the Assistant Minister may not have and may influence his decision, maybe, you could hand it over to him.

Hon. Members, we cannot dwell on this Question forever. Therefore, let us move on to the next Question!

POVERTY ALLEVIATION
PROGRAMMES IN MARSABIT

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sasura is not here. His Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Question No.540

GRADING OF MUKURWEINI-GAKONYA ROAD

Mr. Kagwe asked the Minister for Roads and Public Works:-

(a) if he is aware that

the rains have rendered Mukurweini-Gakonya Road impassable;

(b) if he is further aware that this road is still under the *El Nino* Roads Project, and;

(c) what urgent measures he is taking to have the road graded and/or handed over to the Kenya Roads Board.

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

(a) Yes, I am aware that the rains rendered Mukurweini-Gakonya Road impassable.

(b) I am not aware that this road is still under the *El Nino* Roads Project.

(c) The District Roads Engineer (DRE) has been instructed to give the road priority ranking and seek funds from Kenya Roads Board (KRB) to enable the DRC grade the road during this Financial Year, 2005/2006.

Mr. Kagwe: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, it is the engineers from the Ministry of Roads and Public Works who told us, Parliamentarians, and the Kenya Roads Board (KRB) in Nyeri, that this road falls under the *El Nino* Roads Project and, therefore, they cannot work on it.

Secondly, this road is very long. Therefore, it is not possible for it to be repaired with the Kshs5 million which has been set aside through the KRB. I would like to ask the Assistant Minister if could he promise to give funds rather than say that his own Minister will seek the funds.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the hon. Member that the *El Nino* Roads Project is no longer operational. This road which was done under that project, was completed on 3rd September, 2002. After its completion, it was handed over to the District Roads Board (DRB) for continuous maintenance. There is no way we can talk of the *El Nino* Roads Project because this is a closed subject.

Capt. Nakitare: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many roads in this country are in a deplorable state. The answer given by the Assistant Minister in this House is not satisfactory. He gives answers based on the information given to him by the District Roads Engineers.

In view of the fact that Nakuru-Marigat Road is in deplorable state because of the effects of the *El Nino* rains, what steps is the Ministry taking to repair this road?

Eng. Toro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the District Roads Engineers are supervised from the Ministry's Headquarters. There is a chain of command from the Chief Engineer - Roads, to the District Roads Engineers. We also have to look at the availability of funds. That is why some roads are categorised and maintained by the District Roads Committees (DRCs), which are funded directly by the Kenya Roads Board (KRB). The other roads, Classes A, B and C, are maintained by the Department of Roads and also receive funds from KRB. That road has to be prioritised by the District Roads Board, Nyeri.

The hon. Member for Mukurweini has not said what priority was given to that road, which was previously being repaired under the *El Nino* Project. It should be maintained all the time to avoid

heavy expenditure when it becomes impassable.

Mr. Speaker: Last question, Mr. Kagwe!

Mr. Kagwe: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire philosophy and policy of maintenance of roads in this country is whacked! He is talking about categories of roads that are maintained by DRCs. The whole of Mukurweini Constituency does not have a single road under category "C". In effect, what the Assistant Minister is saying is that all roads in Mukurweini Constituency should be constructed and repaired by Kshs5 million. Could the Assistant Minister explain to me how such an impossible situation can be rectified? It is simply impossible!

Eng. Toro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact that there is no road in Mukurweini Constituency that is in category "C" and above is due to the classification that is in existence today.

As I have already said several times in this House, there is a committee that is looking into the re-classification of the road network in this country. If there is any road in Mukurweini that deserves to be upgraded, it will be classified along with other classifications in the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is also not possible that every constituency must have Classes "A" or "B" or "C" roads, which are under the DRC. There are roads in other constituencies that are Classes "B" and "C". So, it is not only Mukurweini which does not have a class "A", "B" or "C".

Mr. Speaker: Next Question by the hon. Member for Nyando!

Question No.505

NUMBER OF STUDENTS PURSUING POST

-SECONDARY EDUCATION ABROAD

Eng. Nyamunga asked the Minister for Education, Science and Technology:-

- (a) how many Kenyan students were outside Kenya in search of post-secondary school education as at January, 2005; and,
- (b) what he is doing to improve the quality of post-secondary school education in the country and, thereby, reduce the need for seeking the same outside Kenya.

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

(a) As per January, 2005, given the five years period from January, 2000, to January, 2005, 18,793 Kenyan students were cleared by the University Section of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to seek post-secondary school education outside Kenya.

(b) To improve the quality of post-secondary school education in the country and, thereby, reduce the need for seeking the same outside Kenya, the Government, through the respective university councils and commissions for higher education, has proposed to implement the following measures according to Sessional Paper No.1 of 2005:-

(i) Expand university education and training in tandem with population growth and the demand for university places and research facilities.

(ii) Promote private sector investments in the development of university education and training through giving incentives.

(iii) Introduce open learning universities and distant education to increase learning opportunities

(iv) Promote rationalisation of academic programmes among universities with the aim of creating centres for excellence and make each university have a comparative advantage.

(v) Co-ordinate, through the Commission for Higher Education, a national accreditation system for all tertiary institutions and universities as a means of guaranteeing quality education and training.

(vi) Constantly carry out an all-embracing programme review to facilitate competitiveness of

tertiary and university programmes.

(vii) Rehabilitate facilities in public, technical, industrial, vocational and entrepreneurship training institutions to ensure quality training.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are very loud consultations!

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! We cannot communicate in numbers at that rate! So, can we keep it low?

The hon. Member for Nyando!

Eng. Nyamunga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Assistant Minister for that comprehensive answer. However, I am concerned that Kenyan students have gone to Uganda, South Africa, Canada, Europe and United States of America (USA) in search of higher education, when we can do it here. Could the Assistant Minister inform the House when the implementation of the measures she has outlined will start?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the implementation has already started and it is continuing. Recently, during His Excellency the President's visit to New York, six educational and development foundations including Ford, Dale Carnegie and Rockefeller awarded Kenya US\$200 million (Kshs15 billion) to expand Kenyatta and Nairobi universities in phases. That is quite a lot of money. That money is supposed to expand access for all students, but with a little margin for the girl-child.

Dr. Godana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reasons for students going out is not just because they are seeking quality education. It is also, as the Assistant Minister has admitted, due to lack of adequate places. Only this week, we read in the daily newspapers that the cut-off point for the lot that did their examinations last year is "B+" of 68 points. That means that some "B+" students will not be admitted. Could the Assistant Minister assure us, now that there is that implementation programme, that she will take care of those will not be admitted and are very sad now?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the programme is meant for them. It might not be immediate, but it is there. We have also chartered many private universities in the country which are really alleviating the problem. We are also giving them incentives to encourage them to take more students. But this is a plus! It means that the quality of education is very high among all Kenyan students. That is why they are passing and surpassing the accommodation that we already have. But we are working on it, all the time.⁴³⁵

Mr. Muriithi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised the Assistant Minister can tell us that the Government is doing everything possible to encourage private universities. We read in the daily newspapers recently that they were unable to licence private institutions. That is a clear manifestation of the Government's unwillingness to allow Kenyans to study in private universities. Could the Assistant Minister tell us how many applications are now pending from Kenyans who are willing to commence studying in private universities?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would have to go back and check how many there are. But there are standards that must be met before you license any university or educational institution. You cannot license every institution that applies. But after it meets certain criteria, it is licensed.

Mr. Rotino: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the reasons why most of our students go to other countries for higher education is the cost of education in this country, which is very high. It is now only meant for the rich. What plans has the Ministry got to review the fees that students pay in our colleges and universities?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is not the correct position. Our universities are actually much cheaper than many out there. But we are looking into the question of fees.

Eng. Nyamunga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am particularly encouraged that the Ministry is intending to set up a national accreditation system for all tertiary institutions and universities as a

means of guaranteeing quality education and training. This particular item is essential for the expansion of post-secondary school learning. When will that particular institution be put in place?

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order, Members! I am not very sure whether the Assistant Minister got the question correctly in view of the loud consultations! Did you get it?

Mrs. Mugo: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir. He is asking when the institution will be put in place. The chairperson of the Commission for Higher Education is about to present its report, and that is one of the priority areas in their recommendations. So, it will not take long. It is already in the Sessional Paper, which means we are going to implement what was passed by this House as soon as possible.

Question No.479

SHOOTING OF MR. JUSTIN
KIPLALON BY BANDITS

Mr. Boit asked the Minister for Education, Science and Technology:-

- (a) whether he is aware that a teacher, Mr. Justin Kiplalon was gunned down on 7th April, 2005 by bandits in Baringo East while undertaking Government duties;
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what the Ministry is doing to compensate the family of the deceased; and,
- (c) whether he could undertake to sponsor the education of the children left by Mr. Kiplalon.

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

(a) I am aware that a teacher, the late Mr. Justin Kiplalon, TSC No.345779, was gunned down on 7th April, 2005 by bandits while discharging official duties. The family of the deceased is entitled to:

- (i) Death gratuity
- (ii) Killed on Duty Pension in accordance with Section 19 of the Pensions Act, Cap. 189.
- (iii) Widows and Children Pension Scheme benefits according to the Widows and Children Pensions Act.

(b) Bursary funds which can be applied for the purpose of educating children such as those left behind by Mr. Kiplalon are remitted to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), and the hon. Member would be better placed to allocate bursaries to the children left behind by Mr. Kiplalon.

Mr. Boit: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Assistant Minister for the answer. But I want her to be specific---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order, Members! Order! We are transacting national business. Could we make it possible for communication to be made between the various Members.

Mr. Boit: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has not told the House when the family will be compensated. She just quoted relevant Acts of Parliament. This is a poor family which needs immediate assistance.

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are processes and procedures on how these pensions are awarded, and the hon. Member is aware of this. It is for the next of kin to see that those processes are begun. I cannot say from my Ministry, for example, when the pension will be paid or the death

gratuity. That does not fall within my Ministry.

Mr. Midiwo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question is very straightforward. I think it is very insensitive for the Assistant Minister to tell the House that the next of kin of the diseased should and make all those applications and yet, we are operating under one Government. Could the Assistant Minister not inform the relevant departments that these people need their benefits? In the last two or three years, when a public officer dies, the Government has even undertaken to build houses for people who do not even deserve. Could the Assistant Minister be a little more sensitive and tell this House when the family of the late teacher will benefit?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member will agree with me that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology cannot handle every single case. What he should be telling me is that if there are difficulties in receiving any of those benefits, and ask what we can do to help. But we have not even been told whether there is any problem or difficulty in accessing the said pensions and gratuity.

Mr. Kimeto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have heard the Assistant Minister say she is not able to direct that bereaved family be assisted immediately. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is the biggest employer in this country. Could the Assistant Minister ensure that death gratuities are paid at the district level?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not believe that is the responsibility of my Ministry. But that is a good suggestion.

I would also like to say that this teacher was doing his training and he was attached to the office where he met his death. Nevertheless, we assist all our staff whenever they look for help. But I still maintain that it is not possible to personally serve every individual. I urge the Member to contact my office so that we can see what to do for the family.

Mr. Boit: Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, some people died in a certain area in this country and the Government was very quick to buy coffins to go and bury them and it spent a lot of money. Why is the Government discriminating against the people of Baringo? The said person was killed by armed bandits while he was on official duty. It is very unfair for the Assistant Minister to say that the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) should be used to pay school fees for the children of the late Mr. Kiplalon. Could the Government tell us when it will compensate the family of the late Mr. Kiplalon?

Mrs. Mugo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology does not give bursaries directly to students in secondary schools and universities. The bursaries have been relocated to the constituencies at the instigation of the hon. Members. The Ministry used to give bursaries to secondary school students, but the hon. Members of this House requested to be allowed to control bursary funds and scholarships from the constituencies. There is no money that is voted for this purpose. However, the Ministry gives grants-in-aid to schools, especially in needy areas. If the Ministry had money, we would give bursaries to such orphans. This money has been transferred to the constituencies and that is why I am requesting the hon. Member to consider the orphans first when he is giving bursaries.

Question No.435

IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH DELIVERY
SERVICES IN NYAMIRA

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Masanya is absent. His Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

Question 497

UPGRADING OF KOIWA HEALTH CENTRE

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Koech's Question is deferred.

(Question deferred)

*Question No.665*REGULATION OF TURKWEL
RIVER WATER FLOW

Mr. Ethuro asked the Minister for Water and Irrigation:-

- (a) whether she is aware that the damming of River Turkwel at the Gorge has caused massive suffering and loss of livelihoods to the downstream users, particularly in Nadoto and Naoros sub-locations of Turkana District;
- (b) what urgent measures she is taking to ensure regulated and periodic flow of water for all users of River Turkwel; and,
- (c) whether she could further consider setting up a special fund to meet the development needs of people downstream.

The Minister for Water and Irrigation (Ms. Karua): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that the damming of River Turkwel at Turkwel Gorge has enhanced regulation of water to the downstream users of the river. However, due to the high demand for water for irrigation, especially on upper regions of South Turkana, Nadoto and Naoros sub-locations which are located on the lower region, do not receive adequate water during the dry season.

(b) My Ministry is undertaking water sector reforms and has established a Water Resources Management Authority, which started operations on 1st July, 2005. The Authority will regulate water abstractions from the river basins country wide. Turkwel River basin will be managed by the Rift Valley Catchment Regional Office, assisted by an agency based in Lodwar. The Authority will review the existing water abstractions permits with the objective of ensuring that water is allowed to flow downstream throughout the year. Among other urgent measures, my Ministry intends to ensure regulated and periodic flow of water for all the users of the Turkwel River as follows:-

(i) The formation of catchment area advisory committee and the water resource users association.

(ii) The processing of water permits to be approved in accordance with the recommendations of the catchment area advisory Committees.

(iii) The enforcement of the requirement that all water consumers construct water storage facilities which can sustain their demand for three months during the dry period.

(iv) All the uneconomical water conveyance systems, like open earth canals to be discouraged.

(v) Surveillance on Turkwel River by stakeholders to ensure each consumer has water control gadgets and does not exceed the permitted quantity of water.

