

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 10th September, 1997

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.382

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO
DINI YA MSAMBWA FOLLOWERS

Mr. Busolo asked a Minister of State, Office of the President whether he could consider a special compensatory pension scheme for the families of the late Elijah Masinde and 200 of his followers of the *Dini ya Msambwa* who were arraigned in court in 1948 for their role in what was referred to as "subversive activities against the lawful colonial Government of King George V of England."

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

The Government has no plans of creating a special pension scheme to compensate those individuals who suffered during the colonial time. It is going to be very discriminatory to deal with only one group, while it is true that there are so many groups who suffered during the colonial time. However, the Government would like to see the group put its case forward and it will be looked into.

Mr. Busolo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if it will look discriminatory to just look at one case, could the Assistant Minister consider looking at the whole issue nationally, with a view to compensating all those who participated in the struggle for freedom and see what he can do for them?

Mr. Manga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said before, many people participated in the struggle for freedom. It is going to be very difficult financially to look at all those cases. The other issue is that we cannot consider claims that have not been put forward. It is impossible.

Dr. Oburu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this country, there are very many people who deserve honour. There are those who served in the British army and those who tirelessly fought for the Independence of this country and this Government does not give them any honour, even on national days. They are never given any recognition at all. As a matter of policy, why does the Government not consider compensation and also special recognition and invitation to some of the most prominent people who fought for the Independence of this country?

Mr. Manga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, those who served the British Government were honoured by that Government. Therefore, it would be very unfair to ask this Government to consider honouring those who served the British Government. The ones who are serving now, have been honoured. They are have been decorated and therefore, there is no problem.

Mr. Maore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in modern history there have been victims of such brutality by the Americans during the World War II where many Japanese were put in concentration camps and they now want reparations. There is a lot of campaign to have the United States and other beneficiaries of slave trade to pay reparations. What is so bad about our Government saying "sorry" for something that was done by a Government of this country, although it is not the one in power now. This has been a continuous process because we did have a Government that took over after King George V. That Government is not extinct.

Mr. Manga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody knows how this Government took over. It was not a continuation. It is not right to say it was a continuation. Whatever the colonial Government did, this Government is not responsible for that.

Mr. Busolo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister consider the question of compensation to be vital and put it as one of the agenda of reforms in terms of paying back what these people contributed towards the Uhuru of this country. Could he consider that to be part of the reform process going on in order to redress the wrong

done to these people?

Mr. Manga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the first place, I do not consider what goes into the reforms agenda. That is done by the Members of Parliament. If the hon. Member wanted to include that, he should have brought it into the reform process.

Question No.239

ISSUANCE OF IDENTITY CARD TO MR. KUNGU

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi asked a Minister of State, Office of the President:-

(a) whether he is aware that Mr. John Ndaya Kungu ID. No.6864485/62 of P.O. Box 24 Burnt Forest, whose name had been misspelt and appears as "I. Congo" in his identity card, swore an affidavit on 25th February, 1991, to correct the misspelling; and,

(b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, when Mr. Kungu will receive his correct identity card.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Manga, is that Question not directed to the Office of the President?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Manga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is not under my jurisdiction. But I am sure that the Minister who is supposed to answer that Question is coming.

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister has said, that is not under his jurisdiction. Under whose jurisdiction is the Registrar of Persons? I thought he falls under Office of the President?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Manga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is under Provincial Administration and the Minister is on the way.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Magwaga.

Question No.586

PROVISION OF A VEHICLE TO IKOLOMANI DO

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Magwaga not in? We will leave his Question until the end. Next Question, Bishop Kimani.

Question No.534

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Is Bishop Kimani not in? The Question is stood over for the moment. Next Question, Mr. Norman Nyagah?

Question No.219

TARMACKING OF ROADS IN GACHOKA

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Nyagah not in? The Question is stood over for the moment. Next Question, Mr. Munyasia.

Question No.506

REHABILITATION OF BUNGOMA
RAIN-FED RICE PROJECT

Mr. Munyasia asked the Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development:-

(a) why the rain-fed rice project started by the Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA) in Bungoma District in the early 1980s was stopped; and,

(b) if he could consider reviving this project.

The Assistant Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development (Mr. Ligale): Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) As far as my Ministry is concerned, the rain-fed rice project in Bungoma District has not stopped. Currently, the 13 groups of farmers who are growing rice have planted a total of 229 hectares of land with the crop. However, the credit revolving fund operated by the LBDA is unable to service the rain-fed rice farmers as expected because out of the Kshs1.5 million loaned to the farmers, so far, only Kshs300,000 has been repaid. Although, those farmers are free to sell their crop to any willing buyers, I would like to urge them to meet their financial obligations in order to make the rain-fed rice project sustainable.

(b) In view of my answer to part "a" above, part "b" does not arise.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister does not appear to live in Kenya. I come from that area and I was one of the rain-fed rice growers and I know that this project stopped way back in the mid-1980s, but the Assistant Minister insists that it is going on. Could he tell us in which locations these 13 groups of farmers are because we do not see that rain-fed rice anywhere at all in Bungoma District?

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have here a list of various groups that do grow rain-fed rice in Bungoma District, and I will table the list for the hon. Members' perusal.

(Mr. Ligale laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Nthenge: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister has told the House that the rain-fed rice project is going on, but the hon. Questioner who was also a member of that project says that it has been abandoned. So, who among the two, should belief? Is it not true that the Assistant Minister has been misled by being given wrong information? What is the reaction of the Chair to a situation where the Assistant Minister has been fully misinformed?

Mr. Speaker: Well, the Chair wishes that everybody is properly informed!

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I asked this Assistant Minister a straightforward question to tell us the locations that this rain-fed rice is being grown because I do not see it anywhere? He has not answered that question.

Mr. Speaker: It is very simple. I think you are straightforward. Mr. Ligale, in which location is the rice grown?

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already tabled the list of various groups, but I would not know which location they belong to. The hon. Member can determine from the list where they belong---

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Question is a property of this House. The hon. Assistant Minister says that he has tabled the list. I am sure that hon. Munyasia's constituency does not have more than four locations. Why is he finding it so difficult to name four or two locations instead of saying that he has tabled the document?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! To save time, Mr. Ligale, I think it is your duty to inform this House the location of these projects. You have officers on the ground.

An. hon. Member: They do not exist!

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the information I have, the various groups that grow rain-fed rice in Bungoma District are as follows:- Sirembe Rice Farmers Group, Lutasio Self-Help Group, Muslim Youth Group, Muomo Nutrition Group, Kanani Self-Help Group, Tabuti Water Project Group, Tabuti Nutrition Self-Help Group, Siekumulo Water Project, Masinga Rice Farming Group, Musikoma Shinda Women Group, Lunao Water Project and Bumula Self-Help Group.

Mr. Mak'Onyango: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the answer given by the Assistant Minister to the effect that Kshs1.5 million which was part of a revolving fund, which was given out to the farmers, only Kshs300,000 has been recovered, who does the Assistant Minister hold responsible for failure to recover the balance of this money? I would have thought that it is the responsibility of the Ministry to recover this money and ensure that other farmers benefit from the fund. Why has the Ministry not done that?

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Ministry, through the Lake Basin Development Authority, has been endeavouring to recover this money. But, of course, if the farmers are unwilling to repay the money, what can the Ministry do?

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this project was started in 1982, it was only giving farmers seeds and we repaid back that seed because that was all we were to repay the LBDA. Could the Assistant Minister consider bringing the seeds again to give those farmers who repaid the seeds that they received because we do not know of any other loan? Could the Assistant Minister consider asking the LBDA to provide more seeds of this rain-fed rice to the farmers in Bumula, Kanduyi and Sirisia?

Mr. Ligale: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that I shall do, but I will also request the hon. Member to urge the farmers to repay the outstanding amount of money they owe the Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Next Question, Dr. Kituyi?

Question No.361

PRE-INVESTMENT STUDY FOR TURKWELL DAM

Mr. Obwocha, on behalf of **Dr. Kituyi**, asked the Minister for Energy:-

- (a) whether a pre-investment study was ever held before the construction of Turkwell Dam; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what the projections of impact were on riverine forests downstream; span of life before siltation, and social impact of the dam on people living downstream.

Mr. Speaker: Is there anybody from the Ministry of Energy here? We come to the second round of Questions, Dr. Lwali-Oyondi.

Question No.239

ISSUANCE OF IDENTITY CARD TO MR. KUNGU

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi asked a Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) if he is aware that Mr. John Ndaya Kungu, ID.No.6864485/62 of P.O. Box 24, Burnt Forest, whose name had been misspelt and appear as "I. Congo" in his identity card, swore an affidavit on 25th February, 1991, to correct this mis-spelling; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, when Mr. Kungu will receive his correct identity card.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Manga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have not received the answer yet. I would request that this Question be deferred to tomorrow afternoon.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if he is prepared to answer it tomorrow, I would not mind.

Mr. Speaker: The Question is deferred.

(Question deferred)

Question No. 586

PROVISION OF A VEHICLE TO IKOLOMANI DO

Mr. Aluoch, on behalf of **Mr. Magwaga**, asked the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the District Officer, Ikolomani Division, has no official vehicle; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what the Minister is doing to provide a vehicle to enable the officer to perform his duties more effectively.

Mr. Speaker: Where were you?

Mr. Mak'Onyango: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is hon. Aluoch in order to ask a Question without tendering an apology to this House, because the Question was called when he was not here?

Mr. Speaker: He is totally out of order! If you cannot ask the Question the first time round, you must apologise to the House.

Mr. Aluoch: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! Is anybody here from the Office of the President?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Manga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have the answer to the Question. I request that this Question be answered tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! The Question is deferred.

(Question deferred)

For the second time, Bishop Kimani's Question?

*Question No. 534*NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED
BY THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. Speaker: Is Bishop Kimani still not here? His Question is dropped!

(Question dropped)

For the second time, hon. Nyagah's Question?

Question No. 219

TARMACKING OF ROADS IN GACHOKA

Mr. Speaker: Is hon. Nyagah still not here? His Question is dropped!

(Question dropped)

For the second time, Dr. Kituyi's Question?

Question No. 361

PRE-INVESTMENT STUDY FOR TURKWEL DAM

Mr. Obwocha, on behalf of **Dr. Kituyi**, asked the Minister for Energy:-

- (a) whether there ever was a pre-investment study before the construction of the Turkwel Dam; and,
- (b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what the projections of the impact were on riverine forests downstream; span of life before siltation, and social impact of the dam on people living downstream.

Mr. Speaker: Is anyone here from the Ministry of Energy? I am afraid I will defer the Question!

(Question deferred)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

DEDUCTIONS OF CHIEFS' SALARIES

(Mr. Sambu) to ask the Minister of State, Office of the President:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware that between July, 1995 and June, 1997, all chiefs and assistant chiefs in Nandi district have had their monthly salaries deducted at source?
- (b) If the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, could the Minister explain what the deductions were meant for, since the employees concerned did not authorise the Ministry to deduct the money?
- (c) Could the Minister urgently refund this money to the employees concerned?

Mr. Speaker: Is hon. Sambu not here? His Question is dropped!

(Question dropped)

DEMOLITION OF SQUATTERS' HOUSES

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

- (a) Is the Minister aware that on Sunday, 17th August, 1997, the Provincial Administration demolished houses belonging to squatters at Maili Saba, Embakasi, and rendered the squatters homeless, contrary to the Government policy of settling the landless?
- (b) Is he further aware that a number of private land owners are using the Provincial Administration to evict

the squatters without giving them alternative plots?

(c) If the answers to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, will the Minister direct that these evictions be stopped forthwith and those displaced be allocated alternative land to settle?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Manga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have an answer because the Minister concerned is not here. So, I would request that the Question be deferred until tomorrow.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. With due respect, it would appear that hon. Manga, who is an Assistant Minister in the Office of the President, is a good for nothing man here! He does not seem to answer anything!

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Lwali-Oyondi, that is foul language! Will you withdraw and apologise?

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: May I withdraw and apologise! But he is just a good looking man here.

Mr. Ruhiu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Question concerns the welfare of my people, the so-called squatters in Embakasi. As I speak now, officers of the Provincial Administration are in the habit of demolishing squatter houses in various areas. How soon do you think I could have this Question answered?

Mr. Speaker: I will defer it to tomorrow afternoon.

(Question deferred)

SUSPENSION OF ROADS 2000 PROJECT

Mr. Murungi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Public Works and Housing the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Why has the implementation of the Kshs700 million - Roads 2000 project, funded by the European Union to improve coffee and tea roads in Eastern Province been suddenly suspended?

(b) What urgent action is the Government taking to ensure a speedy implementation of the project?

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Mwamzandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry we are not ready to answer this Question. The reply is not yet ready.

