

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 13th October, 2004

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.519

REMOVAL OF KATIKOMOR
ADMINISTRATION POLICE POST

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Moroto not here? We will leave his Question until the end.
Next Question, Mr. Sang!

Question No.522

CONSTRUCTION OF BURET
DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

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

(a) whether the Government funded the construction of the new Buret District Headquarters; and,

(b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, to what extent and in what form.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request for the indulgence of the House to answer Questions Nos. 522 and 524 later, because we were slightly late in getting the answers to the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will try during the second round.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Question No.542

TERMINAL BENEFITS FOR
CORPORAL OOKO JUMA

Question No.563

COMPLETION OF RHAMU
RURAL TRADE/PRODUCTION CENTRE

Mr. Billow asked the Minister for Planning and National Development:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the Rhamu Rural Trade and Production Centre in Mandera District has not been completed since its inception in early 1990;
- (b) how much money had gone into the project by the time it stalled; and,
- (c) when the project is going to be completed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Anyone here from the Ministry of Planning and National Development? We will come back to the Question.

Next Question by Mr. Mukiri!

Question No.689

CONSTRUCTION WORKS ON
PIPELINE-MAU NAROK ROAD

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

- (a) what work is currently being undertaken on Pipeline-Mau Narok Road (D320);
- (b) whether he could disclose how many contracts exist and how the tendering was done; and,
- (c) why the Government has relented in its efforts to arrest and charge the so-called "cowboy contractors" who have defrauded the Government.

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

(a) The works being undertaken on Pipeline-Mau Narok Road (D320) are improvement of drainage and construction of pavement layers.

(b) There are five contracts. The first was awarded to Krishan Behal through competitive open tender by the Nakuru District Tender Board. The other four contracts were awarded through variation orders.

(c) The Government has not relented in its effort to arrest and charge the so-called "cowboy contractors". Contractors who have failed to perform have been blacklisted and the Ministry is no longer awarding them any contracts.

Mr. Mukiri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Assistant Minister tell us why there was a need to have five contracts on this road and how much did the Government pay for each contract?

Eng. Toro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me give a detailed chronology of events about this contract enable the hon. Member know what happened.

The first phase started with the re-gravelling of Lanet-Elmentaita-Mau Narok Road, which is 43 kilometres. This contract was awarded to Krishan Behal and funded by USAID at a contract sum of Kshs67,977,109.50. This was paid and completed.

Thereafter, there followed a chronology of variation orders which were awarded to the same contractor to upgrade the road to bitumen status. The first improvement was between Lanet and Elmentaita, which covers 20 kilometres. It was to be a carriageway of six metres at a contract sum of Kshs141,573,096. This was completed and the contractor was paid.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other one was a variation order to cover 23 kilometres from Elmentaita to Mau Narok, which is 23 kilometres, at a contract sum of Kshs187,254,914. This work was stopped after only 5.7 kilometres because the first seven kilometres had pavement failure. It was stopped so that the engineers could investigate why it failed.

The other variation order was to take care of the shoulders. The first two variation orders were only for the carriageway for six meters. It was found that the shoulders also needed to be upgraded to bitumen status. So, the other variation order was for the 20 kilometres for the

shoulders between Elmentaita and Lanet. This was at a contract sum of Kshs120,492,908.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Assistant Minister, how long are you going to continue?

Eng. Toro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am finishing. I am summarizing.

An hon. Member: Is that really a summary?

Eng. Toro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am giving a summary. The other contract sum for the shoulders was Kshs149,686,806. This was not done because the work was stopped. Thereafter, another valuation order, which was not official, was given for Kshs124,024,452, and a sum of Kshs106 million was paid to the contractor. I cannot trace how this contract was given to the contractor. In total, the contract sum for the work was Kshs666,584,834.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Eng. Toro, I will have to stop you because your answer to the Question is taking too long.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important because I have the details.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, but some answers can be given in writing.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was just giving the contract sum before I finish. It is Kshs666,584,834. To date, the amount of money that has been paid out is Kshs481,651,294.

Eng. Nyamunga: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister should just tell us that this was single sourcing. There is no way you can start with a contract of Kshs67 million and go on varying it to this level. I believe this was done through single sourcing and the Assistant Minister should be frank and tell the House that over Kshs600 million was used in negotiating for the contract.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. What happened is that in 1997, we used to have the District Tender Boards (DTB). These boards were very powerful and they would award contracts at the district level. This particular award was initially meant for gravelling. The same DTB decided to upgrade the road to bitumen standards. So, the board wrote to the Ministry seeking to know whether money would be available. When it was given an okay, the board went for single sourcing. The contractor was still on the ground and the board decided that the Valuation Order, No.1 up to four, should go to the same contractor.