(c) My Ministry has already established a fund which will be assisting community initiated water projects that are meant to conserve, protect and develop water sources countrywide. The Water Services Trust Fund is ready to facilitate the communities residing downstream of Turkwel Gorge Dam to implement water projects to enhance development in the area. However, proposals of such water projects are required to be channelled through the established water resource user associations and catchment area advisory committees.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Minister for that answer. However, this House must get tired of proto-type answers from the Ministry. My Question is very specific. I asked the Minister whether she is aware that the damming of River Turkwel has caused massive suffering and loss of livelihoods to the downstream users of the river. She has said that she is aware of the regulation, but she appreciates that the water is limited. In part (b), I asked what urgent measures the Minister is taking to ensure that there is regulated and periodic flow of water in Nadoto and Naoros, where people do not get any water. The Minister should take specific actions in the said particular areas. What will the Authority do to solve this problem? I do not want to hear about design studies.

Ms. Karua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that question demonstrates the lack of proper awareness on the water sector reforms. The agencies that we have created have everything to do with the urgent measures that we are going to take to ensure that the downstream users do not lack adequate water because of over-abstraction in the upper areas. These agencies are moving in urgently and they expect to get the full co-operation of the hon. Members to form catchment area advisory committees. We also intend to enhance awareness among the communities, so that they can store water for use during the dry periods. My answer is extremely specific.

Dr. Galgalo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the water sector reforms that are taking place. However, some of these regional agencies are supposed to serve very wide areas. For example, the agency in my region has its headquarters in Garissa and it is supposed to serve Moyale, Isiolo and Samburu. Could the Minister consider splitting the agency and establishing another headquarters in Isiolo?

Ms. Karua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have already considered having a sub-regional office at Isiolo. At the moment, we cannot split the Board. We are looking at the number of connections per Board, which make its operations economical. We note the distances and although the headquarters is at Garissa, a sub-regional office will be based in Isiolo for ease of communication.

Mr. Poghio: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question has to do with the damming of the Turkwel Gorge which has created a big man-made lake. People have suffered because their livestock and even people have been eaten by crocodiles. There are a lot of mosquitoes in the area. The suffering has been caused by the damming of the water. I am at the receiving end as well because my constituents have also suffered. Our people are not represented when decisions are being made by the Ministry. What is the Minister doing to alleviate the problems that are caused by the damming of the Turkwel River?

Ms. Karua: For purposes of stressing, one of the urgent measures to alleviate lack of water supplies to communities downstream, our Water Services Trust Fund is ready to receive proposals from the community for purposes of ensuring that they access water. Other problems will be solved by other inter-governmental agencies if they relate to the fighting of malaria, but the mandate of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation is to ensure that water is evenly distributed to all the people in the entire basin, and that is what we are going to tackle. What we have formed is not a task force; it is a permanent feature that water will be managed. The management has been decentralized to regional offices for ease of implementation of our programmes.

Dr. Ojiambo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask whether the Minister is aware that even those of us downstream are getting worried. As she addresses the problem of water consumption by the people downstream, there is, seemingly, a shortage of water going into Lake Victoria, and the lake is drying up. What measures is the Minister putting in place to ensure that the lake does not dry up, because we know that most of the water that goes into Lake Victoria comes from the rivers from our side?

Ms. Karua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the leaders including hon. Members of this House are called upon to ensure that we preserve our water catchment areas, but the Water Resources Management Authority is the specific agency that will immediately, and is right now looking into issues of

protection of catchment areas to ensure that we have adequate water resources. At the basin level, we expect the Catchment Area Advisory Committee, water users associations and hon. Members to join in conservation measures.

Mr. Speaker: Last question, Mr. Ethuro!

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Minister. My question is, in a specific area, it is very easy to have plans about a fund for these areas. If you remove these two areas at the very end of the river in terms of accessing water for domestic use and compensating them for the loss, because this water is being used upstream, and also for the regulated flow--- I would like to ask a more direct question; could the Minister consider sending the people who are managing the fund to this particular area so that they can mobilize the community so that they may raise proposals in order to seek funding from the fund? When can she do that?

Ms. Karua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we shall immediately ask the chief executive officer of the Rift Valley Water Service Board under which this area falls, to immediately mobilize the communities concerned so that they may access money from the Water Service Trust Fund. We shall also ask the Water Resources Management Authority, together with the National Water Corporation, which is our construction arm, to immediately look into the issue of water conservation in these areas.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: Very well, that is the end of Question Time. Next Order!

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER DO NOW
LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 20 - Ministry of Water and Irrigation

The Minister for Water and Irrigation (Ms. Karua): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, to enable me initiate debate on Vote 20 on the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. First and foremost, I wish to inform you that in order to facilitate this debate, the Ministry has tabled the district allocation budget, Vote R20 and D20 and the project details for the financial year 2005/2006. Included in the district allocation budget is the headquarters budget, on pages 71 to 87 for the Recurrent Expenditure and pages 109 to 115 for the Development Expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, my Ministry was enlarged to be the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in September, 2004, following the harmonization of the Government departments. The Ministry is composed of three departments; two technical and one administrative, charged with the following broad functions: Water and Sewerage Services, Irrigation and Drainage, Land Reclamation and Support Services.

In addition, the Ministry's budget supports 13 parastatals as follows: The National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation, National Irrigation Board, Kenya Water Institute, Water Services Regulatory Board, Water Resources Management Authority, Water Services Trust Fund and seven regional water service boards.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I, at this stage, point out that the water and sewerage services sector has fully undergone reforms in order to improve service delivery. The Ministry has also set the strategic objectives it will pursue in the next five years in the Strategic Plan of 2005/2009. These strategies are in line with the Economic Recovery Strategy Paper Sessional Paper No.1 of 1999 on National Policy on Water Resources Management and Development and the Water Act, 2002. This strategic plan identifies the role of the Ministry in support of water sanitation and irrigation sector development. Priorities addressed include: Structural reforms to make water and sanitation services autonomous, mobilization of investments for the construction and rehabilitation of the water and sanitation network and the involvement of communities and the private sector in expanding services to the urban and rural communities. The Ministry is also considering introducing pollution control mechanisms as well as constantly reviewing water abstraction and disposal licences.

As hon. Members are aware, access to adequate and reliable water supply is a key input to poverty reduction and an important element for social stability, economic growth and performance. In this regard, the sector continues to reform on its core business even as I present my estimates for 2005/2006. However, in the past, the increasing demand aggravated by high population growth, inadequate investments in water supply management and development led to serious deterioration of water supply infrastructure as well as depletion of the existing stock of renewable fresh water. Poor service delivery and poor water quality was common in most urban and rural schemes. In addition, encroachment of water catchment areas has affected sources of water, resulting in severe hydrological variability as rivers become seasonal and sometimes dry completely.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the new Government came into power, it made certain pledges that are clearly spelt out in the NARC Manifesto and consequently expounded in the year 2002/2007. One of the pledges was to facilitate improvement of access to water for more Kenyans. Towards this end, the Government undertook to design a comprehensive Sector Development Strategy with clear vision of roles and functions as well as a well defined partnership between the Government and stakeholders. Improved access will be achieved within the framework of the water sector reform initiatives that have already been implemented. The reform initiatives have resorted in separation of roles among the players in the water sector and sewerage services, provision and management. Functions previously undertaken by the Ministry have been decentralized so that the Ministry shall remain with the role of policy formulation and co-ordination.

Secondly, hon. Members may recall that the Government undertook to develop an appropriate legal framework to underline policy implementation. My Ministry has implemented the Water Act, 2002, in order to improve and provide an enabling legal and institutional framework for undertaking the water sector reform initiatives. Through the Water Act 2002, my Ministry has established ten key institutions that include the Water Service Regulatory Board, the Water Resources Management Authority, the seven regional water service boards and the Water Services Trust Fund, all of which are now operational.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the management of urban water and sewerage services, my Ministry is implementing a policy focusing on commercialisation through establishment of autonomous public water companies. Our preferred options are water companies formed by local authorities infused with professional management and expertise, most of which is locally available, to underscore efficiency in water service delivery. I wish to clarify that injecting professional management or managing water services on commercial principles will not mean selling off pipes, dams and water sources. What the Ministry emphasises on is that the water revenue collected from consumers be ploughed back and utilised exclusively for provision of water services including extension of distribution systems and upgrading of water facilities.

It should be noted that the Government has no plans to privatise water services in this country which would involve disposal of public assets to the private sector. My Ministry would like to assure

hon. Members that no one will be denied access to clean water just because they are poor.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government pledged to increase public investment in water resource management. It has been estimated that an investment of about Kshs24 billion would be required for the immediate rehabilitation of the dilapidated urban and rural water schemes in order to restore their levels of service delivery to their original design capacity. An additional Kshs80 billion would be required for medium extensions to meet the growing demand for water services. For achievement of Target Ten of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) No.7, of halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015, the Government will require an investment of Kshs65.33 billion in the next ten years. This means an annual investment of Kshs5.94 billion between 2005 and 2015. Financial resources of such magnitude, however, are not available due to current budgetary constraints; although I wish to state that this year, we have a Budget provision equal to that. In this regard, the limited funds available will be invested in rehabilitation of existing water supplies that provide immediate benefit in terms of quality of service and value for money.

My Ministry, therefore, intends to spend Kshs850,100,000 in the current financial year on rehabilitation of urban and rural water supplies under the Development Vote. As we embark on these major activities of rehabilitating water and sewerage infrastructure, my Ministry recognises the need to provide the people of Kenya with adequate and good quality water at all times. This will be achieved through ensuring adequate water treatment, proper utility maintenance and improved management of water supply and sewerage services. My Ministry, therefore, intends to spend Kshs621,060,000 under the Recurrent Vote to meet the cost of electricity, water treatment chemicals and other operation and maintenance costs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the same period, my Ministry will collect Appropriations-in-Aid (A-i-A) revenue of Kshs260 million from sale of water and sewerage services. The same will be ploughed back to improve services. In order to ensure better sector co-ordination and efficiency, policy formulation and implementation, the Government consolidated all water related functions into my Ministry.

One of the functions brought under the Ministry is the mandate of waste water treatment and disposal. In order to discharge this mandate, my Ministry intends to spend Kshs340 million under the Development Vote for rehabilitation and development of waste water treatment and drainage works. May I add that this falls short of our expected cost of about Kshs1.38 billion required. As hon. Members know, the growth of towns and urbanisation in general is beginning to affect fresh water services. In line with Government policy of accelerating economic development of arid and semi-arid (ASAL) areas, my Ministry places great emphasis on developing sources of water supply for domestic and livestock consumption in line with the Government's Economic Recovery Programme for the North Eastern Province, Isiolo, Marsabit and Moyale districts launched by His Excellency the President in 2004. This will be achieved through increasing the water conservation capacity of ASAL areas through rehabilitation and development of dams and water pans. In this regard, the Ministry intends to spend Kshs710 million under the Development Vote on the rehabilitation and development of these water conservation structures in 50 ASAL districts.

In addition, the ground water potential of ASAL areas will be exploited. Regional ground water assessment programmes have been initiated in ASAL districts to identify areas of good ground water potential for exploitation. Currently, only 170 million cubic metres of ground water is abstracted per year out of the estimated annual ground water potential of 619 million cubic metres. This represents a mere 27 per cent rate of abstraction. Towards this end, the Ministry intends to spend Kshs775 million under the Development Vote for investigation and development of ground water resources through drilling of 188 boreholes in ASAL areas.

As hon. Members may be aware, the recent floods of the Nyando and Nzoia rivers have in the

past caused such devastation and displacement of local communities in an otherwise agriculturally productive area to the extent that they are put under food relief programmes. This devastation has been occurring every year and may continue to do so until long-term measures are put in place. In this regard, the Government is determined to find a lasting solution to the problem that will involve construction of flood control dykes and balancing reservoirs that will be used for irrigation and rehabilitation of affected catchment areas. Towards this end, the Government will seek the necessary support and resources from development partners. In the meantime, the Ministry has allocated Kshs120 million under the Development Vote for the rehabilitation and construction of flood control dykes on Nyando and Nzoia rivers and Garissa Town flood control works. This will also include maintenance of Yatta, Njoro Kubwa and Grogan canals.

In its efforts to mitigate the effects of floods, the Ministry has developed a strategy for integrated flood management for Lake Victoria Basin in Kenya. The strategy is expected to serve as a base for developing the national strategy and policy for integrated flood management in Kenya.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the depletion of our stock of renewable fresh water through high consumption and pollution among other factors has resulted in Kenya being classified as a water-scarce country by international standards. This calls for an integrated approach to management of water resources in order to reverse the trend. The Ministry has established the Water Resources Management Authority and Water Catchment Area Advisory Committees to manage water resources as provided in the Water Act 2002. Meanwhile, the Ministry proposes to spend Kshs45,050,000 under the Development Vote on rehabilitation of water resources measurement infrastructure, water quality monitoring and pollution control activities.

To enable my Ministry to undertake the programmes, I have outlined above, I propose to spend a gross expenditure of Kshs6,500,010,819 in the Development Vote and a gross expenditure of Kshs1,396,649,191 in the Recurrent Vote.

The ERS has identified irrigation as a key sector to reviving the economy and ensuring food security. This is due to the fact that 80 per cent of our country's land mass is arid or semi-arid, thus creating a lot of population pressure on the high potential areas.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members! We cannot hear the Minister at all! So, please, give the Minister a chance!

Proceed, Minister!

The Minister for Water and Irrigation (Ms. Karua): Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of an irrigation potential of 539,000 hectares, only 105,800 hectares have been developed, representing only 20 per cent of the total potential.

In order to guide the development of the irrigation sector, the Government has prepared a Draft National Irrigation and Drainage Policy Paper and a review of the current Irrigation Act will be undertaken to reflect socio-economic changes in the sector. At this juncture, it is important to inform hon. Members that small-holder irrigation is managed by the Department of Irrigation, Drainage and Land Reclamation, while large-scale irrigation is managed by the National Irrigation Board.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as part of the Government's contribution to improve agricultural production in the country, my Ministry proposes to spend Kshs243,420,000 under the Development Vote on the rehabilitation and development of small-holder irrigation infrastructure and support to small-holder irrigation schemes countrywide. In an effort to address development constraints in ASAL areas, the Ministry has embarked on an intensive integrated ASAL development programme to facilitate sustainable economic and social development of the communities.