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have got an answer here which has been given by the Minister. I do not understand which Ministry hon. Mwamzandi has come from! This is because the Minister has already given us an answer. Can I give him the answer so that he can read?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Mwamzandi, would you like to take it?

Mr. Mwamzandi: I am not interested in that reply because we are looking for more information regarding the Question. We are not satisfied.

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Can the Assistant Minister confirm to this House whether he has seen this answer? This is because to me, the answer looks quite satisfactory!

Mr. Mwamzandi: In fact, the Minister has not given him the reply.

Mr. Speaker: Order! I have on several occasions directed hon. Members to be very truthful to this House at all times. I do not think it is right for you to say that an answer that you have not seen is incorrect. You must apologise to the House!

Mr. Mwamzandi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information that I was given in the office was that we are still looking for more information regarding this Question.

Mr. Speaker: No! No! No! Order! I heard you very clearly! When hon. Murungi pointed out that he has an answer, you said that you are not interested in that answer because in your view, that is not a correct answer. When he pointed out to you that the answer is satisfactory to him, you then said that you have not seen it. So, somehow, you are not being honest to yourself, and to the House.

Mr. Mwamzandi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very honest! I asked my officers if the reply was ready. They said that they were looking for some more information. I left with the other replies for the Questions which were ready. So, I am not ready to answer this Question.

Mr. Speaker: Order! That is not the issue. The issue is whether or not you have seen the answer.

Mr. Mwamzandi: No, I have not seen it. When I was told it was not ready, and they were looking for more information, I left.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! Can we have the last one on this?

Mr. Murungi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to seek the guidance from the Chair. Could I pass on the answer to the Assistant Minister to consider, and then answer the Question in the afternoon?

Mr. Speaker: No, I do not think that is the correct position. Let me find out the correct position, but I am quite unhappy about this attitude towards the House. I do take exception to that. I do not want him to do that again.

I will defer the Question to tomorrow.

(Question deferred)

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister has just said that he is not interested in this reply, and it was signed by Prof. Ng'eno, who is his senior! How can he not be interested in an answer which is signed by---

Mr. Speaker: But he has said that he has not even seen it! Have you understood that?
Next Question, hon. Gitau!

SALE OF CHANIA DAIRY ASSETS

Mr. Gitau: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Co-operative Development the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that the Chania Dairy Co-operative Society in Kamwangi Division of Thika district is no longer operative and its committee, which is illegally in office, has disposed of all moveable assets and is right now in the process of selling the society's building?

(b) What immediate action is the Ministry taking to save the society's property?

Mr. Speaker: Is anybody here from the Ministry of Co-operative Development?

Mr. Gitau: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. A few minutes ago, I was in the Members' Room and I found the Assistant Minister for Co-operatives, hon. Titi, making a telephone call.

Mr. Speaker: Who is the Assistant Minister?

Mr. Gitau: His name is hon. Paul Titi. We were with hon. Ndicho. He said he is not coming and he is not interested---I want the guidance from the Chair as to whether we can go to the Members' Room and pull out the Assistant Minister and bring him here to answer this Question. He should tell us whether this Question is not in the interest of this nation.

Mr. Speaker: Order! I do not think the Chair ever encourages mob action. But I will---

An hon. Member: It is not mob action but mass action!

Mr. Speaker: Whether it is mass or mob, it is all the same. But I will ask the Leader of Government Business to take into account the various sentiments expressed by the Chair, about the lack of answers from this particular Ministry of Co-operative Development. I think even yesterday, as the Chair was calling for the Minister to respond to the Bill, nobody was present. I urge him to take up this issue and ensure that something happens to make the Ministries respond to Parliament.

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to say that I will take up this matter to ensure that these Questions are attended to. But I am also sure that the House is aware that at this particular time, there are several committees which are meeting. I do not know whether that is where the problem is, but I think the fundamental point---

(Loud consultations)

That was a matter of information!

Mr. Speaker: Order! I do not think we shall make a debate out of this. I think I have expressed on behalf of the House, very strong sentiments and I think that is enough. I do not think we should go any further.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Chair specifically informed the Leader of Government Business about the conduct of the Ministry of Co-operative Development, but he has generalised the whole issue. He has also said that it is due to the committees. Are we being told that the House has become subordinate to the IPPG? We know that the committees are speaking one thing while the President is speaking the opposite of it! Are we expecting anything?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Ndicho! I have already finished with that issue and I do not want to go back to it. I do not want Members to take the opportunity to put their own inputs into what I have already expressed because I do not think that is in good faith.

Mr. Kapten: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. In the last few days, you have said that we have not been having a quorum in the House because of the discussions that are currently going on. Do you not think it is time that the House thought of adjourning for a week or two to enable Members discuss this matter fully?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kapten, I think you are represented in the Sessional Committee. The Chair does what the

House wants.

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

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Gitau, I have already deferred your Question to next week.

Mr. Gitau: What is the fate of my Question?

Mr. Speaker: It has been deferred to tomorrow, afternoon.

Mr. Gitau: May I request that hon. Ndicho asks the Question on my behalf?

Mr. Ndicho: It is a Question by Private Notice.

Mr. Gitau: I know that, but just ask it on my behalf.

Mr. Speaker: Give hon. Ndicho a written authority, copied to me and then permission will be granted.

Mr. Ojode: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development to mislead this House by saying that Ministers are committed in the committees when we know very well that Ministers are not members of these committees?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ojode, there is nothing to stop you from going there as an observer. Next Order!

Prof. Mzee: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is it? I hope today you are in a better temper.

POINT OF ORDER

MISREPORTING BY THE PRESS

Prof. Mzee: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am slightly disturbed by what appeared in today's newspapers, that is, the *East African Standard*, the *Daily Nation* and the *Kenya Times*. The three newspapers implied that I wish to have a baby with an Assistant Minister for Education, Mrs. Ndeti. I have a copy of the HANSARD with me and I wish to read out the relevant portions to the House.

An hon. Member: Declare fatwa on them!

Prof. Mzee: I will read the two portions from the HANSARD.

"**Mrs. Ndeti:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, involving myself emotionally will not solve the problem. I would rather we get involved practically and see how we can resolve the problems affecting our children. Prof. Mzee has never given birth to a single child. I have given birth to four and so I know the pain of a child more than he does.

An hon. Member: Hujazaa!

Mr. Speaker: Order! I suppose again the question of giving birth is not emotional. It should not make anybody emotional. What do you want; to prove her wrong?

Prof. Mzee: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have five children and if she wants me to have the sixth one, I can have it."

It is clear from that extract that I did not say that I wish to have a baby with hon. Ndeti.

(Laughter)

The newspapers that carried this story have not said the truth of what transpired in this House. I am begging you to request them to correct this wrong impression which has caused a lot of embarrassment to Mrs. Ndeti and myself.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Taking into account what the hon. Prof. Mzee has read out from the HANSARD, that hon. Mrs. Ndeti has four children; the hon. Prof. Mzee has five and that if hon. Ndeti wanted Prof. Mzee to have another child, he would have the sixth child, there is no way in which you can imply that it is with the hon. Mrs. Ndeti. It was never said.

Mr. Achola: He said that!

Mr. Speaker: If you repeat that, Mr. Achola, you will get out. In any case, I urge the Press that when it comes to matters of morality involving Members of this House, please, be very careful because each Member here has a family. If you are going to change what has been said to imply immorality on the part of Members here, you are not only embarrassing them, but their families as well, some of them being children. I think it is something that this House will not tolerate for long. So, can the members of the Press be accurate and also in that accuracy take into account the usual dignity and morality that Members ought to have? So, I suppose that ends it, Prof. Mzee.

Prof. Mzee: I have another point of order, directed to the Minister for Local Government who did not finish answering my Question. I am told that the answer is ready today.

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Wameyo, do you have any Ministerial Statement?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Dr. Wameyo): I have it.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, go ahead and give it.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

CLARIFICATION ON ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN MOMBASA

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Dr. Wameyo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give hon. Prof. Mzee the following reply to the supplementary question that he raised about all the other allottees where---

Hon. Members: You are inaudible. Move the microphone closer to you or stand on a stool.

(Dr. Wameyo adjusted the microphone)

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Dr. Wameyo): I am sure you will now hear me. The allottees are as follows: Ramesh Chandra Akash Shah and Darksh Ramesh Chandra Shah, as common tenants, P.O. Box 88708, Mombasa. Another allottee is Suprep Limited, Mombasa.

Prof. Mzee: Mr. Speaker, Sir, apparently, those allottees have already sold out the plot to Mr. Shabbir Nadjimudin Januar and who has a title deed. How can this plot be allocated to individuals and immediately sold out to somebody else to develop it?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Dr. Wameyo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is new information. I will find out whether these people have already sold out this plot. I was not aware of that.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, next Order!

MOTIONS

CREATION OF ADDITIONAL DISTRICTS IN NORTH-EASTERN PROVINCE

Mr. Shidie: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, in view of the Government stated policy of bringing services closer to the people and considering the vastness of North-Eastern Province; further recognising the harsh terrain and the existing inadequate infrastructure; conscious of historic under-development of the region and the need to bridge this gap, this House urges the Government to create three additional districts in North-Eastern Province.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I go to the Motion, I would like to give a preamble of the entire Province. North-Eastern Province is the third largest in the Republic of Kenya after Rift-Valley and Eastern Province. The Province has three districts namely: Garissa, Wajir and Mandera. It has a population of about one million people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 90 per cent of the population are nomads who depend on livestock including camels, sheep and goats as their main source of income. By and large, this is one of the poorest provinces in this Republic. The Province borders the Republic of Ethiopia, Somalia and is mainly inhabited by Somalis.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to touch on certain issues concerning this Province, so that hon. Members can realise the importance and the need for having three more districts and maybe, appreciate the problems that are associated with this Province. Mr. Speaker, Sir, first, I would like to touch on the issue of education. We require a marshall plan because the people of North-Eastern Province are poor. The only solution for these people, if they are to move out of poverty, forge ahead and keep pace with the rest of Kenyans, they must get the right education. Education is the right way of rehabilitating the people of North-Eastern Province. This Province has the least number of graduates, schools and it performs very poorly in national examinations. I remember in 1963 in the Luo Nyanza, so many Luos were airlifted and taken to the Communist Block and many other countries for education. The result is that, today, Luos have so many Phds. In fact, a district like Siaya has the highest number of Phd holders per kilometre in Africa, whereas North-Eastern Province has the highest illiteracy rate in the country. When you compare that area to North-Eastern, you will notice the difference. It is a true indication that these people are ahead of us. In fact, their land terrain is almost similar to that of North-Eastern. The only difference is that these people were educated and through education, they have been able to get good jobs and enter the service sector. As a result, they have been able to provide good leadership and income that has generated wealth in this country. They are really stable.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other issue is to introduce the quota system. Our schools have poor facilities and there is no way we can compete. If a student from North-Eastern Province gets assistance and joins university he or she can compete very well with one from Central, Western and Nairobi Provinces. It is only that they do not have the facilities. Generally, they can pick up issues very fast.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should waive fees for students from North-Eastern Province, because there is no way a parent who is a recipient of famine relief food can be able to pay school fees. As a result, at the moment, we have so many school drop-outs in North-Eastern Province. In 1995, 1996 and 1997 we did not get rains in this country and as a result, so many students dropped out of school. Boys from the market rush to the few boarding schools to get some food during lunch time. So, most of the people are extremely poor.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so much has been said about security in North-Eastern Province. In fact, it is a festering wound. It is time we went back to the drawing board and assessed where we went wrong. Thirty years after Independence, we are still talking about insecurity, cattle rustling and banditry. We must at least put down our feet and assess where we went wrong. We should ask ourselves: If these people are part and parcel of Kenya, why are they under-developed? Cattle rustling is a big time commercial business. In the olden days, cattle rustling was an accepted thing. We could lose our animals through droughts, then steal, for example, from Mr. Speaker's farm, then the cattle population would still grow. But today, with sophisticated weapons, I steal your animals, take them to the market, kill so many people and the end result is that there is now way you are going to recover again. It is not like farming. In farming, you may lose crop this year and the following year when it rains, you can still plant and get good harvest which could get some money. With cattle rearing, where can somebody start again after losing about 100 cattle that he depended on for school fees and other needs?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, even the District Security Committee has been discussing this issue. It is high time that the District Security Committee should have wider membership. The Member of Parliament should be allowed to sit there. There is no way the security of Wajir District can be discussed by somebody from Western Kenya who does not know the situation there and cannot appreciate the intricacies, such as the cultural traits of the people or why they are armed and standing on the road. These are the issues that must be addressed to understand the people of North-Eastern Province.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the security situation in North-Eastern Province is mostly created by the press artificially. Any time there is a development project in that area, for example, a harambee, it is not covered by the press. The only thing you would see in the newspapers is flashy stories and good pictures of arms being returned.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, even the money the Government allocates is almost a black budget. It goes to the DC, DO and OCPD who cannot account for it. It is good to form vigilante groups to assist these people. A special commando group that can track down bandits should be formed. When there was poaching in Zimbabwe, they formed a special commando group which comprised of about 500 people with all facilities including helicopters. They combed the area and flashed out all the poachers. The regular police is ill-equipped, trained and they cannot withstand that harsh terrain.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, incentives should be given so that those people with illegal firearms can return them. For instance, Mozambique had similar problems and the Government gave those with firearms incentives and they returned those firearms in large numbers. This would save foreign exchange. There is no need of buying a G3 rifle from Germany when it can be got locally. I know it will be very difficult but given incentives, they could return them since some of them are hungry. They have these firearms because they want to steal animals. Even some handouts of relief food will motivate them to return those firearms.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, drought has really affected this country. Every two years, we have a drought in this country. Before, we used to experience it after eight years or so, but nowadays, drought is almost a daily occurrence. We know very well that hand-outs beget dependence and poverty. It is a vicious circle. If you give me food today tomorrow I will come for it. This does not teach me how to fish.