This is to be achieved through developing infrastructure facilities, reclamation of denuded lands and strengthening of the integrated research in ASAL development. My Ministry proposes to

spend Kshs37,200,000 under the Development Vote towards this cause of small-holder irrigation, drainage and integrated ASAL development. To enable the Ministry undertake the activities in irrigation, drainage and land reclamation in the country, we have allocated a gross expenditure of Kshs420,376,000 in the Development Vote and Kshs122,762,456 in the Recurrent Vote.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water sector absorbs a substantial number of the country's labour force, particularly those in the middle and lower cadres after training at the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI). For the last 43 years, this institute has been contributing enormously to the national economy through human resources development for the water sector. As hon. Members are aware, the KEWI is a semi-autonomous Government agency established through the Kenya Water Institute Act, 2001.

The objectives of the institute are: To provide directly in collaboration with institutions of higher learning, services in human resource development, consultancy and research in the water sector on commercial basis; provide training programmes to seminars and workshops and produce publications aimed at maintaining standards in the water and sanitation sector; provide a quorum for effective collaboration between the public and private sectors, and other interested parties, for development of the water and sanitation sector; conduct examinations and award diploma certificates, and other awards, to successful candidates.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to enable the institute to train manpower for the water sector, my Ministry has allocated Kshs67,687,000 in gross expenditure under the Recurrent Vote, and Kshs57 million under the Development Vote.

As you are aware, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has made tremendous changes in line with the Water Act, 2002. As a result, the mandate of the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation has changed significantly. Previously, the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation was involved in the management and distribution of water to consumers in 44 water supply schemes in different parts of the country. With effect from 1st July, 2005, all these, together with the budgetary allocations for the same in this financial year's Budget, were handed over to various water service boards, in whose jurisdiction the schemes fall.

In brief, the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation will be the construction arm of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation with the following new mandate: Development of schemes and spearheading dam construction for water supply, flood control, land drainage and ground water development through drilling of boreholes and ground water recharge using flood water; and, development and expansion of bulk water supply systems.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to enable the corporation undertake the new mandate, the Ministry is proposing an allocation of Kshs1,739,050,000 in gross expenditure under the Development Vote and Kshs10 million under the Recurrent Vote for this purpose, which has already been captured under the Water Sewerage Schemes in this statement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. Members are aware, the National Irrigation Board (NIB), now under my Ministry, was established by the Irrigation Act, 1966, for the sole purpose of initiating and promoting irrigation development and maintaining existing schemes in the country. The NIB has over the years managed Mwea, Pekera, Ahero, West Kano, Bunyala and Hola Irrigation Schemes. Due to budgetary and other constraints, the performance of these schemes have not been satisfactory.

In this regard, my Ministry has restructured the NIB for better service delivery and, in the subsequent years, I will request this House, based on a re-focused mandate, to approve sufficient funds to rehabilitate West Kano, Ahero, Bunyala and Pekera Irrigation Schemes. The NIB was also supposed to offer technical and logistic support to Mwea Irrigation Scheme farmers for the operation and maintenance of its main secondary infrastructure, and rehabilitate and reconstruct Hola and Bura Irrigation Schemes.

My Ministry has a gross allocation of Kshs79,053,913 in the Recurrent Vote and Kshs161 million in the Development Vote to enable the NIB resume and expand irrigation water supply in West

Kano, Bunyala, Mwea, Ahero, Pekera and Hola Irrigation Schemes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already noted, from 1st July, 2005, the Government handed over the management of its water facilities to the seven regional water service boards following a nationwide consultation process on the Draft Transfer Plan. They are, the Tana, Athi, Rift Valley, Coast, Lake Victoria North and Lake Victoria South, and Northern Water Service Boards. They are responsible for the efficient and economical provision of water and sewerage services within their areas of jurisdiction. I want to stress that they handle the day-to-day services of water supply and sanitation through their agents.

To enable the boards build capacity for achieving their mandates, my Ministry has allocated Kshs126 million gross expenditure under the Development Vote and Kshs42 million under the Recurrent Vote.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Water Services Trust Fund will supplement the provision of water services particularly to areas without adequate coverage. To enable the Trust Fund build capacity for achieving its mandate of financing the provision of water services to under-served areas, my Ministry intends to incur an expenditure of Kshs60 million in the Development Vote and Kshs6 million in the Recurrent Vote.

The Water Services Regulatory Board was established under the Water Act, 2002, to regulate water and sewerage service provision, including issuing of licences, setting service standards and guidelines for tariffs and prices. The Water Resources Management Authority was established under the same Water Act to be responsible for regulation of water resource issues such as water allocation, source protection and conservation, water quality management and pollution control and international waters. The two institutions I have mentioned above are now operational and capacity is being built to enable them undertake their responsibilities. Towards this end, my Ministry has allocated a total of Kshs44 million in the Development Vote.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. Members have observed from their copies of this financial year's Development Estimates of Expenditure, pages 290 and 345, my Ministry's gross expenditure during the financial year 2005/2006 is Kshs7,755,195,100. The Appropriations-in-Aid (A-in-A) amount to Kshs3,028,102,000, while the nett expenditure is Kshs4,727,093,100. The Recurrent Estimates of Expenditure, pages 578-600, reflect a gross expenditure of Kshs2,307,385,269. The A-in-A amount to Kshs260 million and the nett expenditure is Kshs2,047,385,269.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Ministry continues to receive substantial support from a number of friendly development partners towards development activities in the water and sanitation sector. Their combined support this financial year amounts to Kshs3,860,340,853, for which I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude on behalf of my Ministry and that of the Government of Kenya. I am, therefore, requesting this House to approve the combined gross expenditure for both the Development and Recurrent Votes of Kshs10,062,580,369.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs (Mr. Awori): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to second this Motion. First of all, I want to thank the Minister for the articulate manner in which she has moved the Motion.

One of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is to ensure that Kenyans have got access to safe water by the year 2015. If I remember right, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, we resolved that by the year 2000, there would be water in every family in the country. Regrettably, due to mismanagement of our resources, we never achieved this objective. I want to ask my colleagues in Government and Parliament to ensure that this objective of getting our people access safe water by the year 2015 is achieved.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps, we need to look at various ways in which we can, first of all, conserve water. We know that in this country we have scarcity of water. We all know that 15 per cent

of our people live in urban areas. It might be a good thing if the Ministry of Water and Irrigation did meet with the Ministry of Local Government to enact safety by-laws. The safety by-laws I am thinking about are to force all the developers to have gutters at every house that is built in urban areas. Secondly, they must have storage tanks, so that the gutters will then lead the water into the storage tanks. This will ensure that, within the urban areas, the water which is coming very freely through rain can then supplement the projects like the Sasumua Dam and so on.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is important that we ensure that there is always water in the big towns. At the moment, we are looking for direct investment from outside the country. One of the questions that the potential investors ask is how our infrastructure is. When they talk about infrastructure, it is not just the roads, energy and communication, but also water which is extremely important. If we will attract direct investment then we must assure the intending investors that there is sufficient water to run their factories and for domestic use in their houses.

However, the most fundamental thing is to eradicate poverty in our country. We have had many documents on how we can eradicate poverty. About 85 per cent of our population do live in the rural areas. Most of them depend entirely on agriculture. When we have rain-fed agriculture as the mainstay of our agriculture, then we will continue to condemn our people living in the rural areas to poverty. The only alternative is irrigation. It was very good, indeed, to incorporate irrigation in the Ministry of Water. I was happy when I heard the Minister detail the amount of money that is being set aside for irrigation. First of all, we want to have irrigation in high-yield areas, where we are now growing high-value crops such as horticulture, tea and coffee. From there, then we can move on to other areas. I am old enough to remember in this House, before Independence, somebody said that we needed to use Lake Victoria for irrigation. That idea is not a dream. Egypt and Sudan are benefiting from that water while we, the source of it, are continuing to have no water at all. Now that technology has been enhanced, we can get a system where water will be pumped out of Lake Victoria to the highest point in this country and it can then be supplied to other parts of country by force of gravity. Let us take that project quite seriously.

About 4,000 years ago, a King in Sri Lanka - at the time the country was known as Ceylon - said that there was no reason why whenever it was raining, water was allowed to flow back into the ocean where there is surplus of water. He, therefore, decreed that there will be big dams that will be constructed. This has helped Sri Lanka to continue to being one of the major producers of tea in the world. They keep away famine. I am advocating that we must now take seriously the question of building dams in places like Ukambani. When you look at the amount of money that we have spent on famine relief in Eastern Province since we gained Independence, I am sure it must run into billions. Today, the Minister is only asking for Kshs10 billion. Yet we have spent nearly Kshs100 billion on famine relief and we will continue to spend a similar amount. Why do we not actually invest money in building dams in various parts of this country? It will also encourage production in places like North Eastern Province, where nothing is happening. The Ministry is doing extremely well to control floods in this country. The final solution to floods is by damming rivers. The Minister has been to Nyando and Budalangi. She has done a commendable job in building dykes. But, as soon there are heavy rains in Cherangani Hills, there are floods. We have many big rivers that, if controlled properly, can bring more land into production.

Finally, when our products are now competing globally, we can no longer depend on rain. What hope do we have of our sugar competing with sugar from Sudan? It is not possible. That is because we depend entirely on rain, which is unpredictable. I want to ask my colleagues here, without saying too much, to support this Vote, so that we can move ahead.

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

(Question proposed)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ndambuki is the Official Opposition Responder! Please, proceed!

Mr. Ndambuki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to, at the very outset, welcome hon. Members back to the House, after three weeks of serious work. I also thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to say a few things on the Vote of the Ministry of Water and Irrigations.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is common knowledge that water is very essential to human beings, animals and plants. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that citizens are supplied with water. It has always been a dream by Kenyans to get piped water into their premises or in a nearby place. That could reduce the time wasted by our women who go to draw water from rivers which are far away. That would also be a move towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. However, to achieve that still remains a dream, especially in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs).

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

[Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair]

There are a lot of problems in ASALs. The problem has been aggravated by increased human population and destruction of the environment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the 2005/2006 Printed Estimates, the Ministry has been given a substantial increase in the allocations---

(Mr. Ojode gave Mr. Oparanya an orange)

Mr. Ndolo: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is Mr. Ojode in order to hand over an orange to Mr. Oparanya, who is sitting here? Is it in order?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Ojode! Did you hear what Mr. Ndolo said?

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not hear him!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: And you, Mr. Oparanya?

Mr. Oparanya: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the orange is here!

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Ojode, could you walk to where Mr. Oparanya is, take back your orange and apologise to the House?

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Ojode!

(Mr. Ojode walked towards Mr. Oparanya)

Yes, Mr. Ojode!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the orange belongs to me. Mr. Oparanya said that he wanted it! What could I have done?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Ojode! You are ordered to apologise to the House!

(A mobile phone rang)

Mr. Nderitu: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Even his phone is ringing!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Ojode, please, proceed!

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ojode): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not my phone! I do apologise! However, next time, when he requests for an orange, he should do so outside the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Ojode! I do not want any further--- Hon. Members, we must be serious with the Business of this House. There are matters that you can do outside the House and those that you can do inside the House!

(Mr. Oparanya stood up in his place)

Order, Mr. Oparanya! I want to hear no more of that! Sit down!

Mr. Ndambuki, please, continue!

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that in the current financial year, the Ministry of Water and Irrigations has been allocated a substantial amount of money. But we still have a few problems here and there with the allocation of funds.

For example, if you look at the Recurrent Expenditure, out of 70 districts, six districts got---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members! I want some order over there!

Mr. Ndambuki, please, proceed!

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, out of 70 districts, six districts got over Kshs10 million. The other 64 districts just got a single digit figure. If you look at the Development Expenditure, nine districts out of 70 got more than Kshs100 million. They are led by Nyeri District with Kshs589,562,000. That is followed by Kisumu District with Kshs429 million and Nakuru District with Kshs518 million.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at the population of those districts, they do not warrant such an allocation. There are many other districts which have a lot of problems as far as water is concerned and yet, they are allocated an average of Kshs20 million to Kshs50 million.

I would like the Minister, when she comes to respond, to highlight why some of those things---

Those are things that are bringing a lot of problems in this country. The population of Nyeri District is only 661,000 and everybody is almost getting Kshs1 million! This really---

Mr. Gachagua: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to quote figures for Nyeri, Kisumu and Nakuru here, and give an impression that those are Government of Kenya funds, while he knows very well that they are donor funds?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Gachagua, you are completely out of order! The hon. Member is entitled to a reply. Whether the money is from a donor or not, it does not really matter! Let us not interrupt hon. Members for the sake of it!

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Gachagua! I ruled you out of order!

Mr. Ndambuki, please, continue!

Mr. Ndambuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member would like to see, he can read the Printed Estimates. Everything is there. Nothing is being hidden. It is only that those are the areas where we need to raise concerns. Those areas have become areas of concern by hon. Members.

For example, if you look at Machakos District, which has a population of 900,000, it has been allocated less than Kshs60 million. Those are the people who suffer day in, day out, due to lack of water. We would like the Minister to explain that when she comes to respond. We want to understand

the criteria used. We are not trying to criticize her. But we are trying to highlight some of the concerns that we have in the Vote.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the expenditure in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation is Kshs7.7 billion which is almost 2 per cent of the total Government expenditure. I think this is a very good thing to do because all of us have been crying for water. My concern is that these funds should be allocated equitably. Every part of this country should get an equal share of the national cake.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of this Ministry drilling boreholes in every ASAL district is a commendable thing compared to 2003/2004 Financial Year when it drilled only 47 boreholes. Now, each district will get four boreholes. My question is: How are these boreholes going to be allocated? Which districts are going to receive these boreholes because each district has a unique problem of water? We cannot say that we are going to drill four boreholes in each district. We need to look at each district's water requirements instead of saying that every district will get four boreholes. This is impossible because there are districts with more than five constituencies. How will the Ministry drill four boreholes in such districts? It is an issue which needs to be explained in the Printed Estimates; indicating the number of boreholes per district, so that no area in this country is short-changed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, A

SAL districts suffer the real major water problems and, in distributing this Kshs1.5 billion that is supposed to be used for drilling these boreholes, I urge the Minister to seriously consider those of us who come from ASAL areas so that our water problems can be sorted out. For example, the Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs said that Eastern Province is given relief food day in, day out. I am urging the Minister to think of damming rivers in this province because we have more than 30 rivers passing through it; so that we can harvest the water which flows to the Indian Ocean. This will reduce the amount of money which is used to buy this relief food which is supplied to our people. If the Minister could do that, it will really be a big step in the right direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have many irrigation schemes in this country but if you look at the funds which have been allocated to them, you will be very much surprised. In fact, Kshs218,000,006 has been allocated for irrigation development in the country. These are enough funds for one scheme. The Minister cannot tell us that this money is enough to meet the construction of the sugar irrigation scheme in Tana River District. Out of that amount, Kshs153,560,000 is going to be used for irrigation structures. We do not know where these structures are going to be built. We are not told where this work is going to be done. I would like to see more funds allocated to irrigation development in this country. We have so many swamps all over the country where we need these funds to grow rice, sugar-cane and other crops.

However, if you look at Item 3110500, which is Structure Construction and Civil Works, the Minister has not told us where these funds are going to be spent. If you looked at Head 896 which is Water Conservation and Dam Construction, it has been allocated Kshs710 million but 93 per cent of it will go to rehabilitation works. The Minister has not given us the list of areas where these rehabilitation works are going to be done. Even if they will be done in the districts, it is not specific. You just see a figure indicating rehabilitation of civil works in Makueni but the Minister has not specified where it will be done and what it is. We would like to see these figures being shown. The Minister should be more specific on the Sub-Votes and Heads so that people can really understand what the money is being used for.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on training, the Minister has allocated a lot of money to training at the head office. The problem does not exist at the head office. The problem exists in the districts which are getting peanuts. We need more money for the training of officers in the districts who shall in turn

train the communities on how to harvest rainwater, dam some of these small rivers and construct more dams through community-based efforts. However, if all the money is going to be used in training the senior people in the Ministry, it will not help us. We need to see work being undertaken in the districts because that is where the problem is. That is where people walk more than ten kilometres to go and fetch water. That is where we want to see all these things concentrated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for example on Head 887, only Kshs5 million is allocated to 74 districts. If you divide that figure between the districts, you will find that it is peanuts. So, let these funds be well distributed to all districts and not allow some districts to be allocated more than others. If it is donor funds, why add more from the Government of Kenya? Why not allocate those funds elsewhere? Why are we just allocating money where it is and yet those who deserve water cannot access it!

The Ministry has got a large share of money out of the Budget but we would like to see us getting water. For example, where I come from, water is very scarce. In some areas, you cannot wash your body always. You wash your body only once. People wake up very early in the morning. Some hon. Members' areas which are getting these funds have water tanks and piped water in their houses. Their wives only wake up at 7.00 a.m. because the water is there and yet the majority of people in this country walk long distances in order to get water.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are my witness and even your place is even worse than mine. We would like the Minister to be fair. She is always fair but this time round she has allocated some districts more money than others. If you go to the nine districts where she has allocated each of them more than Kshs100 million and total that money and share it among the other districts, then we will be talking of very high figures. If the Ministry did that, Makueni District would not suffer the water shortage it is experiencing now. However, if the Minister continues allocating funds this way, it means some communities and areas will continue suffering.

I had a lot of faith in this Government. I expected it to be more considerate but it is still doing what the previous Governments did. It is not treating all the areas equally.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been told of allocations that have been given to other Ministries, but when you go to those Ministries to look for assistance, you will be told that the money there is for the construction of dams which will be used to rear fish. Why should we use water to rear fish when people are suffering? In Ukambani, for example, we do not need fish. We need water more than anything else. So, if every Ministry has been allocated some money we need to see that money being used appropriately.

With regard to the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF), officers of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in the districts continue to demand for money for transport and other allowances so that they can come to see how we are using the CDF money. I have talked to the Minister severally about this matter and I have even requested her to issue a statement telling us whether what her officers are doing is appropriate or not. As I speak now, the officers from her Ministry still demand for money for transport and other allowances. We need some action to be taken with regard to this matter.

Most of the constituencies use the CDF money to initiate water projects. However, if every project has to be surveyed or visited twice or thrice, then the CDF money will not be enough to cater for all the projects. The Minister needs to address that issue so that the people on the ground become aware of what is happening. The Ministry should give these officers some money to do that kind of work. The same applies when people are digging boreholes. Officials from the Ministry have to visit and study the site for two or three days and we have to pay for their services using the CDF money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Minister was given this portfolio, she assured us that before embarking on any new projects she would revive all the stalled projects. As we talk now, there are quite a number of projects which have not been rehabilitated. I would like her to fulfil her promise. I know of several water projects which have stalled because of, for instance, broken down water

pumps. The cost of a water pump is about Kshs100,000 and the people cannot raise that kind of money. They expect the money to come from the CDF so that the projects can be revived. I would like the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to give priority to the stalled projects.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Minister will be replying to this Motion, I would like to know from her how much money during the 2004/2005 Financial Year was used. I would also like to know how much money during the same financial year was channelled to the arid and semi-arid land districts. There was a time I asked a Question in this House regarding water projects in Ukambani. The answer I was given comprised of a list of several projects in the four districts that lie in Ukambani. I was told that each one of them had been allocated funds. However, as I speak now, nothing has happened to those projects. That is why I want to know what amount of money was given to the ASAL districts and how much has been used. We will then be able to compare that with the current Budget.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Minister is really willing to help Kenyans, I think she has quite a substantial allocation which she can use to help us. We use a lot of money to build dykes which are easily carried away the moment floods come. I suggest that we look for alternative ways of controlling the floods; for instance, by building dams in the flood-prone areas so that we can use the water for other purposes. We have spent quite a lot of money in those areas building dykes that serve no purpose at all. I would like to ask the Minister to go back and look at the money she has been allocated - it does not matter whether it is money from Government of Kenya (GoK) or donor funds. She does not need to add to the allocations, but I feel she should consider Eastern Province because of its perennial water problems. The Minister only allocated Kshs673 million to the province. That is equivalent to what Nyeri District alone got! By all means, one cannot say that, that is fair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is common knowledge that people suffer a lot in Eastern and North Eastern provinces because of lack of water. Not even North Eastern Province was given a substantial figure to cater for its crucial water needs.

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

Mr. Nderitu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to register my support for this Motion. I would also like to support farmers in Mwea who are fully aware that irrigation is what has kept them going all this time. The farmers have been getting help to dredge and desilt the canals in the area. They contribute more than Kshs54 million every year to carry out this exercise. I wish all Kenyans joined in this exercise by contributing to that fund so that the Government gets money to assist the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would urge the Ministry not to shy off from talking to donors. The money we get from donors comes in the form of debts or at times grants. However, by the time we pay back that money, our people will not be having sufficient food. It is sad that after 40 years since we got Independence, our country still has to depend on food aids from donors. Water, being the magical element that would assist farmers to grow food, is becoming scarce every day and most people cannot access it.

I wish the Ministry had more funds so that it could revive all the stalled irrigation projects in this country. I realise that the Ministry is trying to rehabilitate projects that stalled ten to 15 years ago. However, I would like to urge the Ministry to work together with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources so that it can reclaim all the water catchment areas which are being destroyed by people under the pretext that they are looking for settlement areas. It will be pointless to have a country that is full of pipes which do not have water because already we have destroyed our water catchment areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to urge the Ministry to come up with a programme on how we can built water reservoirs in virtually all the districts in this country. We experience few rainy seasons--- I am glad that the water that floods Budalang'i and Nyando constituencies has been tamed.

Mr. Ogur: Nyatike *bado!*

Mr. Nderitu: Nyatike *bado*?

(Mr. Ogur stood up in his place)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, protect me from the "boy" from Nyatike Constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Ogur!

Mr. Nderitu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what really irritated my friend is the fact that the floods in his area are yet to be controlled. However, I believe, the Ministry is working step by step. After they are through with Budalang'i Constituency they will come to Nyatike Constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am pleading with the Ministry to come up with a programme of constructing dams. I know that the reservoirs can hold a lot of water that can be used by farmers so as to change their farming methods to horticultural, and at the same time grow food crops. I urge the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to work hand in hand with hon. Karume's Ministry. By doing so, all the food crops we grow through irrigation would be bought by the Government for preservation and storage purposes. It is pointless for our country to spend Kshs4 billion to buy maize, which cannot be eaten by an old person. An old person is better off eating rice, which only requires boiling to become soft. Mwea farmers have enough rice to feed the whole of this country.

I would also like to urge the Ministry to work hand in hand with the Forestry Department and make sure that in any place that the Ministry provides water, all the farmers who benefit pay 10 per cent of the revenue earned to cater for the environment and make sure that we have enough water supply for the coming days. The way things are moving now, we may not have enough water supply.

On the issue of hydro-power generation, I want to say that the dam that the Government plans to initiate could work in at least four ways. It could be used to supply water to our farmers, generate electric energy, and act as a buffer zone for our environment. Therefore, we need to have more dams as opposed to boreholes. We need more dams because there are places in our country today that when you dig a borehole, 10 kilometres down the line you still do not get a drop of water, because of the terrain. I would prefer if we had one large dam in Makueni District which had water all through, than have several boreholes which run dry. I urge the Ministry to look into the issue of having more dams. Would a dam worth Kshs20 million be better than having several boreholes which do not have water? Some form of energy would also be required to pump water from boreholes. As I urge the Ministry to rehabilitate all the forgotten schemes, I would like it to reinvent the wheel of irrigation. Farms in Taita-Taveta need to be irrigated. If there was irrigation taking place in North Horr, the people living there would grow their own food. I know very well that the Ministry is in the limelight in carrying out these projects, but its speed is wanting.

My colleague echoed the issue of personnel in the Ministry. Could the Ministry work out a formula of facilitating its officials to carry out their work so that we stop draining our Constituency Development Fund (CDF)?

On the issue of donor-funding, the Ministry should involve the local community so that when a project is taking place in a constituency; such as the DFID project taking place in my place, the money is utilised properly. The money needs to be owned by the people because, at the end of the day, the same people pay for the funding. Sometimes the community is taken for granted because the money is said to come from the Government. To avoid loading Kenyans with many taxes, people who receive donor-funding and have projects being carried out in their areas should have a formula worked out on what proportion of the funding they should be paid.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Rotino: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I want to support the Ministry's Vote. This is a very important Ministry and we cannot delay in giving it money.

Having said that, I want to talk about the facilitation of the officers in the field. The officers in the field are not well facilitated. The officers ask for allowances from money which is meant for CDF. The Minister should clarify this issue, through a letter saying that the officers are supposed to be funded while supervising the implementation of CDF projects. Some of our districts are very far from their headquarters. The officers spend a lot of time in the field supervising projects. The Ministry must facilitate the officers so that they can do their work well. Secondly, the officers do not have means of transportation. They lack vehicles. What they have are very old vehicles which are not serviced well. The officers end up spending so much of their personal money. Some of them hike lifts from hon. Members as they travel to their constituencies. Facilitation of these officers is very important. Otherwise, we may blame them, yet they do not have the means to do their work well. They cannot even afford to assist in the CDF projects. That is why they ask for allowances from CDF so as to fuel their cars. The Ministry should consider facilitating the officers and not blame them all the time.

On the issue of stalled projects, in my area, I have one of these projects called the Sigor Water Project. This project stalled almost 15 years ago. I have asked several questions in this House regarding the project because the treatment plant was not completed. It was done halfway and people of Sigor are now suffering, dealing with the problem of typhoid because of taking contaminated water. There is no supply of chlorine to Sigor. When water is not treated, we get many problems of waterborne diseases. The Government should look into this problem and transport chlorine from Kapenguria to Sigor, which is about 100 kilometres away. The officers do not have any means of transporting chlorine. I always carry it for them in my car. That is not really fair.

The stalled project I am talking about is the Wei Wei Water Project Treatment Plant. I have asked several questions in this House regarding the project. People of Sigor do not have water because of the way the pipes were laid. The design was done poorly. The treatment plant was placed at a bad place, such that whenever it rains, the pipes are washed away. The Government has spent a lot of money on this project, yet any time it rains, the pipes are washed away. I want the Ministry to kindly look into this problem so that we can have a permanent solution to lack of water in Sigor. That is why I have said that we have no water, although there is a lot of water in our river. Getting the water and maintenance of the water works is poor. I urge the Ministry to finish the construction of the treatment plant which has stalled.

On the issue of boreholes, in my constituency the water table is very deep. Kacheliba Constituency has a good water table and one can easily find underground water after digging 100 metres down. In my constituency, getting water from a borehole is very difficult. The only solution to the water problem would be the construction of a dam. Last year, we were given money to rehabilitate dams. There are two ways of doing this; one can either use a grader to rehabilitate a whole dam or use manual labour. However the amount of money given to contractors, who are either from Nakuru or Nairobi, is misused. The Ministry spends a lot of money in mobilising its equipment to West Pokot. They should, at least, localise the rehabilitation of these dams. If there is no equipment within reach, they could use local labour to rehabilitate those dams so that we reduce the cost and build more dams. I can see that we have allocated Kshs15 million only for drilling boreholes. This money can only cater for one or two constituencies. We cannot drill boreholes in my constituency because the water table is very low. As a result, I do not benefit from this money. I have always told the Ministry to build dams for us because that is the only solution to our water problems. Every time I say this, it falls on deaf ears. Nobody listens to me because they say they will have to spend a lot of money on survey and travelling.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can see that Kshs500,000 has been allocated towards rehabilitating Wei Wei Community Irrigation Scheme. I do not know what this money will be used for because Wei Wei Irrigation Scheme is funded by the Italian Government. This Kshs500,000 will not really be utilised for that project. Even if it is Kshs500,000, it is not sufficient for doing those rehabilitation

works. This amount of money is just meant to deceive us. They had better withdraw this allocation and revert to rehabilitation of stalled projects in Sigor. The Wei Wei Irrigation Scheme is funded by the Italians and they have already provided the funds. This Kshs500,000 should instead be re-allocated to the Sigor Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have seen the list of all the irrigation projects under the NIB. We have the Wei Wei Irrigation Scheme which should be included under the NIB so that we can get this amount of money that is allocated to the irrigation schemes. That is the only scheme that is surviving in that area after Amolem and Katilo projects stalled. This scheme should be put into the NIB which will take charge of it.