We must look for sustainable ways of helping the people of North-Eastern Province (NEP). Actually poverty is very dehumanising in that province. You realise that most of the people there are physically and mentally able, but there is no single industry in the entire province to offer them jobs. There is not even a cottage industry that can help them. This means that there is no source of income. When there is no source of income people resort to wicked activities like banditry. It is high time we helped these people.

We can also organise a re-stocking programme. This has, for instance, been done in Isiolo District by certain non-governmental organisations (NGOs); where somebody is given a few head of cattle to enable him start off in life. In such a way you can, at least, help people. Even if you give me money and tell to do farming in NEP doing so will be very difficult. Maybe one can do it through irrigation by using river water.

One of the rivers in the country passes through Garissa District. The water of this river should be harnessed for one major irrigation project in the district. It is hard to break from cocoons of poverty. We must find an

alternative means of survival for the people of this province. After all, its population is not very high. For instance, Garissa District has about 400,000 people, which is a small population.

On health, I would like to say that we have very few health centres, one general hospital and a few doctors. We would like the Government to give us scholarships to train doctors who can go back to work in their home districts. Garissa, Mandera and Wajir hospitals are unable to function because of lack of doctors. Sometimes, patients have to be flown to Nairobi for minor operations. So, it is good to train local people who can go back to work in their home areas.

On infrastructure, tarmac roads are non-existent in this area. The entire province does not have a single tarmac road. To the people of NEP it is as if a tarmac road is only found in heaven. If you talk to them about it they will not know how it looks like. The Great North Road that is supposed to pass through Garissa to Ethiopia, which is called the Pan-African Highway and starts from Cape Town to Cairo, should be developed. It is high time we developed the NEP and promoted commercial activities. In that way we can help the people. I know that at present the Government is hard-pressed: We have problems with the IMF and all other donors. If we get motorable roads from points A to B this will help.

I would like to emphasise that the problem facing this province is peculiar, but it needs to keep pace in development with the rest of Kenya. This province is part and parcel of this country. We are happy with the Government for what it has done for us. At the moment it has appointed many people from the province to senior positions. We have Permanent Secretaries, DCs and PCs. But that is not good enough. We want development on the ground, so that the common mwananchi can really benefit. That will be a create "trickle down economics" situation. This will benefit the people who will, at least, understand what the Government will be doing for them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I will call upon hon. Mzee to second the Motion.

Prof. Mzee: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. In seconding this Motion, which is a critical one, I would like to re-emphasise the fact that the people of NEP are the poorest people in this country. Most of them live very much below the poverty line. Most of them do not receive any services from the Government: They do not have any water or health facilities. Most of them are nomads and do not even send their children to school because of the few boarding schools in the province.

This province has to be looked at sympathetically, especially when its history is considered. During the colonial days it was a completely closed province. Nobody from the rest of Kenya could go to this province unless he got a permit to do so. It was as if the rest of Kenya and this province were separately administered entities of the colonial government.

The geography of the area is also very much. Actually the NEP is much nearer to Nairobi than other provinces are. Nyanza and Western Provinces are very far from Nairobi compared to where the NEP is. I do not know how many people know that the distance from Nairobi to Garissa is hardly 250 kilometres, while the distance from Nairobi to Kisumu is 350 kilometres. This means that the NEP is much nearer to the centre of this country than even most other outlying districts.

This province suffered a lot during the colonial period, when it was a closed area. When I went there for the first time in 1959 I had to get a special permit to do so. Anybody who knows the geography of the province knows that the gateway into it is through Garissa. To enter it, you have to cross a river using the only single bridge available. So, nobody can enter the province without passing through Garissa. Even at the moment, when we go for campaigns in the province we have to report our intention at the bridge.

Immediately after Independence there was a shifta problem which continued into the 1970s. So, during the colonial time and the period immediately after Independence this area was completely neglected in terms of development. As has been said, it is the third largest province in this country. It is very difficult to move around in this province because the infrastructure is very poor. The roads are seasonal and there is no single tarmac road in the province. The road from Nairobi to Garissa is tarmacked up to Mwingi. The contract for the tarmacking of Mwingi/Garissa Road was awarded 10 years ago but up to today the construction of the road is incomplete. If we had a tarmac road from Nairobi to Garissa a journey between the two towns would take less than one and a half hours. If we build good roads in this province we will open it up for development.

It is important that the number of districts in this province is increased in order to ease administration problems which are being faced now. Creation of additional districts will greatly improve administration of the province and development will pick up. At the moment the only important occupation in this province is keeping livestock, which is the backbone of the economy of the people in the province. However, absolutely nothing is being done to help these people in livestock keeping. I do not know how many people know that we have more camels in northern Kenya than we have in the entire north Africa region.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it means that, if we pay attention to this very important animal which provides milk and meat, we can solve a lot of problems in this area. Nothing has been done in shipping and marketing of camels in this

area. Camels produce good meat. In actual fact, quite a number of butchers will sell camel meat under the name of beef because people have not been educated that, camel meat is good meat and it can be sold cheaply and we have a large number of camels in this country.

What I am saying is that if we create more districts, we will be able to have more district veterinary officers, livestock officers and livestock marketing officers posted to these areas and the resources which are present in these areas will be exploited to the maximum for the benefit of the people in these areas. By creating more districts, we are going to have more district hospitals and more district education officers so that the people in these areas will have the services of the Government and they will get an opportunity to go to school. There will be more boarding school if more districts are created. Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, more than ten new districts have been created and they were created on political grounds, not because these areas needed new districts. Here we have a large province with only three districts. All that we are requesting for is that, the number of districts in this area be raised from three districts at present, to six, so that the administration in this area becomes more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the biggest problem in this area is lack of water. Most of the time is spent in looking for water simply because the Government is not present in this very critical area. We share a long border with Ethiopia and Somalia. The presence of the Government has to be felt and the only way it can be felt is by increasing the number of districts. The more the districts we will have in that area, the more Government officers, the more Government services and the more the presence of the Government would be felt and hence there would be absolutely no problem in that area. The people who will be living in that area will be known and the Somalis and the Ethiopians who will be there would also be known so that there will be no problem of confusing the Somalis who are foreign with those who are indigenous. There will be no need to classify the Somalis as non-indigenous Africans. I do not know how many people know that the Immigration Department in this country considers the Somalis as non-indigenous Africans. I cannot understand the meaning of "non-indigenous Africans" but these people have to fill in a special form which is headed "non-indigenous Africans" before they can be issued with a passport. These people are discriminated against and the only way we can help these people is by making the presence of the Government felt in this region and the presence of the Government will be felt only if we open up this Province, create more districts in this Province, put more administrators there and provide infrastructural services in terms of roads. If we had a proper infrastructure, we could have had investors there; we could have abattoirs and animals would be slaughtered there and the carcasses would be transported to other parts of the country; even to Nairobi.

If infrastructural facilities were provided there, they would encourage people to invest in leather tanning industries and others which are related to livestock. But as long as the infrastructure in this area is poor and as long as the presence of the Government is not felt and as long as we treat this Province as another part of this country, then we will never open up this area for development and we will never improve the lives of these people.

With these few remarks, I beg to second this Motion. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

(Question proposed)

Mr. Arte: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This is a very important Motion for those of us who live in Northern Kenya. It is very important for us to have three more districts. The current three districts which we have now are those which were created by the colonialists. Since we got Independence, nothing has happened to these three districts. The area we are talking about is a very vast area. The poorest people of this country also live in this area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, communication in this area is very poor because there are no roads. I agree with hon. Shidie entirely that tarmacked roads are unheard of in this area and we even do not know what it is. This is the only province in this country without any tarmacked roads. The main livelihood of the people in this region is livestock. We used to depend on---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Ruhii: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. There is a caucus going on there, in that corner. We cannot hear exactly what the hon. Member is saying.

Mr. Speaker: Well, I suppose, as long as they do not disturb the proceedings of the House, we can live with those caucuses. Proceed hon. Arte.

Mr. Arte: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the poorest people of this country live in those areas. These people mainly depend on livestock. We used to have the Livestock Marketing Division and it died a natural death. We used to have livestock routes from Mandera all the way to Lamu and those have also died. Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) was the only body they used to depend on for marketing of their livestock and it is not functioning for reasons we do not know. Meat, milk, hides and hooves are there but industries for processing them as raw materials are not developed. There is

no single industry in that area and shortage of water is yet another problem in that area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the biggest river in the country passes through the North-Eastern Province and it passes directly through Garissa Town. But it is very funny that people are using donkeys to draw water from the river. People are drinking untreated water and the town cannot develop. People are suffering from diseases such as typhoid and malaria because of drinking dirty water. If those potentialities are developed, I am sure that the lives of those poor people who live in that area will have been improved.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the colonial era this area was very unfortunate. Before Independence, we had the shifta menace and after Independence, we had what we used to call poaching. Poachers had infiltrated the area from Somalia, looking for elephants and other things. They brought in guns and after that, we had the Somali banditry. Today people cannot move from one place to another without using an escort. There are areas where people have not seen the District Commissioner nor the District Officer. There are Members of Parliament who have not gone to some parts of their constituencies after having represented their people in this House for 10 to 15 years. This is because there are no roads in these areas. Some people who vote for us do not even see us. We stay for five years without meeting most of them and then we go back to them to say "Please vote for me." We have to go on foot when we want to meet our people. That is the reason why it is necessary to take administration closer to the people of North-Eastern Province. I am sure we can improve the lives of these people if more districts and infrastructure are added. They are Kenyans just like all other Kenyans from other areas of this country. They are taxpayers and they are the ones feeding parts of this country to some extent. I can proudly say here that about 60-70 per cent of the beef that all of us eat in this House comes from North-Eastern Province. These people who feed us do not get anything in return from this Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are asking for a very simple thing which has already been granted to other areas. For example, Teso and Maragwa were sub-locations just recently, and today they are districts. Requesting the Government to give us two more districts would not be asking for too much. We should have more sub-locations and locations. There are no telephone facilities in those areas. We have no way of communicating with our electorate back in our constituencies. There is no way I can communicate with my electorate. In an emergency, I would have to travel there. Even after I reach there, I would have to leave my car at a certain area and foot to the affected area. We are asking this Government to revive the Livestock Marketing Division (LMD), open the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) Mombasa plant, which was built during the colonial times for the purpose of marketing the livestock from North-Eastern Province. That plant is now dead. We do not know what is happening. We have been told that the KMC has been rehabilitated. The Government of Japan came in to assist, money was put in it but it is not operational. We do not know what is happening. Company directors and other workers are there and they are earning salaries, but it appears no work goes on there. Why pay salaries to people who do not give you services in return? Why go for loans which you do not use? We are obviously going to service this loan from the Japanese Government. What is the purpose of taking a loan if it is not going to help you?

The Tana River is one of the biggest rivers in this country. It runs through Garissa town and the entire North-Eastern Province. Its water, which ends up in the Indian Ocean, could be used for irrigation. Nobody is making use of this water, and we are letting thousands of shillings go into the sea. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Raila: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this Motion, but with a few qualifications. Listening to hon. Shidie move this Motion, I was wondering whether it is three new districts that they need in North-Eastern Province or whether it is not a new Government that they need in that province.