When Turkwel Dam was being constructed they said we should have money for the lower part so that water that is coming out of the dam after the power haul is used for irrigation. This has not been done. I am suggesting to the Ministry that the NIB is requested to take charge of that lower part of Turkwel Irrigation Scheme. This will take care of Turkana and West Pokot, so that we stop this problem of cattle rustling all the time. We should spend that money to irrigate that area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have a lot of projects in the districts under the Arid Lands Programme. We have these projects in areas like Lomut, Chesegon and Ortum which were constructed by donor funds. They are supposed to be maintained by the Ministry but there is no money to maintain them. When projects are done, the cost of maintenance should be noted so that there is money to maintain them every year. That is missing.

There is also the issue of projects which were done long ago. There are many projects in West Pokot that are stalled and I do not know if any stock of these projects is taken. I have followed up the issue with the Ministry's office in Kapenguria, and they said that they have submitted the names of all the projects which have stalled in the district through corruption. We should keep rehabilitating these projects every year.

With those few remarks, I want to support the Ministry and say that we give them the money immediately.

The Assistant Minister for East African and Regional Co-operation (Mr. J. Nyagah): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to start by thanking the Minister for having negotiated with the Treasury to get such a huge increase to her budget. For those of us who come from ASAL areas, water could be the single most important thing you could give us. I am grateful to see that there is an attempt to look after us by giving us water. Once you give us water we shall worry about education, roads and other things later.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to also appreciate the good work that has been done in reforming this Ministry. Over the years, this Ministry has had serious problems. The reforms in the sector that will bring supply and management of water closer to the people is a welcome move. I have noticed that whereas an attempt has been made to educate us on reforms, to date, many hon. Members of Parliament do not understand what is going on. We only read about what the Ministry is doing in the newspapers. Sometimes we have been called to seminars which most of the time we have not been able to attend. If the Minister could organise a seminar for us in order to understand what is happening in the Ministry, that is something that I think all of us in this House would appreciate. I know I would appreciate such a seminar because it would help me know how to work with the Ministry and understand the changes that are taking place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the disadvantages being faced by the Ministry is that, because we now have the Constituency Development Fund, we have learnt the real cost of things. In my area, a borehole costs an average of Kshs800,000. In Mbeere we have been given three boreholes at a the cost of Kshs9 million. This means that we drilled one borehole for Kshs3 million. Give me that money and I will drill many more boreholes for the people of Gachoka and Siakago.

The other fortunate thing about the CDF is that we now know the cost of an earth dam. If an

earth dam goes for Kshs500,000 using a commercial tractor, it is very expensive. I have dug them using Ministry of Agriculture graders for Kshs300,000. If the money allocated to my constituency is passed on to me, I will show the Ministry how to utilise it, so that I can have more dams than those earmarked by the Ministry. It is unfortunate because the staff attitude needs to change. We have realised that FM radio stations and newspapers have educated Kenyans and given politicians a bashing on project costing.

I would like to advise the Minister that her Ministry will get the single biggest beating while implementing these projects, since *wananchi* now know the cost of things. We have been forced, through the CDF to educate them so as to survive politically. I would ask that the pricing that has been given historically be changed very dramatically. I am saying this in an attempt to help not to destroy, because I know about these problems. I once constructed a dam for Kshs300,000, and yet the Ministry had quoted for Kshs1.9 million. Those are the kind of differences I am talking about.

As I said earlier, about Kshs7 billion of this Ministry's budget has been set aside for Development Expenditure. This is most welcome because this money will be used to open up areas that previously had water problems. In my constituency, for example, during the dry season, women have to walk for about 15 kilometres in search of water. So, this money will be useful for putting up more earth dams in various places. At this particular moment, in my priority is to ensure that there are more water dams in my constituency. Secondly, I would like to see more of piped water than boreholes because they are expensive to maintain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on rehabilitation of projects, we have very many stalled projects that were done over the years. I am happy to see that funds have been set aside for rehabilitation of all stalled projects. This will help many communities because very often it is not easy for them to raise money to revive those projects. What happens is that hon. Members are requested to make contributions from their pockets for these projects. So, I am happy to see that there is an attempt to do rehabilitation. I hope that this part of the budget will increase in future, so that we rehabilitate all stalled projects in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a water project that is supposed to supply water to Mbeere District Headquarters. Unfortunately, that water never gets there. In fact, very little water gets there. So, since the water does not get there, it will never reach my constituency. It is a pity that we have fixed pipes, but there is no water. I hope the Minister will look into this because her officers are aware of what is happening on the ground. I have offered to employ youth wingers to supervise the piping, so that my people and the various markets gets water. Imagine a DC who does not have water and yet, there is water flowing from an inflow. I hope the Minister is listening to this because I might organise the youth to take the law into their hands and make sure this water does not diverted to other use. As we all know, the next world war might break up because of water shortage. That is why the Minister must negotiate for the best possible package for River Nile water. A lot of water of the River Nile is from Kenya. Therefore, we must not allow Egypt and Sudan to use more of that water than us. In Mbeere District, for example, our people might fight for Ena Siakago Water Project.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to support those who said that the Ministry needs to work closely with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. If we lose trees around Mt. Kenya Forest, people living within its environs will suffer. Therefore, I hope there will be co-ordination between those two Ministries in order to guarantee water to our people. This is important because it affects us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are five dams that generate electricity for this country. About 70 per cent of them are in my constituency. I would like to see the Ministry working with TARDA and other related organisations to give us something in return. It is sad that electricity lines pass over our districts and go to big cities in this country. We would like this Ministry to work with TARDA and KenGen in order to supply piped water to our people. In so doing, we will protect the dams and also

be conscious of the soil conservation programmes. Sometimes we do not recognise the benefits these dams because we only see electricity lines passing over us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I look forward to a day when the Minister will organise a reform seminar for hon. Members, so that we understand what her Ministry is doing. However, I will continue to support this Ministry. I would like to thank the Minister for her good work.

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

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister, in moving the Vote for the Ministry obviously made some very lofty statements about her Ministry. At a time when some of us know, from the areas where we come from, that there are thousands of Kenyans who are facing or staring at death in their face, because there is no water. Most of all, they have no water and food. Although the Minister does not deal with emergencies---

I know it falls under the Ministry of Special Programmes who have stopped assisting the communities that are suffering through the use of emergency water tank services. I thought she would, perhaps, care to say how she will assist these people in North Eastern Province. These are the people she derisively refers to as refugees and for whom she does not intend to apologise. She needs to tell Kenyans how she will assist those people get water.

The Minister for Water and Irrigation (Ms. Karua): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member on the Floor whose name I cannot recall, is claiming that I apologise for something. Could he keep extraneous matters and his kingdom out of this House, if he has any?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, both of you! Ms. Karua, while I appreciate your point of order and your need to try to correct the impression created by the hon. Member, you should not dishonour him by saying you cannot recall his name!

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, undoubtedly, she is the most arrogant Minister, but that arrogance will, in due course, dissipate and she will remember my name then!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order! Mr. Billow, we are not discussing the Minister, we are discussing the Vote on the Ministry of Water and Irrigation!

The Minister for Water and Irrigation (Ms. Karua): That is okay. But by then, he will not be the hon. Member for Mandera Central Constituency!

Mr. Billow: Hopefully, you---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, both of you! This is Parliament. Hon. Members must speak through the Chair!

Mr. Mwanzia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. You have heard the Minister say that the hon. Member will not be the hon. Member for Mandera Central Constituency by then. Where will he be? Could she tell us?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order! This House has rules and the Chair is here. Ms. Karua and Mr. Billow, stop the interrogation between yourselves. Both of you, need to apologise to the House and proceed!

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, my people are not refugees. If the Minister does not intend to apologise for that, so be it.

The allocation of resources in this country by this Government has been skewed. The allocation of resources of this Ministry, as the able Shadow Minister demonstrated, is equally skewed.

This is because of political patronage, if anything. It has been clearly demonstrated that the allocation of resources for this very important Ministry is not wholly dependant on socio-economic indicators. We know which areas of this country deserve to receive more allocations for water projects funding. It is this Government which produced the statistics which we were forced to use for allocation of resources. We have heard very clearly how the resources have been allocated.

In 2004, the United Nations International Childrens' Education Fund (UNICEF) published a report to show that, in North Eastern Province, less than 10 per cent of the population has access to clean and safe water supply. The rest of the population do not have access to water and yet, when the resources are allocated--- We have seen the way resources have been allocated. For example, this Government was very proud to talk about Kshs1.5 billion, when they moved the Budget in June. That money was to be spent on water supply in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). The most arid areas in this country are in North Eastern Province. The total amount of money that has been allocated to that province is Kshs350 million, out of the Kshs1.5 billion. That is less than 10 per cent of the total amount of Kshs1.5 billion that was intended for ASALs. The Shadow Minister gave examples of places like Nyeri, which will receive to Kshs600 million. Could anyone tell us whether Nyeri is an arid and semi-arid area?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at some towns like Nakuru and Kisumu which received Kshs518 million and Kshs589 million respectively, they have established private water supply companies managing the water supply in those towns. They also receive donor funding. Let me give you a clear example. Last year, there was funding to the tune of Kshs2 billion to Nakuru water supply. Today, in the newspapers, we read that Kisumu was about to receive, either today or yesterday, about Kshs2 billion for water. The same thing is happening in Nyeri and yet, the same areas are the first ones to receive Government resources. When we come to ASALs, which everyone in this Government is happy to mention when they want votes, they do not receive even 10 per cent of the total amount of money indicated for those areas.

If you look at other ASALs, upper Eastern receives Kshs150 million and North Eastern Province receives Kshs350 million. If you add the two amounts, the total amount of money that has gone to those critical areas is less than Kshs800 million, out of the Kshs1.5 billion. Yet, some people are proud to sit in this House and talk about working for the rights of women. Up to today, our women walk for 20 to 30 kilometres to fetch water.

I would like to talk about another aspect in my constituency. Let me give the example of Mandera District. In the whole of that district, which has a river called Dawa that runs from the Ethiopian highlands, the Ministry has documented that there are 10,000 hectares of irrigable land. Out of that, only 2,500 hectares is under irrigation which started in 1977. Those irrigation schemes have collapsed largely because of persistent floods from that river. I have asked Questions in this House, complained to the Ministry and even approached the Office of the President. As we speak today, in the middle of a drought, there is flooding in that area. Those people have not been able to plant crops for the last 15 years. In 2004, we took the Ministry officials, four Permanent Secretaries - including the current Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance to that area. They were given an estimate by the Ministry of Water that it would cost Kshs30 million to put dykes on that river, so that the people of Mandera District do not have to rely on relief food forever. It is that dependency that this Government wants to create and perpetuate in North Eastern Province. Why do we need relief food when we have 10,000 hectares of land which we can irrigate? But because there is a culture and need by this Government to see the people of North Eastern Province begging for food every time, they are not given resources. We are told that Kshs30 million is a huge amount of money and we cannot be given! They only give us Kshs2 million or Kshs3 million. Today, if you look at the Printed Estimates, only Kshs3.6 million has been allocated to the entire district to control flooding! What is that amount going to do? Which floods is that amount going to control? That is why I have said that, when it

comes to North Eastern Province, everything is given in such small doses as if it is a medical prescription. No wonder the people of North Eastern Province are unable to grow bananas. How can we grow bananas if we do not get money for irrigation?

The Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (Prof. Kibwana): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to state that it is not possible to grow bananas in North Eastern Province, when it is not also possible to grow oranges?

Mr. Billow: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is not a farmer. Oranges require less water than bananas. Lastly, I would like to address the issue of privatisation of water. We have read a lot in the last two years about the privatisation of water in major towns. We have also read about the water services board. I would not be wrong to say that majority of hon. Members do not have the faintest idea about the privatisation of water in this country. To the best of my knowledge, no policy paper has been tabled in this House to appraise hon. Members on the relevant policies regarding privatisation of water in urban centres and the functions of water services boards. Not many of us know the terms and conditions of privatising water in those towns. Not many knows the management structures, the criteria used to pay all those people and the management of those institutions. There is a lot that we need to know. In the long term, it is important to have a policy in order to ensure that the regulations and provisions of the law are implemented.

With those few remarks--- And really not being very happy that this very important Vote of the Ministry has been moved by a Ministry who is so arrogant, I beg to support for the sake of the people of Kenya.

Mr. Mwanzia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir---

(Ms. Karua interjected)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Order, Mr. Mwanzia! Order, Madam Minister! I think this is a very important Vote and it is important that hon. Members get the impression that you are listening to them!

The Minister for Water and Irrigations (Ms. Karua): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): What is it, Madam Minister? Do you also want to challenge the Chair?

The Minister for Water and Irrigations (Ms. Karua): No, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir! But like any other hon. Member, I am entitled to consult! I can listen and consult at the same time!

Mr. Mwanzia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this chance to contribute to Vote of the Ministry of Water and Irrigations. From the onset, I would like to support this Motion. When the NARC coalition was going round campaigning, water was part of the key campaign objectives. Most of the promises which were given especially in Ukambani--- We voted for NARC because we wanted water. We wanted clean drinking water for human beings, our livestock and for irrigation. You have heard so many hon. Members from arid and semi-arid areas - where I also come - talking about famine. Lack of water has caused a lot of famine in arid and semi-arid areas and Ukambani. This is the third year we have seen the Budget by the NARC Government. In all those areas, we have been surprised by the few resources that have been allocated to Ukambani for water, especially for irrigation. Water has been used as a bait by successive governments to get votes in Ukambani! But this time round, we are saying no! If you look at this Vote, the Minister has allocated very little money to Ukambani, especially for irrigation purposes. In those ASAL areas, especially Ukambani, we need a lot of water for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the Minister came to hand over the

Maruba Dam in my constituency. But in this Vote, there is no provision for the rehabilitation of that dam. I wonder whether that dam will eventually be rehabilitated so that Machakos Town can get water as promised.

The biggest problem in Ukambani is shortage of water. In this Vote, however, Machakos District has been allocated money for four boreholes. I wonder where these boreholes will be located. There are very many abandoned boreholes in Ukambani because the people could not afford to manage them. They could not afford to pay the electricity bills, the piping system or the water distribution points. I think what we need in Machakos are dams instead of boreholes, because they are cheaper. I see we have been given money for four dams. But there are some districts in very rainy areas, and yet they have been provided with dams.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in most ASAL areas, women are walking long distances to get drinking water, leave alone for livestock. People cannot even wash their clothes because of lack of water. We need to give these people water. The only solution in these areas are dams. I agree boreholes are very appropriate for urban centres, but we need dams in the rural areas. I have a division in my constituency called Kalama, which is very dry. I was there yesterday. If you see the suffering of those people and the long distances they are going to collect water, you will sympathise with them. All they need are dams. In that area, there are very many seasonal rivers. Sub-surface dams can be constructed along the rivers or the building of gabions or gutters within these seasonal rivers, to make them natural dams. Those dams are so cheap to construct. One can cost around Kshs300,000 to Kshs400,000.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I finish, I want to talk about provision of water in health facilities within my constituency. There is a borehole which was constructed in Machakos District Hospital, but it has never been functioning to date. I asked a Question in this House and the Minister promised that it would be operational within six months, but up to now, it has never been operational. People are fetching water in small containers elsewhere. You can imagine the condition of the maternity wing of the hospital.

With those remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Muturi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Vote on the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to begin by appreciating that the Water Act No.8 of 2002 is a fairly recent piece of legislation. I think that of all the great things that the NARC Administration inherited from the previous Government, this must be one of the greatest pieces. I would want to congratulate the Minister for implementing reforms which are envisaged in that Act. Among them are the creation of various water boards and, indeed, the Water Resources Management Authority, which we as a House, provided for in the Act. I wish, however, to caution that it is desirable that in keeping with the current trends, we want to see greater transparency in the way appointments are made to that Authority and, indeed, even the water services boards, so that we can avoid the kind of Questions we have heard being asked in this House by Members, regarding the appointment and membership in those boards.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just came from a District Development Committee (DDC) meeting yesterday with my colleague, hon. J.N. Nyagah, who spoke a while ago. Indeed, in as much as the Minister is putting much efforts to implement reforms, there is one area that she has to do what her colleague, whose name I cannot quite remember, called "radical surgery." In the area of technical staff in the district and grassroots, there is need to do radical surgery. I say this because we still find difficulties in the provision of technical services by the Ministry personnel. I do not know whether they need to be taken for refresher courses or indeed, the Minister is supposed to attach anti-corruption officers in all district water offices. The situation in my district, in particular, is appalling.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to echo the sentiments made by hon. J.N. Nyagah, that in our district, we have been given Kshs11 million to do four earth dams. While we may say this is something commendable, of course, it is just a token. We are in an ASAL area and, really, four dams mean very little. But my worry is the cost. Unless part of these funds are going into maintenance, it is just out of this world in our area to say that it would take you Kshs2.75 million to do one earth dam. You can construct two or three with Kshs2.75 million. I think there is need for the Ministry to rethink the area of costing. We are being treated to figures that are not very logical. But I will just appeal to the Minister to spend more time on costings so that we can make the services available to a greater number of people, not just in Mbeere, but in many parts of the country where there is need for such services.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Section 83(i) of the Water Act, 2002, is created the Water Services Trust Fund. When you look at the entire section, you will realise that, indeed, the funds that go into the Water Services Trust Fund are appropriated by this House. I am sorry to say that there appears to be very little information provided to the hon. Members regarding the objectives for which the Fund is set, even though those objectives are given in Section 83(ii) of that Act. As we all know, water is life. Therefore, there is need for the Ministry to organise the stakeholders' fora or workshops for the hon. Members to discuss what the Water Services Trust Fund does, instead of informing the hon. Members on piecemeal basis like I heard yesterday in our District Development Committee (DDC). If you make enquiries, you are told to go and tell your villagers that they can apply to the Water Services Trust Fund. We need to be told whether the districts allocations, like the Kshs5 million which has been given to my district, are part of the Water Services Trust Fund. We need to know whether this is part of the money that Parliament appropriates to that Fund.

It will do us a great service to see the policies that are developed by the Water Resources Management Authority. Under the law, the Authority is mandated to collect views from the public and then formulate national policies. We now seem to be moving from the era where we just mandate a Government body to come up with a policy without that policy being subjected to scrutiny through debate by the people's representatives in this House. Therefore, I will be appealing to the Minister to require that the Water Resources Management Authority lives up to its mandate of publishing focused projections and information on water resources. This is provided for in Section 8(i)(h). That way, Parliament will be able to know where we stand. As it is, unless we go to Government departments and the various bodies that have been created under the new Act, it is not very easy for us to know where we stand in terms of our water resources capacity.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I want to say that the Minister has done well on her part. We hope that in the next financial year, the districts that were not considered as generously as others will receive some form of equity and get some fair sums of money.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs (Prof. Kibwana): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Vote. The issue of water countrywide is one of the most important issues. We require water everywhere for agriculture, drinking, livestock and industrial uses.

I want to begin by talking about my constituency and Ukambani in general. Since Independence, that region has not been properly considered in terms of the provision of water. Hon. Mwanzia, who spoke before me, articulated that concern. In the current Budget, there is the basic provision of five dams and five boreholes in Makueni District. That means that each constituency is budgeted for a dam as well as a borehole.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when you consider the drought that afflicts that region and the fact that the people of Ukambani are perennially plagued by famine, it is very clear that Government has to do much more. One aspect which could ameliorate this endemic problem is the

way in which the Water Services Trust Fund will be applied in areas which definitely require affirmative action. The Minister should ensure that the four Ukambani districts and similarly situated districts are considered in terms of affirmative action through the Water Services Trust Fund.

As hon. Muturi has said, it is important that the necessary information percolates to the grassroot stakeholders in terms of how they can access that Fund. I am aware the Ministry has held some workshops. There were times when hon. Members were not understanding the nature of those workshops and they may not have got the necessary information. That is the first plea that I would like to make to the Minister, so that Ukambani districts and similarly situated districts are favoured in terms of affirmative action through the Water Services Trust Fund.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of drought is well known in Ukambani. In the next Budget, money should be set aside to conduct the water resources assessment exercise, so that we can plan and map out how these districts can get water for drinking, livestock and irrigation. For example, Israel, which is semi-arid, is made extremely productive through the provision of abandoned water. It is common knowledge that the soil in these districts is good and it can supply, apart from fruits and horticulture, even maize and beans. They have the capacity to supply maize and beans all over the country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am pleading for a pro-active measure to ensure that the water resources assessment exercise is done. This was done in a few districts, particularly in the Rift Valley, during the last regime. It is important that this is done, at least, in those four districts.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Mr. Billow was addressing the House, he talked about the scarcity of water resources in North Eastern Province and generally, northern Kenya. But I remember when I served in the Office of the President, we went to North Eastern Province to unveil a special programme of more than Kshs10 billion to that area, which was going to take care of water and many other aspects of regional development. I think it is also time there was such a deliberate project, particularly in the four Ukambani districts. There should be a very deliberate programme of looking for Kshs10 billion so that we can have an integrated programme where water is either core or where agricultural production follows. We are talking about an area which is potentially very productive and which has not really received the necessary resources to catalyze its potential. So, I am also making that request to the Ministry so that it assists the Ministry of Regional Development Authorities to get proper resources to be put aside. This should be done after the water resources assessment exercise so that there is a turn around in that particular area, where farming is always endemic with drought and the people are facing major problems.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I can talk about Makueni Constituency, when we visited that area with the President, one of the things that was to be done, of course, through the Budget, was the provision of a sewerage system and water for Wote Town. Up to now, the Ministry workers on the ground have not been able to do much, despite assurances that Wote Town will have water as well as a sanitation system. Up to now, people draw water from the river with the help of donkeys and the few boreholes that were supposed to be constructed have not been done properly because of what hon. Muturi described; where Ministry officials use a lot of money and do very little and you wonder why that is so. Only a half of that money from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is doing the work intended by the Ministry. For example, there is a dam in Nguu Division called Mii Dam, which cost about Kshs1.5 million, but it is of very low standards. So, I think the Ministry really needs to examine why its personnel, of course now through the water services system, are not able to be economical with the monies allocated to them and they end up not doing as much as possible. One can say that since 2003, much has not happened in Makueni Constituency in terms of provision of water so that there is a turning around. Whatever the Ministry provides does not do much because the officers do not use it properly. For example, there was a dam in Kathonzweni in Kanthuni, where a lot of money was used and there was no water at all. It was not a question of it being dry; it

was just because there was misappropriation of funds. Actually, the officer concerned was transferred to North Eastern Province where he is a principal worker in our water services board.

So, I would like to request the Ministry, particularly through the Water Services Trust Fund that substantial work be done in the five divisions which are actually a third of Makueni District, because even when that constituency is given one dam and one borehole, we forget that it is one third of the entire district and it is not equal to the other constituencies. But I must congratulate the Ministry for its good work in terms of water provision. I had an occasion to travel with the Minister in other arenas and people really appreciated the work of the Ministry, and it should be improved.

Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to support.

Mr. Kosgey: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this wonderful opportunity to contribute to this very important Vote. As the saying goes, water is life and, truly, it is life because without water, life cannot exist.

The name of the Ministry, "Ministry of Water and Irrigation", is really quite apt now because it does not deal with just water, because irrigation is also very important and the Ministry should play a very important role in that aspect. We need water and it is unfortunate that in this country, we are water deficient, yet we get a lot of rainfall. We get a lot of rainfall but we allow that water to drain away into Lake Victoria and River Nile and it is used by other people like in Egypt. We also get a lot of rain which just drains into the Indian Ocean. The Ministry should work out plans to make sure that whatever rain water we get is used and retained here for our use, so that we do not continue being water deficient in a country that actually gets, in my opinion, quite a substantial amount of rainfall.

Three quarters of the country is classified as Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL). Even those ASAL areas get some rain in some weeks or months of the year, and if some proper arrangements were made to make sure that that water is retained, I am sure that water can be used during the months when we do not have rain.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need water for both domestic and industrial use. Even when we want to industrialize our towns, we need water. I am happy that the Ministry has set up these water boards, although I think we need one in the North Rift to cater for the northern districts. One board is not enough for the whole of the Rift Valley Province. Nonetheless, these water boards should be able to regulate water in those areas, particularly where we have formed companies to manage water for towns, like Eldoret. I am not particularly happy because this is a parastatal and we want to move away from having our affairs run by the Government. So, I hope that in the future, we shall be able to privatize the water companies we have formed. At the moment, of course, we can say that they are owned by the local authorities, but the local authorities are still regarded as Government institutions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about boreholes. I noticed that the Egyptian Government likes to encourage us to have boreholes in this country, but that is not the best way. We want to be able to retain and use surface water; let the water which is underground remain there and we should not try to get it out. I am not in favour of using boreholes; we should be able to use surface water. The Egyptians want to build boreholes all over because they do not want us to use our surface water; we should go right ahead and use our surface water. So, we should create dams because they are the answer to our water shortages; whether they are small or big dams, so that all that water can be retained all over. When you see the Ukambani, North Eastern and Turkana areas becoming food deficient, you really wonder because they have a lot of rain and good fertile lands. We can say that food deficiency in those areas is really self-inflicted, because instead of those people waiting for Government assistance of relief food all the time, they should wake up one morning with *jembes*, shovels and so on and create a dam. They do not even need a drilling rig to sink dams. They only require political goodwill and it can be done manually. After all, the Egyptians built pyramids! What is difficult in getting manpower to sink a dam instead of waiting for the rig?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is about time we sorted out the problem of food security in this country. This can be done by this Ministry in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture if they focus themselves on irrigation. I know the Ministry has been trying to revive irrigation schemes in Nyanza and western Kenya. However, we need irrigation schemes in all Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) areas, particularly Ukambani and North Eastern Province. This will ensure that we are self-sufficient in food. This business of being seen on television all the time with emaciated children really shames us as Africans. We, in Kenya, are in a position to do irrigation and say *kwaheri* to hunger in this country. We only need the political goodwill and we will have dams sunk all over the country. For instance, every location in North Eastern Province can sink one dam using their manpower. I hope that the Minister, together with the Minister for Agriculture, will look at the issue of hunger very seriously so that we can get rid of food insecurity in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to talk about the so-called forest and water catchment areas. We support the protection of forests and water catchment areas. However, we should not use that noble policy to evict people from their legally acquired land. The case of the Mau Narok Settlement Scheme where Kipsigis families have been evicted in the name of protecting catchment areas is wrong. We should not inflict damage or pain to our people in the name of protecting catchment areas. I believe that we can protect catchment areas and still allow human settlement to co-exist. This is possible! I will give you an example of my district. The whole of the greater Nandi District can be classified as a catchment area for River Yala. All the rivers that flow into the River Yala start from our place. There is no time that the River Yala has dried up because we still protect the water catchment area. We are not going to wake up one morning and evict the people in that water catchment area in Nandi because River Yala starts from there.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): They have destroyed the catchment area!

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Wetangula should wait for his opportunity. He should not interject!