(Applause)

It is true that the North-Eastern Province is the least developed region in this country, partly because of colonial heritage, but much more so because of the neglect of over 30 years by the KANU Government.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

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

The problems that hon. Shidie talked about are problems of under-development and they are things that can be resolved even without creating additional districts. You do not need additional districts to construct roads, build hospitals, schools and provide water. During my recent visit to Garissa town, which is just on the banks of River Tana, we were talking about the water problems in the area. I said: "This Government can afford to build an oil pipeline running from the Port of Mombasa through Nairobi to Eldoret and Kisumu, but it cannot afford to build a

water pipeline to draw water from River Tana to the suburbs of Garissa." Why? I said: "Because motor vehicles up-country are more important to this Government than the lives of people of Garissa and North-Eastern Province".

The reason why we have a problem in terms of district boundaries is to be found in the Colonial boundaries. When the Majimbo boundaries were drawn, they did not take account of the interests of the people of this country. They were meant to take account of certain special interests or ethnic interests only. What we have experienced is that since Independence, no effort has been made to try to redress this imbalance that was created during the time when this country was not yet independent. The Independence Constitution stated, and I quote:

"Kenya shall be divided into 40 districts and the Nairobi area. Each district and the Nairobi area shall elect one Senator."

This is a constitutional provision. Later on, in 1992, we came up with a District and Provinces Act. This Act divides the country into 46 districts. According to this Act, the last district to be created was Nyamira. From that time up to now, the President has arbitrarily created 13 other districts without reference to this House. I am saying these districts which have been created have been created illegally because there is no constitutional power that gives the President the power to create any new districts. These new districts are: Keiyo, Trans-Mara, Kuria, Moyale, Nyambene, Malindi, Maragua, Thika, Rachuonyo, Suba, Teso, Mount Elgon and Malaba/Lugari. All these districts have been created illegally by the President acting in excess of his constitutional powers and without any basis. The President goes to a district and just decides, out of political expediency, to say that: "I am going to give you a district. What you do with it is up to you. You are going to raise money through Harambee to put up the district headquarters." This shows that he is a President who is irresponsible and who does not respect the Constitution of the country.

The Vice-President and Minister for Planning and National Development (Prof. Saitoti): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to discuss the conduct of the President? That is out of order under the Standing Orders? He should do so vide a substantive motion.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Arte): Hon. Raila, it is out of order to talk about the character of the President and that of any Member of Parliament.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about district boundaries and this is something that is arising out of the Motion because we are talking about the issue of creating new districts. I think it is very relevant to the Motion to state that new districts have been created by the President without regard to the constitutional provisions. We have an Act of Parliament which is the District and Provinces Act of 1992 which created 46 districts. If there was no need for Parliament to create new districts, the enactment of this Act would not have been brought before this House. But all I am saying is that the President has, after this law created 13 other districts without reference to this House and I am saying that the President, in so doing, was acting in excess of his constitutional powers. I do not think that in doing so we are trying to merely go against the rules of this House.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a need for a comprehensive review of not just districts, but also the constituencies boundaries in this country. Since Independence there has been a lot of gerrymandering with the districts and constituencies boundaries. This has created an over-representation on one hand, and an under-representation of certain areas and communities. This is meant to give an unfair advantage to the party in power. That is why we are saying that other than arbitrarily trying to enhance the disproportion that exists, there is a need to have a constituency and district review commission to review all our administrative boundaries in order to make sure that they are responsive to the needs of the country now and for the future. I agree that we need more districts in North-Eastern province, but there has to be a criteria of creating these districts and this should not just be created arbitrarily. If you come and say that we need three districts, maybe, there is need for five districts. So, we need first to set up a formula which will determine how these districts will be created rather than just coming up and saying: "We need to create three more new districts in Nairobi or five new districts in the Coast Province".

So, what we are saying is that we need to have a district boundaries review commission which will go and set up the criteria for creating more districts and this will then be used to review the boundaries nationally. I think that this is what this country needs today. If this Government is not going to do it, then I know that the incoming Government is going to do it. We know that this Government is only now interested in North-Eastern Province because they want the votes of the residents and that is the reason why the President can go to Moyale and say that they are going to construct a tarmac road to link Moyale with Addis Ababa. They have been in power for five years and they did nothing and now North-Eastern province is now important because they need the votes and the seats in North-Eastern province. We are telling them that what they need is a change of Government. They need to have a Government that is going to be responsive to the needs of the people of North-Eastern Province. In these marginalised areas like part of the Rift Valley there is no reason why somebody should walk from Loitokitok to go all the way to Nakuru to visit the provincial headquarters. There is need to review as I have said so that somebody from Loitokitok can go to some place like Kajjido or even Machakos. So, some of these boundaries are very inconvenient. Somebody coming from Lokitaung and driving all the way to Nakuru to go and complain about arbitrarily subdivisions or issuance of title deeds, I think, is

an unfair punishment to the population of this country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Ndilinge: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, naanza kwa kumrudishia Mungu asante kwa kuwa tuliamka tukiwa wazima. Hili ni jambo ambalo lafaa kuungwa mkono kwa sababu kama vile tunavyojua, mkoa wa Kaskazini Mashariki hauna maji. Huo ni mkoa ambako watu hutatizika sana wanapofikiria kuja kujiunga na Wakenya wengine hapa Nairobi. Hivyo basi kuna haki kwa Serikali kuangalia ni vipi mkoa huu unaweza kuongezewa wilaya nyingine hata kama ni moja. Ikiwa Serikali itatia maanani fikira kama hiyo, hata Mkoa wa Mashariki unafaa ugawanywe kwa sababu katika Ukambani kuna wilaya nne; Mwingi, Kitui, Machakos na Makueni, wakati ambapo Mkoa wa Mashariki Kaskazini una wilaya tatu tu. Hizi wilaya nne za Ukambani - Machakos, Kitui, Mwingi na Makueni - zinafaa pia kuwa mkoa mmoja.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, pia ningependa niombe Serikali ifikirie juu ya mambo ya mkoa wa Bonde la Ufa. Huu mkoa ni mkubwa sana kama vile mhe. Raila alivyosema. Serikali ingefikiria kuugawanya ili tuwe na Mkoa wa North Rift Valley na Mkoa wa South Rift Valley. Hata kungekuwa na Mkoa wa Central Rift Valley kwa sababu huu Mkoa mkubwa huwezi kukaa bila Mkuu wa Mkoa. Tunajua wilaya haiwezi kukaa bila Mkuu wa Wilaya. Tungependa wakati huu Serikali, na hasa Ofisi ya Rais, ifikirie kupeleka wafanyakazi ambao wanajua wanaenda kufanya kazi mahali kuna watu. Kuna wengine ambao wamekuwa wafalme. Kuna wafanyakazi wengine ambao, wakienda katika mikutano kuna kitu ambacho hawataki kizungumuziwe na watu, hata kama kuna Wabunge katika mkutano huo. Tungependa wajulishwe kwamba wao ni wakuu wa wilaya au wakuu wa mikoa ambamo kuna watu. Wasijichukue kama wakuu wa wilaya wa kikoloni. Hii ni kwa sababu ile kasumba ya kikoloni haijawatoka katika akili zao. Wengi wa hawa wakuu wa wilaya na wakuu wa mikoa huwa hawatekelezi kile ambacho walifunzwa kule Kabete. Wanafanya kile wanaambiwa na mkubwa fulani. Hivyo ni kuonyesha kwamba wanateseka kwa sababu hawafanyi kile ambacho kiko katika kitabu cha utawala. Wanafanya kile ambacho kimetoka kwa mtu mkubwa fulani.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ningependa wakati huu wa vyama vingi vya kisiasa, wakuu wa mikoa na wakuu wa wilaya wafanye kazi wakijua kwamba Mkenya anawaangalia. This is because they are there to implement what comes from this House. Wengine hawafahamu kile ambacho kimesemwa na Bunge hili. Hata Bunge likisema kwamba Mkuu wa Wilaya fulani aende akaangalie kitu fulani, haangalii hicho kitu. Anaangalie kile ambacho anaambiwa na mwanasiasa fulani ambaye ni godfather wake. Siku moja kutakuwa na godmothers. Ngoja tu. Ningependa watu waelewe kwamba ya kesho haijulikani, bali ni Mungu tuu ambaye anajua.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, tukija katika mambo ya chakula, utapata kwamba watu wa mkoa wa Kaskazini Mashariki hutatizika sana wakati ambapo kuna mvua maana barabara ni haba. Magari ya kuwasilisha chakula kule hayafiki kwa sababu barabara sio nzuri. Tungependa pia mambo ya barabara katika mkoa wa Kaskazini Mashariki na Mashariki yaangaliwe. Hii ni kwa sababu katika sehemu kama Makueni chakula cha kuzuia njaa hakifiki kwa muda unaofaa kwa sababu barabara si nzuri. Kuna shida ya maji katika mkoa wa Mashariki na hasa Makueni ambapo kuna mito kama 16 ambayo inapitia katika wilaya hiyo. Serikali ikifikiria kunasa yale maji hautasikia tena Serikali ikisumbuliwa na raia kwamba wanataka chakula. Hii ni kwa sababu maji hayo hutiririka kuelekea Mombasa.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, katika upande wa utawala unaanzia kule mashambani ambako kuna naibu wa chifu. Tungependa Serikali ifikirie sana kuangalia ni nani anapendwa na watu pale. Hii ni kwa sababu wanafanya mahojiano na wanaletea wananchi mtu ambaye hata kwao hawasalimii watu wengine halafu anaanza kutumia "crown" kuwanyanyasa wananchi. Hayo mahojiano ya naibu wa chifu na chifu yanafaa yangaliwe kwa sababu sana ili ijulikane wazi ni nani anapelekwa kwa watu. Hili ni jambo la maana kwasababu wengine hawaajiriwi kazi hiyo kwa sababu wanafaa au wanastahili. Hapana. Watu hao hupewa kazi hizo kwa sababu wana mtu katika ofisi kuu ambaye amesema kwamba kati ya yale majina ambayo aliletewa, ni mtu fulani ambaye ataajiriwa.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, jambo lingine ni kuhusu kugawanywa kwa pesa. Pesa zikigawa kuna sehemu ambazo hasistahili kupewa kiasi fulani kama zinazopewa mikoa ya Kaskazini na Mashariki. Kuna sehemu fulani katika wilaya ya Makueni zinazostahili marupurupu ya ukame, yaani hardship allowance. Wafanyakazi wa Serikali wanatembea zaidi ya kilomita 30 ili wapate tone la maji na baadaye wanarudi kufanyakazi ofisini. Wakati mwingine huwa tukiwalaumu wafanyakazi wa Serikali kwa kutowahudumia wananchi na kumbe wanautumia wakati huo kutafuta maji. Jambo kama hili ningeomba liangaliwe. Ingekuwa heri kama Serikali yetu ingewapa marupurupu ya ukame wafanyakazi wake.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, nitashauri kamati za maendeleo za wilaya zisiwaumize wananchi wanapopanga miradi yao. Wakati mwingine mradi unapopendekezwa na DDC, na kabla kukamilika au kuanzishwa wanapendekeza mwingine. Huu mradi mwingine ni wa nini ikiwa ule wa kwanza haujakamilika? Kwa hivyo, ni lazima wanaosimamia miradi inayopendekezwa na DDC kuona ya kwamba wamekamilisha mradi mmoja kabla kuanzisha mwingine. Haifai kurundika miradi tu katika faili zao huko wakisema wamependekezwa miradi hii na ile. Pana haja gani ikiwa miradi walioanzisha mwaka 1994 haijakamilika? Tuonaona kwamba maswali mengi yanayoulizwa hapa Bungeni yanahusu miradi ambayo haijakamilika, na majibu tunayopewa ni kwamba "when funds are available". Hii

ni kwa sababu DDCs zetu hupendekeza miradi mingi kabla ya kukamilisha miradi ya hapo awali.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, jambo lingine ambalo ningependa kuwaomba wanafanyakazi wa Serikali ni wakome kutumiwa na wanasiasa. Juzi, chama cha KANU, kiliwahimiza wafanyakazi wa Serikali au wanaofanya kazi katika mashirika ya umma na wanataka kushiriki katika uchaguzi mkuu ujao wajiuzulu. Katika sehemu yangu ya uwakilishi Bungeni ya Kilome kuna Katibu Msaidizi katika Ofisi ya Mkuu wa Sheria na tayari amewasilisha makaratasi yake ili anipinge katika uchaguzi mkuu ujao na ilhali hajajiuzulu. Anafanya kazi ya Serikali huku akishirikiana na Mkuu wa Wilaya, Makueni, ambaye anamweleza ya kwamba analindwa. Je, hicho ni chama cha kusaidia wananchi au kuwagonganisha?