We should not inflict pain on our people in the name of protecting catchment areas. When I say this, and I will keep repeating it in this House that the people of Mau Narok were not in a Government forest. There is a difference between the forest that is in Narok that has been invaded by other people and where those people were. That was not a Government forest. This issue is not going to go away. We are going to talk about it over and over again. Everybody knows that the 10,000 families that were evicted were not in a Government forest. That was a group ranch that was sub-divided and people have title deeds legally. It is very painful for somebody sitting here in Nairobi to order the eviction of those people because they belong to a certain community. When it is announced over the radio that we are protecting catchment areas and people should move from forests, everybody buys that idea. Who does not want to protect the forests and water catchment areas? We are made to look stupid; *pumbavu*, when we are protecting our people who are being evicted from the so-called water catchment areas. Nobody would want to listen to us.

Capt. Nakitare: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to use unparliamentary language "*pumbavu*"? Could he tell us what it means?

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that word is not reserved for one person only. I can also use it!

(Laughter)

An hon. Member: That is unparliamentary language!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Kosgey!

Mr. Kosgey: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not call anybody stupid. I said that

we are made to look stupid---

I do not have much more to say. I'm almost through with my contribution. I want to state again that the people who were evicted from Mau Narok were not in a Government forest or a water catchment area. I believe that we can still protect our catchment areas and allow human settlement like in the Mau Narok Forest.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Eng. Nyamunga: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Motion. Listening to our colleagues talk, I am now fully convinced that we need a Parliamentary Budget Office to be established very quickly so that an important Ministry like this one is not given token money. We need to give it enough money to start addressing the very important areas affecting this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, a long time ago, we promised Kenyans that they would have piped water by the year 2000. We are now in 2005 and you can be sure that even in areas like in my constituency, people still walk for 15 kilometres in search of drinking and livestock water. We need to strengthen this Ministry so that it can address effectively the needs of Kenyans. We need to have water for human beings and livestock to drink. We also need to have a scheme where we put a target and we meet it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, every year, and this has been said, we keep on pleading for assistance. Even right now, we have sent out a plea for relief food to be given to some areas of this country. We have many rivers in the Lake Basin. If we were to set up water reservoirs to capture this water during the heavy rains and stop it from disturbing people downstream with floods, we would convert the Lake Basin into a granary where we shall produce enough food for Kenyans and export the surplus. However, the trouble is that our planning is such that we are not giving this Ministry enough attention and priority so that we can start doing serious irrigation in this country.

We know very clearly that the weather patterns have changed. Gone are the days when one could plan his farming based on rainfed farming. Those days are gone! We now have very irregular pattern of rainfall. This means that, as a country, we have no choice but to go full blast implementing irrigated farming. We have enough rivers to do it. Some of them, like Nyando River, the designs were done many years ago. All that is required is implementation. Nyando District has been allocated Kshs40 million for flood control. Could we not do a lot more with our development partners so that enough is allocated to capture this water along River Nyando upstream before it gives headache to the people downstream? We should do the same to Rivers Nzoia, Yala, Kuja and others so that, as I said earlier, we convert the Lake Basin into a granary for food production in this country and for export. God said that human beings will feed from our sweat. All we are lacking is the capacity to make Kenyans feed from their sweat. The only sure way to enable Kenyans feed from their sweat is through irrigation.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, River Nyando is notorious for flooding. Last year, the district was allocated Kshs70 million for flood control, but the money did not do much. We are now very worried. The weathermen warned us about two weeks ago that we might have very heavy short rains this year. The dykes that were started along River Nyando hardly reached a kilometre and the Kshs70 million that was allocated for the exercise got finished. If Kshs70 million could not do much, I wonder whether the Kshs40 million provided for in the current Budget can do anything substantial.

This, however, calls for our planning. We are well aware that whenever the long rains start, people along River Nyando will be displaced, but not much is being done to address the situation. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the very able Minister for Water and Irrigation to see what can be done so that we address once and for all, the flooding problem along River Nyando. The best way forward is to create refillers whose designs are already there, so that instead of worrying about dykes, we capture this water, use it to irrigate the Kano plains, produce food for ourselves and

give the rest to other Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for reviving Ahero and West Kano irrigation schemes. The way the Minister has done it makes one wonder why for seven years these schemes had collapsed while nothing was being done. We are already producing rice, and I would like to assure the Minister that we shall keep on producing rice. All she needs to do is provide the National Irrigation Board with more equipment to put the infrastructure in place, so that we can have more acreage of land under irrigation within the shortest time possible. Otherwise, we are very appreciative of what has been done.

I would like to comment on the water reforms that the Ministry has initiated. I believe that Nairobian are already reaping the benefits of those reforms. We know that in most urban centres; Nairobi and Kisumu included, the services that used to be given by the local authorities were not enough because the revenue that was collected from water services was used to pay salaries to the local authorities' large workforce. Not a single cent was being ploughed back to water and sewerage service provision. I am happy to note that Kenyans are already reaping the fruits of those reforms. Even in small cities like Kisumu, water provision has improved. In Nairobi, there is also improvement in water provision. You can now be sure of getting water.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to comment on the apparently big figure provided to Kisumu District in the Ministry's Vote. Under the reforms, the people of Kisumu City have been lucky enough to get some funding from the French Government. That is the money that is being seen. The water services infrastructure in Kisumu is badly dilapidated because it had not been attended to for many years. It requires complete rehabilitation. As it is now, less than 30 per cent of Kisumu's inhabitants have access to piped water. Through this arrangement with the French Government, we expect that within a short time, and in the long run, Kisumu residents will see an improvement.

The reforms that have been put in place by the Ministry will ensure that the money being collected by the local water company is ploughed back into water services provision rather than being used to pay salaries to people idling around.

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

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this important Vote.

As we know, water is life. Water is one of the critical components of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations at the Earth Summit. I was a bit unhappy last week when I did not see the Minister for Water and Irrigation in New York when we were reviewing the first five years of the MDGs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know, Kenya like all other countries, has set herself to achieve the MDGs by the year 2015. So, Ms. Karua has the very onerous duty of ensuring that, at least, the majority of the people of this country have access to clean water by the year 2015.

In this country, water is readily available. We have many rivers. We spot the largest fresh water lake in this region, which is only second to one in Northern America. We hold a reservoir of a watershed that feeds far and wide. Egypt lives on East Africa. As you know, over 70 per cent of the waters flowing into Lake Victoria come from Kenya. A large portion of that water comes from my constituency yet Kenya is strangely classified as one of the countries that have water shortage. When you talk of countries with water shortage, we are among them despite the presence of these vast water resources.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the good old days, the colonial government constructed water dams in many places to be used by domestic and wild animals and for other heavy works like construction. The colonial government also preserved water catchment areas, springs, wells and piped water for human use. You and I know that since Independence, you can count less than 50

water dams that have been constructed in this country.

I would like to urge the Minister to focus on harvesting ground water, which is sometimes called storm water. Countries like Zimbabwe and Namibia which experience terrible rainfall shortages, constantly harvest enough storm water to last them up to ten months, through to the next rain season. With those harvests, we can do petty irrigation. We can also embark on afforestation that is currently on the lips of every Kenyan.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I listened very carefully to my good friend, Mr. Kosgey, telling us how the Nandi Forest is water catchment for River Yala. But he knowingly forgot to mention that his people have embarked on a terrible destruction of wetlands. Every swampy area in Nandi is under demarcation and people are planting crops on it. This is replicated everywhere. If you go to Kisii highlands, everybody is planting gum trees up to the river banks. If you go to Western Province, the same thing is happening. The white farmers and other indigenous farmers who took over white farms in Nyandarua and other areas have drained away all water catchment areas. Ewaso Nyiro is now a seasonal river.

I want to urge my learned friend, the Minister for Water and Irrigation, to re-look at the Water Act and put in punitive provisions with penal consequences against persons who undermine water catchment areas. I fully support the action taken in the Mau Forest to protect water catchment areas. Throughout this debate here, none of us is not saying anything that has not been said on this Floor. We say this year in, year out; that we must dam our rivers, protect our environment, give water to everybody, tell the Egyptians to take responsibility for our River Nile waters and so on. I think it is now time for action.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are two water projects situated on the border between my constituency and Mt. Elgon Constituency. One of them is called Kibichori Water Scheme. It was constructed in the 1960s. By then, it was serving a population of 2,000 people. Now, the same scheme, unexpanded, unattended and unrehabilitated, is supposed to serve over 80,000 people. It cannot do it. We need regular review of these schemes. In fact, whenever a scheme is set up, I would want the Minister and her officers to have periodic reviews; that we set up this scheme this year and after five years the demographic structure of the beneficiaries must have changed. How do we enlarge the water catchment? How do we expand the water supply from the intake to the storage tanks? How do we extend the pipes? Unless we have that forward planning, projects alone are not enough.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one other thing that the Minister, as a regulator, needs to look at is the price of water. A bottle of water in this country costs much more than a litre of petrol. The crooks who are bottling water have all manner of descriptions saying: "Bottled at source, filtered through sand and rocks and so on." You can read it. It looks like poetry. We are paying more for a litre of water than for a litre of petrol in this country. As a regulator, I want to urge the Minister to also step in and save Kenyans from these crooks. Water is life and that is the more reason why we should not leave it to the vagaries of the so-called market forces, because it is not right.

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

Mr. Wario: Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda. Nachukua fursa hii, kwanza, kumshukuru Muumba kwa kunijalia nafasi hii ili nichangie Hoja hii. Kwa niaba ya wafugaji na watu wa Mkoa wa Kaskazini Mashariki, ningependa kusema hapa kwamba uzalendo au uraia ni haki yetu na wala si jambo ambalo tutaomba Serikali, mhe. Rais, Waziri au mtu yeyote. Kwa hivyo, uzalendo au uraia wetu hatupewi au kunyimwa na mtu yeyote.

Bali na swala hili la uzalendo, ambalo nitalishughulikia kwa kina kirefu itakapofika 2007, nitazungumza juu ya Hoja ya maji. Mara kwa mara, kuna mizozo, malumbano na maafa miongoni mwa jamii ya wafugaji. Sababu kubwa ni ukosefu wa maji na upungufu wa rasilimali katika sehemu kame za nchi hii. Hali hii husababisha mizozo na malumbano. Kwa mfano, hali kama hii ilisababisha vita katika Wilaya ya Tana River na Wakenya zaidi ya 500 wakafa kwa sababu ya mizozo wa maji.

Hivyo basi, utajua umuhimu wa maji ikiwa utayakosa.

Imekuwa vigumu kwangu kuwaeleza Mawaziri kwamba kuna matatizo ya maji katika Wilaya ya Tana River kwa sababu wamezingirwa na starehe za aina zote. Wana maji katika kila pembe za sehemu zao, kutoka kata ndogo hadi makao makuu ya wilaya zao.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, wanawake wetu hutembea zaidi ya kilomita 20 au 40 kuteka maji ya mtungi wa lita 20 za maji. Ninapozungumza leo katika tarafa ya Bangal, mtungi mmoja wa lita 20 za maji huuzwa Kshs20. Kwa hivyo, kila lita moja ya maji huuzwa Kshs1. Iwapo Waziri ana shaka na bei hiyo ya maji, nitamuomba azuru sehemu hiyo na kuwauliza wananchi wananunua lita 20 za maji pesa ngapi.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninasikitika kwa sababu wanaopanga na kutekeleza sera za Serikali kamwe hawafahamu na kuelewa mbinu zetu za maisha. Bali na kuzungumza juu ya matatizo yanayowakumba jamii za wafugaji, ningependa kusema ya kwamba miaka iliyopita, pesa za Wizara hii ziligawa vizuri kuliko ilivyo kwa wakati huo. Wahenga husema: "Baniani mbaya, kiatu chake dawa." Pesa ambazo zimetengewa Wizara hii hazitoshi. Alivyosema mhe. Mbunge aliyenitangulia, tunataka tuwe na Ofisi ya Bajeti katika Bunge hili ili tuone ni Wizara gani inayostahili pesa nyingi kuliko nyingine. Ninapozungumza hapa leo, Idara ya Ulinzi imetengewa Kshs23 bilioni, ilhali Wizara ya Mazingara imetengewa Kshs2 bilioni. Je, kuna tisho juu ya nchi ya Kenya? Si Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda au Ethiopia itakayothubutu kupigana na Kenya. Kwa nini Serikali itenge Kshs23 bilioni kwa Idara ya Ulinzi ilhali imetenga kiasi kidogo cha pesa kwa Wizara ya Maji?

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kule kwetu ni vigumu sana kupata mvua. Mvua huja mara moja kwa mwaka. Inapokuja, maji mengi sana hupitia mtoni na kwenda baharini. Maji hayo hayana faida kwa mtu yeyote. Swali tunaloliuza ni hili: Tulipata Uhuru miaka 40 iliyopita. Je, Serikali haiwezi kuleta mbinu ya kutega maji hayo yasiptotelee baharini ili yaweze kuwanufaisha wanaoishi sehemu kame?

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ningependa Wizara hii ifanye utafiti haswa katika sehemu kame, kujua maji yanayopatikana chini ya ardhi yako umbali wa kiasi gani, ili yaweze kuwanufaisha Wakenya. Wanajeshi niliowataja sasa hivi wako na rasilimali na karakana ambazo wanaweza kuzitumia. Wana vifaa ambayo wanaweza kutumia kutusaidia, iwapo Serikali iko tayari kushirikiana nao. Huko Bura, wanajeshi wana karakana kubwa sana. Ni ya pili kwa ukubwa kusini mwa Sahara. Lakini kwa bahati mbaya, licha ya kuwa na hiyo karakana kubwa, mji ya Bura hauna maji. Vile vifaa tunavyo huko Bura vinatosha kupeleka maji hadi Mombasa. Karakana hiyo ni kubwa kushinda zingine katika nchi ya Kenya. Kama kuna mhandisi wa maji, anikosoe. Lakini kwa bahati mbaya, licha ya kuwa na karakana hiyo, watu wa Bura hawapati maji.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ningependa kuzungumzia maswala ya vidimbwi. Vidimbwi saba vimechimbwa, na Tana and Athi River Development Authority (TARDA) imeongeza vingine kule juu. Lakini kule juu, wanatupimia maji kutoka Mto Tana kwa kijiko! Wakitaka, wanaweza kuwauwa watu wetu. Maana yake, watafungua visima hivyo na maji yaje yafagie kila kitu chini ya mto. Wakitaka, watatufungua maji na watu wetu na wanyama watakufa kiu. Tunataka sera maalumu. Tunajua umeme ni kitu cha muhimu kwa nchi hii. Lakini wale wanaojenga vidimbwi hivyo wanastahili kujua kuna watu wanaishi kule chini. Kuna watu wanastahili kutumia rasilimali hizo. Wasipewe uwezo wa kua watu wakitaka.