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ningependa mambo ya wakuu wa wilaya kutumiwa kama wafalme yakome kabisa. Tunapoongea hapa kuna Nguu Ranch, ploti katika Sultan Hamud, Makindu na Emali ambazo zimeuzwa. Nilisema yote haya na pia tukaleta marakatasi ya kuthibitisha hayo tukiwa na mhe. Maundu ya kwamba DC amekuwa akigawa ploti hizi usiku, lakini hakuna aliyetusikiliza. Jambo ambalo litatokea ni wananchi kuamka na kuzuia ploti zao hivi karibuni, kwa sababu anaziua alipojua tunataja mambo ya ploti hizo hapa kuwa amewapa watu. Mkuu wa Wilaya, Makueni, anafanya kazi kama mwanasiasa na si kama mkuu wa wilaya. Yeye ameletwa kuja "kutufunza" mimi na mwenzangu, lakini yafaa ajue kwamba ni sisi ambao "tutafamfunza" yeye. Hii ni kwa sababu sisi tuna wafuasi. Tuliajiriwa na wananchi wa Makueni na yeye aliajiriwa na kalamu. Aliandikiwa barua kwenda Makueni lakini sisi tulichaguliwa na wananchi wa Makueni. Kwa hivyo, yote tunayosema ni maoni ya wananchi wa Makueni.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, ninamsikitia yule mtu aliyemtuma huyo DC katika wilaya ya Makueni. Ikiwa ni chama chetu, pole sana kwa sababu kura zao zitakuwa ni za huyo DC pekee yake. Hizo zingine tutapiga mahali ambapo matakwa ya Mkamba yanaweza kuangaliwa vizuri. Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, leo si jana. Kuna watu wengine wanaosema katika magaziti ya leo ati kufunjwa kwa Branch ya Makueni ya chama cha KANU kulikuwa "overdue. Kulikuwa "overdue" na ilhali wengine hawataliona Bunge hili tena! Ninawaonea huruma sana maana Mkamba wa jana si wa leo. Ningependa wajue namna hiyo. Mambo ya kutisha watu yakome maana kazi ya utalawa ni kulinda wananchi na mali yao na wala si kuhusika na siasa. Ningependa Ofisi ya Rais, iangalie sana wakati wanapomtuma DO, DC au PC aende akafanya kazi ya utawala na wala si kazi ya siasa. Hii ni kwa sababu watafanya kazi ya siasa wakitumia kasumba ya chama kimoja cha kisiasa na huku wakisahau tuko katika siasa ya vyama vingi na watajiharibia wenyewe.

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

Mr. Ogeka: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The issue of the North-Eastern Province is a matter of concern to us. I must congratulate my friend hon. Shidie, for bringing to light the real kind of situation prevailing in the North-Eastern Province.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Mover of the Motion has put it very explicitly; the inadequate supply of water, terrible shortage of food, education level, lack of security, absence of infrastructure and health hazard of the region. By and large, this is a very clear summary of the kind of life we have in the North-Eastern Province which is considered part and parcel of the Republic of Kenya. We are talking in the year 1997 after being independent in 1963. I believe the cry deserves a hearing and a serious consideration.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we look at 1992, the Districts and Provinces Act created another 13 districts. If it was considered on the basis of politically-correct, then one would ask: What is wrong with the North-Eastern Province which is truly politically-correct in giving this regime nearly 90 per cent of the Members of Parliament apart from one and another one who was elected on PICK but eventually turned out to be on a KANU ticket? I wonder why they cannot be given another district. If they are not given, it is high time, they asked themselves why they have not seen the fruits for which they fought to be part and parcel of the Independent Republic of Kenya. This is a sad issue. They have been supporting the ruling folks, but I wonder whether the ruling folks have them at heart.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, coming up to what is really critical, first, we have had a lot of oil exploration in the North-Eastern Province although none has been positive. Instead we have water in North-Eastern Province, but this Government sees it fit to seal up all the wells knowing very well that the people living around those wells are in need of water. I wonder whether the issue of water in North-Eastern Province is the priority of this Government. Is this Government thinking of how to elevate the living standards of people in North-Eastern Province?

It will be a fallacy to talk of North-Eastern Province being a serious desert area. We know of areas with a very serious desert situation that have turned out to be a haven. Why can we not turn North-Eastern Province into a haven? Truly, we have an abundant amount of water flowing from River Tana. When we look at the quantity of water flowing into India Ocean year-in, year-out, we wonder why we cannot control it and utilise it for the development of our people. Has this, at any time been within the reach of our Government? We know those who are trying to reframe and baptise it, so that it can appear like it is born again and give themselves the credit of being reformists. This is a matter that they have never imagined or dreamt of and they have never believed that the reform process is a

reality. Over 34 years after Independence, they still believe that the present Constitution has served us well. But they now want to make a joke of it by saying: "We are the best reformists, we are a born-again KANU Government and we now want to put on the new clothes", as though that would change an obsolete person into a born again baby. This is disastrous! We are at war when we think about those who want to legitimise this regime, to make it be born again after it has been totally repellant, regrettable, heinous and institutionalised in terms of corruption and exploitation and to give it a new name, that they are reformists. Do you not see that they are now brainstorming, contradicting, vomiting and eating again? This is ridiculous!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform my colleagues from the North-Eastern Province, that they are used only as rags to clean the feet and yet, they are citizens of this country. People from the North-Eastern Province are probed every time and conditions are put for them to get identity cards. North-Eastern has also remained a battle field for practising Kenyan soldiers right from the time of Independence. I think there is need for awareness that North-Eastern Province is an area that can easily be revolutionised in terms of production of whatever produce to feed this country, in even a better way than Libya is feeding inhabitants of that country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, most countries in the deserts have proved to be exporters of certain very essential commodities. Saudi Arabia is the single largest exporter of dairy products. I get haunted by the crude way of forgetting the very people who are really shedding a lot of sweat to keep this Government in power, while it has never at any one day thought of them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we were talking about taking the KMC (KMC) closer to the North-Eastern Province, I happened to have been in the KMC in 1979 to 1981, and Athi River and Mombasa were not benefiting them. We thought as a management committee, of buying animals from the place of origin. By the time animals left their places of origin to reach Athi River or Mombasa, about 50 per cent of them were dead and condemned, and the farmer lost in the process. Why could we not buy them from the source? That was in 1979 to 1981. As Kenyans, we were concerned and we suggested that KMC should buy animals directly from the farmers and transport them to Mombasa and Athi River which were good marketing outlets for the North-Eastern Province. But by and large, very few animals were reaching Athi River and Mombasa. But when they reached, they were being bought on rescue weight; that is after the carcass had been slaughtered and one would find a big decrease in weight. Thus, the farmer was getting almost nothing. I believe that this was heavily enriching the Government because they were going through the Ministry of Agriculture, which is solely responsible for the KMC. So, how better could we take care of the North-Eastern Province, than them reviewing their stand politically? All Kenyans should also think about how best we can diffuse the explosive situation in this country. Whatever we prevent today, should solve a problem but we should not postpone it. If we postpone it, it will terribly explode.

Mr. Manga: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to use this chance to campaign for the Opposition by saying that the North-Eastern people should review their position politically?

Mr. Ogeka: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not a point of order. But if it is, my colleague will have his time to say in whatever form, he thinks KANU can bring reality in North-Eastern Province.

[**Mr. Ogeka**]

With those remarks, I beg to support and say that they deserve to be considered.

Mr. Maundu: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion which is extremely important.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Motion is important because when we look at what has happened in the North-Eastern Province over the years since Independence, one is persuaded not only to sympathise with it, but to impress upon the Government and any leader to consider the best way and manner in which the potential in North-Eastern could be tapped and make the people there to be productive and self reliant. North-Eastern Province is an area which appears to be the devil's haven. It is an area which is desolate. It is an area where the common greeting is: "When you go to Kenya, greet the people in Nairobi." It is an area, which for many reasons, the people think that this Government has neglected them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that an area which is potentially productive in many ways, could be so neglected. With such potential in this area, there has never been a serious master plan to harness the potential and the capacity in that region. The hon. Member who brought this Motion is making a cry in the deep, to find out which is the best way to revitalise this area, so that the people of that particular region could benefit from its potential. In my opinion, if the administrative boundaries and the increase of new centres of administration will increase the potential of this particular area, then this priority should be considered. In my view, there is much more than merely giving administrative centres to the North-Eastern Province. The greatest problem in the North-Eastern Province is the fact that the Government has not channelled sufficient funds to harness the potential in that area. Taking into account the fact that this is an area where livestock could do very well, there has not been a master plan to

make sure that the people of the North-Eastern Province who are basically pastoralists are facilitated enough, to become part and parcel of the people of this country. Without sufficient involvement of the Government, and more particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing to advise the people and fund projects that would make sure that livestock production is increased in this area, we would be crying far too long, even in seeking administrative empowerment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one wonders what is so difficult and yet, the people of the North-Eastern Province have been complaining that the Government should come and assist them. Why has this not been possible? Those people have been neglected, even in matters of security. There is no system that is seen to guarantee them their security, as individuals and their livestock. If anybody from the neighbouring countries wants to steal cows easily, the best place that he can invade and with ease is North-Eastern Province. Why has there not been a system put in place? We should have serious military and police bases to ensure that the people of North-Eastern Province are facilitated in terms of security because a people without security are people who are not productive. In fact, the very fact that North-Eastern Province has less population is because of this insecurity. It is not possible for people to sit down and plan for their lives without a guaranteed basic human value like security. Unless we guarantee the people of North-Eastern Province security, the Government puts in funds to revolutionalise their standards of living, make them self-sufficient, we will be doing far too little even if we give them additional districts.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, people from North-Eastern Province do not travel by road and those who are able, usually charter planes. But is that available to every other ordinary north-easterners who want to do business? The Government should come out with a masterplan to help the North-Eastern Province to be part and parcel of this country in terms of production and potentiality. When we look at North-Eastern Province once again, like my own district, it is an area where water resources have been neglected. We are told of petty projects that do not even help the farmers and livestock keepers in North-Eastern Province. We are even talking of enhancing capacity of water resources in areas which already have some amount of water resources and have forgotten those people, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. Both Eastern and North-Eastern Provinces fall into that category of areas, that in my own assessment, it is only during the campaign times when we hear "high sounding language" like they have said in Shakespeare, "words full of sound and fury, but signifying nothing".

As a consequence, the people in Eastern and North-Eastern Provinces, even in political terms, are not necessarily a part and parcel of the wheel that is revolving. This wheel is not revolving to their advantage neither is it moving towards their direction. We propose projects here and we hear of Government commitment about projects in this region, we have not seen that commitment made into fruition. More often than not, what we say here, is termed as dissent, rebellion and as people who are trying to open the eyes of people who should continue in a state of incubation and being in cocoons as long as Jesus will not come back. I am talking through experience because I did raise a Question in this House to the Minister for Energy about the facilities in Eastern Province, more particularly generating facilities requiring him to clarify the position, whether these facilities are going to be taken over by the Kenya Power Company, which we know sooner than later, is going to be privatised and given to a few individuals in this country. We have heard the Permanent Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Energy announcing that all the dams within the Tana and Athi River Development Authority (TARDA) are going to be taken over by the Kenya Power Company. Its consequence is that TARDA becomes a shell or a house which cannot be maintained by the TARDA, and eventually it would be wound up.

All the assets in those areas will belong to a company which will be owned by individuals even the rivers. Therefore, before one can harvest sand or even use the water in those areas for irrigation, he will have to consult with a group of not more than four people to give them authority to tap resources that have been in their region. It this exploitation by a few people in this country of areas like North-Eastern and Eastern Provinces, that we are finding difficult to accept. The Ministry of Energy must come out with a clear picture as to what the present status of the TARDA, because, if this is not done, the people in those areas will not allow their resources and facilities to be annexed and given to a few individuals.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have said, we need to empower our people to be self-reliant. The people of North-Eastern as well as Eastern Province, are people who are dependent on famine relief. Famine relief has been depended upon so much by this Government to the extent that, we who live in those areas, get embarrassed. There is no business in glorifying famine relief because that is one way to maintain a people in a potential state of poverty, subordination and subservience. It is important that the Government instead of glorifying famine relief, channels sufficient funds to those areas to make sure that the people are empowered to produce their own food. This Government, can spend upto Kshs3 billion to feed the people of Eastern Province and, yet, they cannot even put aside Kshs500,000 to give them sufficient water to produce their own food.

(Applause)

For how long will this state of affairs continue because this issue is now greater than those communities? In terms of political orientation, people will look at a Government that considers the plight of its people more than anything else. They will consider the Government that has a programme that will revolutionise their lives because, if you cannot give me a piece of bread on a plate; if I am only good enough for the crumbs, it is unfortunate, I will not take up that position.

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

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Sunkuli): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply on behalf of the Government. I would like to say that the spirit of this Motion is very good and I am not going to oppose it. In fact, I am going to support it with just two little amendments which will be seconded by my friend, hon. Manga, if he "catches" your eye!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am proposing to delete the word "three" appearing in the fifth line and to add the words "wherever necessary" at the end of that line, so that the Motion, as amended, will read thus:

THAT, in view of the Government stated policy of bringing services closer to the people and considering the vastness of the North-Eastern Province; further recognising the harsh terrain and existing inadequate infrastructure; conscious of historic under-development of the region and the need to bridge this gap, this House urges the Government to create additional districts in the North-Eastern Province wherever necessary.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, North-Eastern Province is a large province, indeed. It covers about 126,624 square kilometres, thus making it the third largest province in the country. It is divided into three districts; Wajir District with 57,340 square kilometres; Garissa with 43,364 square kilometres and Mandera which covers 25,920 square kilometres. The total population of North-Eastern Province, as per the 1997 projection, was estimated to be 692,000 people, distributed as follows: Garissa: 231,000; Wajir: 222,000 and Mandera 239,000 people.

With respect to bringing this administration closer to these people, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has created four other sub-districts: Elwak Sub-district, Mandera; Mbuta and Habasweni in Wajir; and Ijara, where Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker comes from, in Garissa District. These creations have, indeed, brought administration closer to the people and the Government is continuing to ensure that administration is brought closer to the people of North-Eastern Province. It is obviously clear that the North-Eastern Province is not as heavily populated as other areas of this country. But it is a unique Province indeed. First, it is very expansive. Then it has a particular security problem of bandits. Therefore, the Government policy that it is not just the population to be considered, and other things to have to be considered, really operates for this particular case. The North-Eastern Province may not be as heavily populated as other Provinces, but the fact is that it is a unique one, with a hostile terrain and sparse population. Therefore, the difficulties created by sparsely populated areas must be addressed in this case.

Now, to forestall insecurity in this area, the Government has been able to carry out a number of things, including establishing more administrative units. Very many locations have been created in this particular area. The Government has deployed sufficient number of security personnel, and established several police outposts among other measures. Since security has been of great priority in the area, the Government has greatly invested in the security apparatus within the Province. This enormous contribution should not be down-played or under-estimated. Besides, the said increase in the number of locations and sub-locations have also ensured effective security surveillance in this region.

The Government has generally deployed sufficient numbers of both technical and support staff, to carry out development activities in all the sectors of the economy. There are also sufficient numbers of on-going projects, initiated jointly by the Government, donors and NGOs, geared towards the alleviation of poverty among the people, through provision of water, improved livestock husbandry and marketing. The Government is still very much committed to the continued rendering of such services.

Similarly, the Government has invested heavily in the communication network, and telephone facilities have been installed and road networks improved. All major police and administrative divisional headquarters are now on telephone. All the major roads in the Province, such as the Modogashe-Wajir, Elwak-Mandera, Wajir-Bunabute, Garissa-Dadaab-Liboi have been up-graded.

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

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as all hon. Members are aware, the cost of putting up a district headquarters is enormous. Whereas the Government is willing to ensure that new districts and administrative units are created, the responsibility of constructing the Headquarters of these particular areas, either of the districts or of the divisions, must be shared between the people and the Government. Therefore, in accepting that the Government will create more districts in the North-Eastern Province in future, it is important to bear these facts in mind. The Government will facilitate bringing the administration closer to the people, but the people who feel the need must also assist, through the Harambee spirit, in the construction of the Headquarters. In this regard, it is particularly important to note that the new districts that have been created so far by the Government, have taken this initiative. The people of Kuria district have raised a lot of money and constructed their district Headquarters. We too in Transmara have constructed our district Headquarters. It is important that this initiative is taken up so that the Government does not find it heavy to create new districts. The Government, therefore, has addressed these matters. This is why I am proposing this minor amendment, to make the Motion a workable one.

I know that various comments have been made by hon. Members, about the efficiency of our administrators. I suppose that eventually, when we all come to think seriously, it would be important to make our civil servants realise that their role is that of service to the wananchi. They are not the bosses of the wananchi. The wananchi are their bosses. I want to urge all the civil servants to be faithful to their work, and to serve the people faithfully. Of course, the civil servant is basically the civil servant of the Government of the day. It is important for the civil servants to be impartial when transacting their business of serving the people. They should realise that the people do exercise their voice by electing their Government. As soon as the people have expressed who their Government shall be, the civil servants should be able to serve the Government diligently. One of the problems of multi-partyism, and I like and welcome multi-partyism, is the fact that it has enhanced our tribal feelings. But I hope that the civil servants in this country do not become affected by the increased amount of tribalism that has accompanied multi-partyism. It is only proper that the civil servants should disabuse themselves of their ethnic feelings. I note that many hon. Members have raised questions about how the District Commissioners (DCs) and chiefs treat them. I want to take this opportunity to urge the DCs, DOs and the chiefs throughout the country, to treat hon. Members honourably. They are hon. Members because they are elected by the people. They should be treated as hon. Members and should not be brought down to disrepute. I know that it is an individual attitude once in a while, and it is not an attitude which is a matter of policy. But it is also important for hon. Members to learn to treat the DCs, DOs and chiefs, not as persons to be fought, but as persons to work with. This is because respect is a mutual thing. Respect must be reciprocated with respect.

Therefore, because I would like hon. Manga to get a little time to second this Motion, I beg to move this Motion as amended.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Manga): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to second the amendment, which I think will enhance the theme and the aim of this Motion.

North-Eastern is a very unique Province. It has a lot of problems. But I want to state here that it is not right to say that the Government has actually neglected the Province. The Government, through the Famine Rehabilitation Programme, has done a lot in this Province, as far as water and livestock are concerned. I want to thank the NGOs who are doing a lot of work to improve the living conditions in that part of Kenya.

In this Province, the Government has already brought administration closer to the people. It has created 46 divisions, 213 locations and 287 sub-locations. Again, there are four sub-districts in the Province. So, it is not right to say that the Government has neglected the Province.

The amendment will allow the Government to create districts of any number, in accordance with the need and availability of funds. Therefore, instead of sticking to three districts as in the original Motion, the amendment seeks to have as many additional districts as possible. This will be studied and I can assure you that the Government is looking into the matter. Depending on the availability of funds, the Government will implement the request of this Motion. I am sure you know that when the President started creating new districts, some people thought that he was doing it to gain political mileage.

I have heard Members from the opposite side saying that it is necessary to create new districts. One wonders what people want. The President is for the idea of bringing services closer to the people and that is why he has been creating new districts. Likewise, I am sure the Government here will consider creating additional districts requested to the number that is considered viable and also wherever it is actually necessary. It is important to make sure that districts are created wherever it is necessary depending on terrain, communication and other factors considered.

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

(Question, that the word to be left out be left out, proposed)

*(Question, that the word to be left out
be left out, put and agreed to)*

*(Question, that the words to be added
be added, proposed)*

Michuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to contribute on this Motion, not necessarily in order to go into issues that relate to the North-Eastern Province, but rather from the point of view of the rationale behind creating these districts.

Having been involved in a district where there has been balkanization of a district such as Murang'a, I am quite convinced that however much it maybe denied, most of the districts have been created for political reasons. In a place like Murang'a, the views of elected leaders, both at the Local Authority level and in this Parliament, were ignored despite the fact that Murang'a combined with Kiambu had the opportunity to go and see the Minister of State, Office of the President, and present a memorandum of which, to date, has never responded to. If you look at those districts that have been created in Murang'a, there is none of them which is viable. Viability must take into account the economic plight of an area because that area will require to produce revenue in order to enable the Local Authority to give services to the people. In the case of Murang'a, there has been nothing of this kind. Indeed, even the payments for the basic services have become completely impossible. The employees of Murang'a County Council are now going to the 11th month without pay. Before Gatanga and parts of Makuyu were taken away and before the whole district was divided into three, the County Council was able to meet the salaries of its employees. Today, it is not possible. The areas that used to produce coffee cess to assist in repairs of certain roads, were taken to Thika.

Therefore, the idea to divide Murang'a into three was political. It was meant to interfere with the unity of the people of Murang'a. But that is a very illusioned attitude. The people of Murang'a will remain united. It does not matter whether Murang'a is divided into ten districts, they have developed over the years their way of working together and thinking in the same way. Therefore, the Government should reconsider the situation in Murang'a. We have seen the so-called Headquarters of Maragua go to Makuyu. They were then moved to Mareira and then about a month ago, the DC moved at night, 9.00 p.m., back to Makuyu. Who knows whether they are going to move at midnight or at 3.00 a.m. back to Mareira? The people who were employed by the County Council of Murang'a and who came from Gatanga, which was moved to Thika and part of Makuyu, have been rejected by the Thika County Council. There is that confusion because nobody sat down to assess the viability of this area and how people relate in their work. Therefore, it is a pity that the so-called policy to bring services closer to the people have scattered and minimized the opportunities for services of people of the old Murang'a. The Government should reconsider this matter afresh.

We know that there has been political interest to balkanize Murang'a and this will never be acceptable to the people of Murang'a. It does not matter whether it takes 100 years, but it will never be acceptable to the people of Murang'a. And I speak in this vein as an elected leader from the area. Opinions were taken from people who were interested. In Murang'a, there is no KANU and to base decisions on very few people---

Hon. Members: That is Kamotho!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Planning and National Development (Dr. Misoi): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Michuki to make such an outrageous statement that there is no KANU in Murang'a when we have KANU branches and sub-branches and people living in that area? Is that in order!

Mr. Michuki: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not a point of order, as far as I am concerned. What I am saying is that the people of Murang'a were ignored in the whole exercise. The DDC decisions were completely ignored. Let me give you a very good instance: When Kangema which is my constituency was sub-divided into two administrative divisions, namely, Kangema and Mathioya, if the idea was really to bring services closer to the people, Kangema which had eight locations and which the local DDC and the DDC in Murang'a had recommended that it be divided into four locations because it had eight, and which then had equalised the population, this idea would not have been rejected in the Office of the President. The reason was, for the people of Rwathia to take their identity cards in Mathioya and, of course, from the political point of view, they are in Kangema Constituency. They took identity cards under Mathioya while remaining in Kangema Constituency, as devised by the Electoral Commission, in order to facilitate rigging in terms of registration.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, now that this has been done, and the Minister of State, Office of the President, is here, could he bring that location administratively back to Kangema? If the argument is to bring services closer to the people, who says that the DO of Mathioya who now has a population of over 7,000 people more than Kangema is more efficient than the DO in Kangema? Who says that he is more efficient, so that he is given more

locations if the idea was not rigging? Now that registration of new generation identity cards has taken place, could these people who constantly bring their representations to me be administratively brought back to Kangema? This should be done, so that the pressure of population is well distributed both administratively, as it had been done by the Electoral Commission, on political grounds?

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it should not be seen as if we did not know what the idea was. We knew it from the very beginning and we wanted to see how far you could go because you will not get votes in that area. Even in Mathioya.

*(Question, that the words
to be added be added, put and agreed to)*

(Question of the Motion as amended proposed)

Dr. Wako: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the Motion. It is very important to note that the Motion as amended necessitates the creation of additional districts. North-Eastern Province is part of the former Northern Frontier District (NFD) which was ignored by the Colonial Government.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Dr. Wako, you have only five minutes!

Dr. Wako: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker. It actually should be developed since the Colonial Government ignored its development. We appreciate that in Wajir District, two sub-districts have been created and therefore, the need for creating a new district. In Garissa and Mandera Districts, there are already two sub-districts namely: Ijara and Elwak which shows that there is a need to create a district there. The creation of new districts is vital and necessary because in the new Government policy on district focus, this brings the development focus to the district. It is from this particular district focus that the budget for the districts is being maintained. It is only through the budget that development can be enhanced in those areas. North-Eastern Province requires a marshall plan since it is under-developed, in order to reach the standards existing in the rest of the country. It is the only way which can ensure development takes place in North-Eastern Province.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to recommend that it is high time drought management in North-Eastern Province which is known for receiving famine relief food, put into place so that the people of North-Eastern Province do not remain famine relief dependants. This can be achieved if we drill boreholes. There are two rivers in North-Eastern Province, namely: Tana and Dawa which can be used for irrigation to enable people produce their own food. It is not difficult, because they are capable of producing enough food if things are put in place.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this problem exists because these people are pastoralists and the frequent droughts have rendered them poor. This can only be alleviated if the livestock industry can be well managed. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing should be in a position to develop marketing for the livestock farmers to enable them sell their produce easily. It is a big mistake that the only meat factories in this country are in Mombasa and Athi-River, but not in Northern Kenya. Northern Kenya being the highest producer of livestock, should have been the site of one of these meat factories. This would have ensured proper marketing of these animals and high livestock production for the meat industry which could in turn be exported out of the country. As a result of the harsh terrain in North-Eastern Province, there are no NGOs which create employment in that area. I would like to request the Government to introduce development projects in that area.