Ningependa kuzungumzia maswala ya kuwa na udhibiti wa chakula. Watu wanapigana na kufa njaa kwa sababu maji hayatoshi. Kilimo cha unyunyizaji wa maji mashamba kule Bura ulikuwa unasifika. Utoaji wake wa chakula na mchango wake kwa rasilimali kwa taifa unajulikana wazi. Nimezungumza ndani ya Bunge hili mara kadhaa. Siwezi kusisitiza umuhimu wake zaidi. Ningependa Serikali ifufue mradi huo, ili iweze kuboresha hali ya maisha ya Wakenya wanaoishi katika sehemu hiyo.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nikimalizia, ningependa kuzungumza juu ya sehemu za chemi

chemi. Mimi nashangazwa na Serikali. Siku moja, inajigamba kulinda sehemu za chemi chemi. Siku nyingine, inaongoza harakati za kuharibu na kuvunja sehemu za chemi chemi. Ukiangalia sheria ya EMKA ya 1999, Kifungu cha 42 kinazungumzia juu ya sehemu za chemi chemi, ambazo lazima zilindwe. Kifungu cha 43 kinazungumzia juu ya maslahi ya watu wanaoishi katika sehemu za chemi chemi. Lazima sehemu hizo zilindwe.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, umesikia juu ya mradi wa Kshs300 bilioni kule Garsen. Mradi huo unatekelezwa katika sehemu za chemi chemi. Sasa basi, Serikali inatambia inahamisha watu kule Mau Forest ili kulinda sehemu za chemi chemi. Lakini mbona Serikali hii hairidi sehemu ya Garsen kutokana na mradi huo utakaotekelezwa katika sehemu za chemi chemi? Mbona Serikali inakuwa kigeugeu? Sisi tunataka Serikali isimame wima katika utekelezaji wa sheria ya nchi.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kwa hayo machache ninaunga mkono Hoja hii.

Mr. Mwenje: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, asante sana kwa kunipa muda huu na mimi nizungumze mambo mawili au matatu juu ya swala la maji jijini Nairobi. Tunaeleza kwamba nchi hii ni ya kilimo lakini, je, huo ni kweli? Ikiwa nchi ya kilimo inaanza kutafuta chakula nje, basi hiyo ni nchi ya kilimo kweli? Kuna njaa hapa. Juzi tuliambiwa kuna njaa kubwa sana hapa. Taabu hiyo inatokana na nini? Hata ikiwa tuna ardhi ambaye ina rotuba nzuri, lakini hatuna maji ambayo inaweza kutumiwa na wakulima. Waziri wa Maji na Unyunyizaji Maji Mashambani angetafuta miradi ya kutosha ya kuhakikisha kwamba kila mtu ambaye anataka kulima anaweza kupata maji. Kama tungefanya unyunyizaji wa maji katika eneo Ukambani na mikoa ya Kaskazini Mashariki na Mashariki, tungekuwa tunauza chakula chetu nje.

Juzi nilikuwa katika nchi ya Israeli ambayo ardhi yake ni mawe tupu. Haina rotuba. Israeli ni jangwa lakini unapata machungwa ukitembea katika barabara zake kwa sababu yanakuzwa kila mahali njiani. Sisemi hivyo kwa sababu tuko kwa machungwa lakini nasema hivyo kwa sababu ya ukweli.

(Laughter)

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ukweli ni kwamba nchi hiyo inakuza machungwa barabarani kwa sababu ya unyunyizaji maji kila mahali; *drip irrigation*. Maji yako juu ya mawe na yanakuza chakula ambacho Israeli inauza nje badala ya kununua. Badala ya kutumia pesa kwa njia nyingine, ni afadhali Waziri aongezewe pesa za kufanya unyunyizaji maji katika nchi yetu ya Kenya. Tusipofanya hivyo, tutajikuta tukitafuta chakula nje na basi tutakuwa na njaa katika maeneo fulani. Juzi tulikuwa na miradi ya maji kule Kandara na Kigumo lakini kwa sasa hakuna maji. Mifereji yako lakini maji hayaji. Haya maji yanatoka kwa mlima na hakuna mashini inatumika. Yalikuwa yakiteremka na mvutano lakini sasa hayaonekani. Ni kwa sababu maofisa wa Wizara ya Maji na Unyunyizaji hawaendi kuangalia maji haya yalienda wapi. Ni jambo la aibu kwamba watu walikuwa na miradi yao na sasa hawana maji ilhali na mifereji iko. Tunangoja nani atufanyie hiyo kazi? Hii Wizara inatakikana iende iangalie miradi hiyo.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, katika Jiji la Nairobi watu ambao wanaishi kule Muthaiga, Lavington na Westlands wanafikiri kuna maji kila mahali lakini kwangu kule Embakasi na hasa katika maeneo duni kama Mukuru na kadhalika hakuna maji. Nashukuru kwa sababu Wizara hii imeanza kuleta maji lakini bado hakuna maji ya kutosha. Hata hivyo nashukuru kwa sababu angalau wameanza kufanya kazi na kuna maji machache katika mifereji. Ukosefu wa maji ni hali halisi jijini Nairobi. Ukienda kule kwenye mitaa ya mabanda

iiitwayo *Gitare-Marigo* - kumaanisha kwamba hakuna ndizi - utashangaa kugundua kwamba hakuna maji. Waziri anajua hilo kwa sababu yeye ni mkazi wa Nairobi. Katika mitaa iliyoko humu jijini, hakuna maji kabisa. Mimi nimeimtembelea Waziri mara nyingi kumsihi awapelekee watu hawa maji lakini hakuna hatua yoyote ambayo amechukuwa kufikia sasa. Ile miradi midogo midogo, kwa mfano, ile ilianzishwa kutoka barabara ya kuelekea Kangundo haijawahi kukamilika. Aliyepewa kandarasi ya kumaliza miradi hiyo alipewa pesa na hali hakuna kazi yoyote anayofanya na hakuna mtu

anayesimamia kazi hiyo kuhakikisha kuwa inafanyika.

Wengi wa watu hapa Nairobi wanaishi katika mitaa ya mabanda. Ni jambo la kushangaza kwamba watu hawa hawana paipu za kupitisha maji machafu katika maeneo wanaoishi. Umefika wakati sasa ambapo tunataka Wizara iingilie swala hili ndiposa watu hawa wawekewe paipu za kupitisha maji machafu. Eneo kubwa la kuhifadhi maji machafu linapatikana katika mawakilisho yangu mahali panapoitwa Ruai. Paipu zinazoelekeza maji hayo machafu katika eneo hilo zinatoka maeneo mbali mbali kama vile Muthaiga na sehemu nyingine jijini Nairobi. Ni aibu kwamba watu wanaoishi karibu na bwawa hili la maji machafu hawana maji wala paipu za kupitisha maji machafu. Hakika hii ndiyo sababu wakati mwingine hawa watu hutuangualia sisi matajiri kwa jicho la kisasi. Wataamua kwa kauli mmoja kubomoa mabomba ya maji machafu yanayotoka katika mitaa wanaoishi matajiri ili nao wawekewe yao. Je, ni lini tutawapelekea mifereji ya maji? Juzi nilitembelea mtaa mmoja wa mabanda uitwao Miami. Huko, kila mtu ana meno ya rangi hudhurungi kwa sababu ya kunywa maji machafu. Wawekewa paipu lakini hazipitishi maji. Hakika watu hao wanaishi katika taabu nyingi.

Sisi viongozi na hasa Wizara hii ya Maji sharti tuangalie maswala yanayowaumiza watu maskini. Ikiwa hatutafanya hivyo basi tutakuwa tunakalia ile inaitwa *time bomb*. Kutatokea mapinduzi mengi kwa sababu watu hawawezi kustahimili kuishi maisha ya taabu na hali wanatoa kodi sawa na watu matajiri. Watu masikini hununua soda na pombe na bidhaa kama vile sukari kwa bei sawa na ile inayolipwa na matajiri. Masikini hawa wanatozwa kodi nyingi hata kuliko matajiri lakini hatimaye hawatumikiwi. Huduma zote nzuri zimeelekezewa matajiri ilhali watu maskini wanaoishi janibu za mashariki za hili jiji wanazidi kutaabika. Mimi ningependa kurudia niliyoyasema awali: Taabu kubwa italipuka siku moja, tupende tusipende kwa sababu watu hawa maskini wanajua haki zao. Kwa hivyo, tukimpatia Waziri fedha hizi, ningependa kujua ni kiasi gani cha pesa hizo kitatumiwa kufaidi watu wanaoishi janibu za mashariki za jiji hili.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, hivi majuzi, kampuni ya kutoa huduma za maji katika jiji hili iliundwa. Hata hivyo, kampuni haijaweza kuanzisha miradi yoyote ya maji katika maeneo ya mashariki mwa jiji hili. Ninaelewa kwamba wangali wanajaribu kutatua shida zilizokuwa zimeletwa na Baraza la Mji wa Nairobi. Namshukuru Waziri kwa kuunda kampuni hii na bodi ya kupeana huduma za maji katika jiji ijapokuwa bado haijaanza kufanya kazi yake vilivyo. Sisi tulitarajia kampuni hii itaeneza huduma za maji kote jijini. Ningependa kampuni hii ifanye kazi kwa haraka ili watu wasingojee sana na kukasirika kwa kukosa huduma. Hii imewafanya kusema kwamba kielelezo cha Katiba ni kibaya na watazidi kula machungwa.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, natarajia kwamba Waziri ataangalia maswala hayo.

Mr. Moroto: Asante, Bw. Naibu Spika wa muda kwa kunipa nafasi hii, ili nichangie Hoja tuliyo nayo. Wizara tunayoizungumzia ni ya muhimu sana katika nchi hii. Ikiwa Wizara yenyewe itayachukua mambo tunayosema na kuyatilia maanani, Kenya itainuka na kuwa na utajiri. Mungu ametubariki na mito mikubwa. Hata sehemu kavu kama vile Kapenguria, West Pokot, Turkana na sehemu za Mkoa wa Kaskazini Mashariki, watu wanaochimba visima kutafuta maji huwa hawachimbi chini sana bila kupata maji. Baada ya wao kuchimba urefu mdogo, maji huonekana. Ingawa Mungu ametubariki kwa kutupa maji katika sehemu hizi, wale ambao wanapaswa kutekeleza kazi ya kuwasaidia wananchi kupata maji haya hawafanyi lolote. Watu hawa ambao wamesoma na wanafahamu vile wanavyopaswa kutoa huduma kwa watu, huwa badala ya kusadia wananchi, wanawaacha katika shida.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, wengine wetu tunatoka sehemu za nchi kavu ambazo watu hupigania maji. Watu hupigana kutokana na ukosefu wa maji. Siku za ukame, watu kutoka sehemu za Turkana na West Pokot huhamia Uganda. Nchi ya Uganda imekuwa na shida kwa muda mrefu, lakini sasa imetushinda katika mambo mengi. Wakati Waganda walikuwa na shida, sisi ndio tuliokuwa tukiwakaribisha na kuwasaidia, lakini sasa sisi tunawaomba maji na nyasi. Waziri anayehusika na Wizara ya Maji na Unyunyizaji alianza kazi yake na nguvu sana. Miaka miwili iliyopita, Waziri alitupa

mpangilio na tumaini kubwa, lakini hata sasa hakuna kitu kinachoendelea. Tungependa kumuuliza Waziri, kwa sababu yeye ni mtu wa bidii, ajaribu kuangalia nyumba yake na kujua ni wapi palipo na shida. Tunaposema kwamba mambo fulani yafanyike, ni kwa nini hayafanyiki? Pengine kuna watu ambao wanaenda kinyume na vile Waziri anavyotaka.

Katika nchi hii, kuna watu ambao wanajua kuwarudisha wengine nyuma katika maendeleo. Wanapoonna mtu akiendelea, wao hufanya lolote wanaloweza kuhakikisha kwamba mtu huyo hataendelea. Katibu katika Wizara hiyo anaweza kuwa ni mtu mwenye bidii, lakini pengine wadogo wake ni watu ambao wanatafuta njia ya kumharibia kazi. Sasa hivi, tunashughulikia mambo ya kupata Katiba mpya. Kuna watu ambao wameleta mchezo katika jambo hilo. Wengine wanataka kuharibu jambo hilo badala ya kuwaelekeza Wakenya, ili wafaidike sasa na siku za usoni. Ningependa kuwauliza wanaohusika na Wizara hii, wakiongozwa na Waziri, wazipe sehemu kama vile West Pokot, Turkana na sehemu zingine kiasi kubwa cha pesa wakati huu. Kumekuwa na umwagikaji wa damu katika sehemu hizo na watoto wadogo pia wameumia. Hii si kwa sababu ya mambo mengine lakini kwa sababu ya ukosefu wa maji. Ndugu zetu walio huko Trans Nzoia hulia wakisema kwamba watu kutoka sehemu ya West Pokot huwaharibia mimea yao wakitaafuta maji. Sisi huwa hatufanyi hivyo kwa kupenda. Shida ndiyo inayotufanya tufanye hivyo. Wakoloni walitengeneza kisima huko Trans Nzoia na hawakujali maslahi yetu. Tuna shida na hatuwezi kunyima mifugo yetu maji. Ni lazima tujue tutakavyosaidiana, ili watu washirikiane na si kupigana.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Bw. Moroto, wakati wako kwa sasa, umeisha. Umebaki na dakika tano na utaendelea kesho.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ethuro): Hon. Members, it is now time to interrupt the business of the House. The House is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 28th September, 2005 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.