With these remarks, I support the Motion.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Mr Shidie, it is your time to reply.

Mr. Shidie: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will give five minutes of my time to hon. Farah.

Mr. Farah: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I stand up to support the Motion, and say that this province is very vast. Services are not available to most of the vast North-Eastern Province (NEP). Such basic things like schools, dispensaries, health centres, security units like a police posts or stations are not there. My constituency alone is bigger than the whole of Western and Nyanza provinces put together. When I want to tour it, it takes me one full month to cover the whole of it. I was there for one full week but I only managed to cover one-third of the constituency. I was there a week prior to my last visit and was only able to cover one-third of the constituency. I still have to go back for another one week so as to adequately cover the remaining parts. This is the time you need to cover the constituency unless you are literally driving through the constituency from one end to the other.

We are all interested in seeing the President tour a province and stop at trading centres and markets along main roads to talk to the people. You will never see this happening in the NEP. The only time the President covers the province in four or five days he has to fly from one point to another. In my opinion, the province should be split

into two. We need many more than three additional districts. The object is to have governance and services closer to Kenyans. Every time the President goes to NEP we only find him in Garissa, Wajir and Mandera Towns. You never find him in a division, location, sub-location or sub-district. We have never seen him in these areas for all these years.

This has been so because of the vastness of the province and, of course, because the province is not given priority in Government policy.

This province is like a buffer or frontier zone. If the Ethiopians or Somalis attack us this area will serve as a buffer zone for what is the "actual" Kenya - the NEP is a second class part of Kenya. We have seen the proliferation of districts, where Kiambu and Thika districts are close to one another. I need one hour to travel from one end to the other of these districts. Yet, I need days to move from one end of my constituency to the other. The same applies to the provision of all other services. Garissa Town, which is the provincial headquarters, does not have clean drinking water. When the President was there recently--- The normal way of providing water is to carry it on camels or donkeys from the river to the town for sale. This is because the town is not provided with sufficient water by the Government or any other authority. So, when the President was there all the camels carrying water were put out of sight, so that the President and senior Ministers did not see that "eye sore". The town went without water for that day.

Every time the President goes to Garissa Town people have to stop transporting water on camels a day in advance - they cannot be allowed to ferry water to the town on donkeys or camels.

We need more districts and services in them because this province is part of the country. If we keep on ignoring the plight of the people in that province then a day will come when they will also decide to ignore the country.

If tomorrow oil is found in NEP I will be the first person to say: "I am sorry that I am not going to share it with the rest of Kenyans". I know that there are no resources in that area: There is no oil, coffee or tea. Go to any place in NEP and you will think that you are somewhere in the famine and drought stricken and war-ravaged Somalia. You will not think that you are in Kenya.

Mr. Shidie: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, I wish to pay tribute to all the hon. Members who supported this Motion. These are Messrs Mzee, Arte, Ogeka, Michuki, Wako, Maundu, Ndilinge and Farah. The spirit in the House is overwhelmingly in favour of the Motion: Everybody wishes to support it. I want to assure the House that the districts we want will neither be ghost nor politically-correct ones. Since the colonial days nothing has changed in the NEP. We have districts like Kuria and Teso, which are very small. In fact, Teso was a sub-location the other day. Maragwa is barely nine kilometres from Muranga and yet it is a district.

The plight of the NEP can be addressed by providing it with more districts. We know very well that this House votes money to districts and not to locations or sub-locations. It is very clear that if we have to remove the people from abject poverty we must make sure that these new districts are created. I know that the creation of these districts will create employment and a "trickle down economics" situation. There will be many clerks, departmental heads, offices and construction work for district headquarters will take place. Naturally, the effects of all this activity will reach all over the province.

I would like to touch on water, which is a very important thing for the people in NEP. If water is provided in NEP, I have no doubt that it would develop. There is lack of security at the moment and the only way in which we can attain sustainable development is by drilling boreholes and making dams and using water for irrigation. We know very well that when you are in the NEP and want to travel outside the province people ask you: "Are you going to Kenya?" This is because they assume that Kenya is where we have tarmac roads and other forms of infrastructure. We cannot develop one region of the country and totally forget another one. At least we must move at the same pace in terms of development. But we in the NEP are about 200 years behind the rest of Kenya. For us to catch up, we must be provided with the right things like education and infrastructure. We must create wealth because without it nothing can work.

We want an abattoir to be established in northern Kenya, particularly in Garissa. This will enable us to slaughter our livestock there, put them in fridges and then transport them safely to Nairobi. This will be better for us than bringing the live animals to Nairobi, in which case they lose their weight. Again, when we bring them to Dandora we meet some thugs. Most of the people who sell their animals for slaughter lose their money in Dandora and Dagoretti. That is exactly, what we want to avoid.

We have really fought hard for this Government. In 1982 we quelled the attempted coup'. Our gallant sons fought very hard for the Government. We are part and parcel of this Government. We are very happy for what the Government has done for us. Important public positions have been given to us. But generally speaking, development has not reached the ground. The size of a constituency like Fafi is, perhaps, twice the size of Central Province. Its area is over 21,000 square kilometres. You can imagine what it is like. Lagdera Constituency is equally big.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are talking about a place, where people have been totally forgotten. It is high time something was done for them, if we are not going to have a cancerous growth. People say that there is some oil in the NEP. Exploration work should be undertaken there so that we can establish whether there is oil. At

one time we had exploration companies working there. We even do not know whether they dumped there some radioactive substances. We want the Government to find some money for oil exploration work. If oil is found there I am sure that the rest of Kenyans will start flocking to the NEP to look for jobs. Let us be scientific and not say there is oil when it may not be there.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

*(Question of the Motion as amended put
and agreed to)*

Resolved accordingly:

THAT, in view of the Government stated policy of bringing services closer to the people and considering the vastness of North-Eastern Province; further recognising the harsh terrain and the existing inadequate infrastructure; conscious of the historic under-development of the region and the need to bridge this gap; this House urges the Government to create additional districts in North-Eastern Province wherever necessary.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKERS BANK

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

THAT, in view of the fact that the National Social Security Fund does not benefit the workers until they attain their retirement age; this House calls upon the Government to establish a Workers Bank where the workers can get soft loans for investment purposes or for other personal use.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the 1960s and 1970s, the workers in this country used to earn, save and invest. But during the late 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the workers in Kenya have become more poorer than ever before. Although they own the richest single financial institution, in the name of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), unfortunately, the KANU Government has deliberately ignored the progress of workers in this country. The NSSF does not benefit the workers themselves. The institutions and the people who have benefited from the NSSF are those who are not contributors. Therefore, that is why I am proposing in this Motion that, it is better to have a bank through which the workers can benefit directly from the NSSF before they attain their retirement age. When somebody has retired, at that age, he is less productive. We want the workers to benefit from the NSSF when they are at very productive ages.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the problems in this country's economy which is making investment difficult is the high interest rates charged by the commercial banks and other lending institutions. If you go to a commercial bank today and you want to have a loan for investment, you cannot service the loan because of the high interest rates. Therefore, although the Government has good policies on domestic investment, those policies do not go a long way to assist the indigenous people to participate in domestic investments. No country can grow unless it has domestic investment and has all the indigenous people participating in the economy.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Minister to establish this bank and have branches throughout the country so that--- This is because the NSSF has the money. We are not going to look for money from anywhere. The Government cannot say that it has no money. The NSSF has enough money to establish a national bank for the workers throughout the country. The workers' money has been stolen with the blessings of this Government. There are some reasons why the workers cannot invest. When you look at the payslip of a worker at the end of the month, you will find that there are deductions relating to PAYE, Services Charge, National Hospital Insurance Fund, NSSF and the co-operative shares or loans. When you look at the bottom of that payslip, sometimes it reads minus because those deductions are against one package. Therefore, the workers of this country cannot manage; they are beggars now.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I was working, before I joined politics, I felt proud of working and even associating myself with my employer. But now, the workers are frustrated so much, so that, even at the end of the month, they are frustrated the more because when they look at their payslips--- Nobody bothers! The leaders only want to retain power at the expense of the workers. They do not mind about the workers. The reason why workers have been exploited in this country--- The KANU Government succeeded by ensuring that it controls the labour movement in the country. The labour movement which we have today is not the same as the one we had during hon. Denis Akumu's, time but the current labour movement is just like an extension of KANU policies. It is just an extension of KANU. That is why the workers in this country are so exploited that even their earnings cannot suffice for saving because as we are talking now, an average worker in Kenya feeds more than ten people on just one salary. These people cannot work, but they

are employable.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that as we talk about the reforms, we should also talk about reforms which benefit the welfare of the workers of this country. We should not talk about the reforms with the aim of coming to power. We should have the reforms which will affect the people we are living with and the very people we are representing. First of all, one area where we need reforms is the area of laws in this country because they are discriminative. I do not know why the NSSF has gone out of its way to buy land worth billions and depositing in institutions money, in billions, when the workers are so frustrated that to educate a child is a problem.

During the late Mzee Kenyatta's time, we had free education, but now, following the introduction of cost-sharing, workers cannot save anything. They can neither afford to save anything nor to eat three meals a day, although they are employed. If it were not for the introduction of *mitumba* clothes in this country, most Kenyans would be going in tatters. Most ordinary Kenyans wear *mitumba* because they cannot afford to buy new clothes from the shops.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think in the industrialised countries, during campaign periods like now, the Government comes up with a policy which affects the people. Creating more districts, chiefs and assistant chiefs does not help the economy. Actually, that is burdening the economy. The only way of improving our economy is to make our people credit-worthy so that they can invest and, through that investment, earn some income. But we are not doing that. The people who have access to credit facilities in this country are the rich or the very few people who are in the corridors of power. But an ordinary Kenyan worker has no access to credit facilities. There must be a policy so that an ordinary worker can earn, save and invest. We are all aware that without saving, you cannot invest and without investment you cannot earn. The Sessional Paper No.2 of 1997 on Industrial Transformation to the year 2020 which was laid on the Table of the House does not give solutions to these problems. But why can we not think about our people? We should think about the workers, welfare. You find the workers, even after retirement, still queuing at the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development for their money. Even if you go to the Ministry headquarters now, you will find them there. There are so many old *wazees* who have not been paid their money. This is the time, we should have transparency. I think the KANU Government should adjust itself to fit in this era of multi-partyism. It is now the time for us to have a government of the people. The President should also listen to the wishes of the people of this country because they are the employers of everyone in power. Why do I say so? Because in the labour force, the workers are denied their right through collective bargaining.

We want the President to leave this country better than he found it 18 years ago. We want the President to leave the country as he got it when Mzee Kenyatta died. People are complaining about the mismanagement of the economy, but nobody listens. The privatisation which has been taking place in this country is full of corruption. I know there is a secret policy of dictators, of making the people poorer so that they can control and manipulate them easily during their tenure. This is one way in which they ensure that they can retain their leadership. But when Mobutu, one of the dictators, died yesterday, it was sad because I read in the daily newspapers that there were no tears for him in Kinshasa. He was quoted as being worth US\$7 billion, but unfortunately, he died. He did not die with the US\$7 billion, and unfortunately, that money is not in Zaire now, it is in a frozen account somewhere outside the country. Why are our leaders robbing their nations to retain power? Why are the relatives of the powerful leaders in this country being quoted as having participated in the highest scandals as if they are in transit? It is shameful to see the son of the President quoted as having done this and that.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Mr. Kiliku, you are now going out of context.

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want this Government to mind about the workers. Otherwise, when the workers decide to go on strike, the Government will not survive. That will be the end of it and we have seen this happen in many countries. Civil servants are even denied their constitutional right of movement outside this country. They cannot go anywhere during the holidays or weekends. Following the liberalisation of the economy, a simple worker should have the choice to go to Dubai and South Africa over the weekend, bring in things from those countries to sell, and then report on duty on Monday. What is the problem of giving them that freedom? But the civil servant is denied all those rights. Why? Because they do not want the people of this country to get rich, they want them to grow poorer so that when they dish out money during the campaign time like now, they are voted in.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is now time for the Minister to come up and support this Motion and tell us when they are going to establish this bank. I would like to emphasise here that the members of this bank should be the workers of this country, not anybody else. The money is there. I do not know whether the Minister is aware that the workers do not support the idea of the Government wanting to transform this National Social Security Fund (NSSF) into a pension scheme. No one wants this to be turned into a pension scheme. It is their money and they should be heard.

We have been fooled for some time, having been told that harambees can bring development. Harambee is a charity which can help in some causes, but it cannot develop individuals. It has been misused in this country. It is another way of taking the very income of the workers because during harambees, we are

now called upon to build primary and secondary schools as well as other institutions, just from one income. There is no employment.

The failure of this Government is now being seen through the people. You can see the failure of a parent through his children and his wife. So, we are seeing the Government's failure through the people. You need just to go outside this Parliament during lunch hour and see for yourself the big crowds praying that Jesus Christ may come back to save them as he did in the olden days. You can also see the failures of the Government through its institutions, hospitals and other places. As I talk here now, there are children of this country crying, who do not know whether or not they will sit for the national examinations. There are many dead people at the Coast General Hospital mortuary as a result of the Likoni clashes. These people have died at the hands of the Government, yet we are told that this Government loves children. These are some of the failures of the Government: People have been killed, they are still being killed and nobody seems to be bothered.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government statement that we were promised on the Likoni clashes is not yet out. This is an irresponsible Government because people are being killed yet nobody is bothered.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Ali): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Can hon. Kiliku stick to the Motion so that we may get the benefit of knowing the requirements of the Motion instead of misleading this nation regarding the killings of children at Likoni?

Mr. Kiliku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was just elaborating about the failures of the Government.

Anyway, with those few points, I beg to move and through you, ask hon. Munyasia to second the Motion.

Mr. Munyasia: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. In this Motion we are drawing the attention of the House to the welfare of the workers. The workers have been contributing a lot of money to the NSSF. This Motion is necessary because the NSSF investment policies have been very bad and appalling. We have seen the NSSF speculating on land purchases and millions of workers' money have been spent buying land that has not been developed and whose development has not even been planned before. This is why this Motion has come up. We are saying that it is necessary to have a workers bank. There is a lot of money in this country that workers raise. So, such a bank would not lack deposits. In fact, if the Government was serious in collecting NSSF contributions from all eligible workers and employers, there would be so much money to collect. This country would benefit so much from those savings.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think this Ministry knows what is happening because we report some of these things to this Ministry, that there are many employers who keep their workers as casuals for long periods. Even parastatals are involved. I have drawn the attention of this Ministry to cases whereby restaurants for instance here in Nairobi workers continue working for over 10 to 15 years and receive daily payments. The restaurants know that they need waiters and yet at the end of the day they pay them as casuals. So, by doing that, they are contravening the law. So, they cannot make any contributions to the NSSF. What I am saying is that there is so much money that can be collected only if this Ministry had been serious in collecting these monies and penalising those who try to cheat or flout the law.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if there was a workers bank, maybe such a bank would have its policies directed at benefiting the worker or invested in projects that would benefit the worker. I am thinking that it would be possible, for instance, to go a little beyond in securing old age workers' package by looking at other aspects of the workers. In particular, I am thinking of workers who get laid off every now and then. We have the textile industries that are closing down now. Many experienced and skilled workers have been laid off. It is possible that these textiles will be revived, but workers get shocked when they are suddenly told by the employer: "You have got to go home because we cannot continue working at a loss". If this Government introduced a scheme whereby the employer would contribute a little percentage and the worker from his salary also contributes another percentage, this would go into the same workers bank and it would take care of this worker at a time when it might become necessary to declare him redundant for a short period. This is happening in other countries. In Chile for instance, a worker could continue drawing a salary for up to about five months before he finds another job. This is happening in Chile and it can happen here. So, I am saying that there is so much money that can be tapped and help workers not only in their old age, but also when they lose employment for a little while.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, they would of course, have to ask for loans also from those banks if they have accounts and they would be drawing money against the deposits or against the benefits that would accrue to them when they mature. So, those would be loans that they would repay. When we are thinking about workers who have been laid off. I mentioned the textile industry where workers have been laid off for some time now. We also have a serious situation cropping up for instance in Malindi where hotels like Blue Club, Jambo Club, Temple Site *et cetera*. These hotels have closed down. Jambo Club, for instance, has 107 workers. Blue Club has 86 workers. Scorpio which expected to recruit another 50 workers during this high season has, in fact, had to reduce its staff and all this is due to

what is happening in Mombasa and because of the burning of the curio kiosks in Malindi. These workers are now suffering and we are saying that if they had been such arrangements like unemployment insurance schemes, they would now be sustained by that particular bank.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the teachers have a lot of money also. They have their burial and benevolent funds which would easily be channelled to such a workers bank which in turn would make the payments to the teachers when the time comes for the teachers to apply. When we are talking about the workers, it is important that we also talk about the promises that we have made to them. When the Government started the retrenchment policy, they explained to the workers that they would now employ fewer workers, but pay them very well. That would have made the workers more efficient. It is likely that if the workers employed by the Government were paid very well that this would have an effect also on the private sector. This is because if the private sector wants to get workers, they would have to pay a little more attractively than the Government. We have not seen anything about enhanced salaries resulting from the retrenchment. We hear of things which are unbelievable. The Government has increased the salaries of civil servants by up to 30 per cent for the lowest worker. I have worked out this and the lowest worker has had his salary increased by only 25 per cent. So, why is this Government lying to the people that they have increased by 30 per cent when it is only 25 per cent? That is the maximum that we have ever raised the lowest worker's salary.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also very concerned about the teachers. They are also restricted now in employment. They have refused to employ teachers from private teachers' training colleges. So, one would expect that the salaries of the teachers to be enhanced. The salaries of the teachers are supposed to be negotiated by Teachers Remuneration Committee which was established under the Teachers Service Commission Act, section 13. Section 13(2) says:-

"THAT, the Committee shall consists of the Chairman appointed by the Minister and five persons of whom three shall be nominated from time to time by the Minister and two, shall be nominated from time to time by the Commission. The union will only have five".

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister was represented in the discussions during the Teachers Remuneration Committee and then they drew good recommendations that would have enhanced the teachers salary.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Teachers Service Commission Act, section 14(3), says:-

"Upon receipt of any recommendations agreed by the committee, the Minister shall, after preparing a draft order to give effect to those recommendations and after consulting the committee with respect to that draft and considering any representations made by the committee with respect thereto, make and publish in gazette and order directing that the remuneration of teachers---"

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Order, Mr. Munyasia. Your time is up!

(Question proposed)

Mr. Sambu: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me time to speak on this important Motion on workers.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a well-known fact that when our workers or those who are lucky to have been in employment up to the early age of 55 years - because at 55 years people are still very productive. In the first place, having reduced the retirement age from 65 to 55 years, we did not take into consideration the amount of unemployment in this nation. But that as it may, when somebody has retired, getting the benefits is a problem. Many hon. Members will agree with me that most of the jobs we do is to write letters to NSSF or Treasury soliciting payments of benefits to the retired workers whom we represent.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is so much frustration when somebody has retired as a teacher or a policeman going to claim his benefits direct from NSSF. Files do not "move" because hands must be greased. People who come from the rural areas have to do a lot of bribing here. By the time, they get paid their benefits they have spent half of it in getting files to "move".

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if a workers bank was established, somebody would only go to the branch of that bank. The Minister will say that NSSF has branches in the country, but those branches do nothing. People go there, but finally they have to come and chase their file in Nairobi.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we establish workers bank, then the workers who retire could get their benefits directly from branches of that bank. The only proof would be the document to show that he had been employed.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we say that people should create capital ventures when they retire. The amount of money paid to the majority of Kenyan workers is so small that the only thing they could start is a kiosk. There would never be any major capital investment. An investor should create an investment that is big enough to employ many others. But the amount of benefits they are paid is so tiny. I would propose that, whereas the

Government borrows money from the banking agencies abroad at very low rate, for example, we hear they borrow at a rate of 8 per cent or a rate 10 per cent and then Government lends it to the local banks which then lend it to our people at a rate of 24-25 per cent. I would propose that the Government should establish its bank, borrow money from abroad and inject it in the bank for the workers to borrow money at concessionary rates and establish their own businesses.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we started the Kenya Industrial Estates (KIE) as a bank or a financial institution for the Government. But it is no more. They have no funds. The only thing they do now is to repossess a project because the Treasury or whoever was lending money to it gave it at such high rate that when it was lending Kenyans money to start projects, the scheme could not work because the rates were just too high. Instead of the Government getting money from abroad getting and lending it to the commercial banks and yet it will be the taxpayers who will repay the money, it should be put into workers bank like this proposed one so that people can borrow and establish businesses.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the rate of unemployment is too high. All Kenyans, not only this Government, must do something. In fact, the problem in this area, some people claim it is as a result of tribalism. It is not tribalism. There are two tribes nowadays in Kenya, the tribe of those who have and those who do not have. When we go to the streets, 10 o'clock in the morning, all streets are full of people who are idle. If you ask them what they are doing, they are looking for jobs. We have to create a conducive climate so that we get investors, not necessarily investors from abroad, but even Kenyans investors. There are projects that we can establish to employ our young people who are in their productive age, but they are jobless at the moment.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, people will always say that hon. Sambu talked about land. Agriculture is the biggest employer in this nation. It is the biggest GDP creator in this nation. Land must be spread evenly so that more people are employed. These colonial companies which own huge tracts of land must be made to surrender this land so that our people can be employed. How does one Mzungu in London own ten thousand acres of Nandi Hills? How do you justify that when people are on the streets unemployed? If we can sub-divide these huge tea land and sugar estates we will employ more of our people. The way it is now is so sad when majority of our people earn nothing. I believe that we should make people work by giving them the resources and creating jobs for them. While asking for a workers bank, I would also like to suggest that the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) should be transformed into a farmers bank. If this is done, one would for example, walk to the AFC branch in Eldoret, present his title deed and get money to go and plant his crops. The way it is now, the farmer spends a lot of money chasing a small loan which is meant to assist him to buy seeds or animal feeds for his livestock. We have to decentralise some of the things that are centralised in Nairobi.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of teachers' salaries is a pertinent issue at this time. It serves no purpose to tell the teachers not to go on strike. We have to balance all the things. The teachers are the most lowly paid workers in this nation. I know that the Teachers Service Remuneration Committee gave them up to 200 per cent. They have to realise that 200 per cent salary increase cannot be sustained by the economy. But a 2 per cent award is too low for the people who mould our children into future citizens of this nation. The Ministries of Labour and Education will have to do better than this. How much money has gone into wrong pockets in this country? We have heard of the scandals involving huge amounts of money. If we gave our teachers 30 per cent or 40 per cent, that would go a long way into inducing them to work harder. The Teachers Service Commission should be decentralised, so that the paying point should be the District Education's offices. If one went to Co-operative House now, where the TSC offices are situated, the floors are full of teachers seeking to solve problems about their pay which has been deducted or those ones who have gone on retire and have not been paid their dues for the last three years. Some of these things should be decentralised for efficiency. It is sad that teachers have to leave their classrooms for many hours to come and chase house allowances or for those who have retired to spend all their money by coming to Nairobi to get their dues paid.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Mathenge: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the chance to contribute on this Motion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the intention of this Motion is good but what is most intriguing is whether after passing this Motion, the Government will implement it. Since I came to this Parliament nearly five years ago, we have passed many Motions but I have seen only one Motion followed up and implemented only for one year, and later scrapped. That was the Motion on Presumptive Tax. I cannot remember any other Motion passed here, having been followed up by the Government and implemented. Every month, colossal sums of money are collected at NSSF through the contributions of the workers of this nation. But if you look at how that money is spent, you will find that most of the beneficiaries are well-connected politicians or business tycoons in this country. Tycoons and politicians find it easier than the ordinary workers to have access to NSSF money. As a result, the rich continue to

be richer and the poor continue to be poorer. It seems as if the Government is not really mindful of its own people and often the Government acts contrary to our motto "For the Welfare of Society and the Just Government of Men", and women as well.

If this Government was very serious about the improvement of the welfare of our people, it should establish a banking section within the NSSF like we do with the coffee co-operative societies which run banking services for the welfare of their members. I am a member of a coffee co-operative society which has a very good banking section, and I am also a contributor to this Fund. Therefore, I would like to see better utilisation of NSSF funds which will help the workers. I pay NSSF contributions for my workers, yet, I see no improvement in their living standards. The Government should allow the workers to have easy access to this money instead of investing it on prestigious projects in the country which do not seem to benefit the contributors.

If we established a banking section and allowed it to receive and consider applications from workers for loans to build houses either in the rural or urban centres where workers will like to build their future homes, this country will appear to be developing towards prosperity. But as it is now, you get these highrise buildings in town, and we do not get a real picture of how this money is spent while the poor workers continue to languish in poverty. Is the Government not interested in the welfare of the workers whose services are so important that, because of their hard work, this Government collects large sums of money every month, every year? The Government should consider doing some tangible work for the benefit of those who help it.

We have our people who have elected us to be their spokesmen in this House---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Time up! Mr. Mathenge, you will continue next time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ndotto): Order! It is now time to adjourn the House. Therefore, the House now stands adjourned until this afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.30 p.m.