Mr. Mukiri: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree that time is of essence. However, this Question is very important. Over Kshs600 million has been used on a road that is not 30 kilometres long. At the moment, the road has not been done. I wish to thank the Assistant Minister because I was told that he visited the road the other day. The Assistant Minister has already told us that Kshs124 million cannot be accounted for. Could he tell us why Krishan Behal has not been arrested and taken to court because this is a case of defrauding the Government? Work has not been done on the road.

Eng. Toro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I asked the Chair to defer this Question until today, it was because I intended to visit the road. I went there on Friday. It is true that the road is in a deplorable condition. Most of the pavement has failed and we are going to do a final audit on this road to find out how much this contractor was overpaid. If he was overpaid, we shall request for a refund. We are also going to terminate the contract because up to now determination of the contract has not been done. All the same, we are taking action.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Mukiri, no! That Question has taken more than ten minutes of our time!

Question No.575

SUPPLY OF BOOKS TO KOIBATEK

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Korir is not present?
Next Question!

*Question No.376*DEATHS CAUSED BY MALARIA
IN SUBA DISTRICT

Mr. Kajwang asked the Minister for Health:-

(a) how many children between the ages of one and five died of malaria between January, 1998 and January, 2004 in Suba District; and,

(b) what plans the Government has to launch a campaign for the containment of the mosquito menace by mass spraying of the breeding grounds using DDT as was done in the 1970s.

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

(a) We are not able to give accurate figures due to malaria deaths between 1998 to 2004 as requested by the hon. Member. In the meantime, we shall dispatch an audit team to investigate the record-keeping at the district hospital. The relevant information will be tabled within one month from today.

(b) The Ministry of Health has no plans to carry out mass spraying of mosquito breeding grounds using DDT as was done in the 1970s. The reasons why DDT cannot be used are:-

(i) DDT is one of the dirty dozen chemicals/pesticides which are termed as persistent organic pollutants (POP) which are earmarked for phasing out as stipulated by the Stockholm Convention which Kenya signed in May, 2001. The Stockholm Convention only allows DDT for indoor spraying in countries where there are no alternative insecticides. Kenya produces 80 per cent of the world's pyrethrum and pyrethroid-based insecticides are effective against mosquito larvae and adults. The Pyrethrum Board of Kenya produces pymos for spraying houses, larvex for spraying mosquito breeding sites and pynet for treating mosquito nets. They are available in the market and the Ministry will use these locally produced insecticides to fight malaria.

(ii) DDT is harmful to both human health and the environment. It bioaccumulates in the human system and does not biodegrade easily; that is, it persists in the environment for decades. Human beings can get DDT---

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, Mr. Konchella! Hon. Ministers, I am getting into trouble with my colleagues. Please, be precise in your answers. Some of the answers you are giving are too long and they are like Ministerial Statements. Please, answer the Question so that we can invite supplementary questions.

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Konchella): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was giving reasons why Kenya cannot introduce the use of DDT.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: But the Question is: What plans does the Government have?

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Konchella): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government plans to use the locally available pyrethroid to fight the vector.

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Assistant Minister for giving us a very useless answer. First of all, he does not even know how many children are dying as a result of malaria. I want to advise him that 35,000 children die of malaria annually. Eight million children are treated annually as out-patients nationally, and 20 per cent of our hospital beds are

occupied by malaria-infected patients. The Assistant Minister is talking as if the answer was written by somebody from the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and not the Ministry of Health. So, what is it about this pyrethroid based insecticides? How much money has the Government put in the budget this year to control the vector? Please, do not just talk about theories when people are dying.

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have funds from the Global Fund and the Ministry budget to fight malaria. We have resorted to pyrethroid-based insecticides to fight the vector. I wish to mention that the we do not have sufficient funds to do what is required of us; that is, to spray all the mosquito breeding grounds in the whole country.

Dr. Khalwale: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I agree that DDT is poisonous, could the Assistant Minister tell us what insecticide he intends to use to eradicate malaria?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have just said that the Ministry will use pymos for spraying houses, larvex for spraying mosquito breeding sites and pynet for treating of mosquito nets. That is how we intend to fight the vector.

Dr. Oburu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like the Assistant Minister to elaborate his answer. It appears that he is misleading the House that the amount of money he is going to use will be sourced from Global Fund. As far as we know, there is no money coming from Global Fund because the monies which were released earlier on were misused. Money from Global Fund is not forthcoming, and so the Assistant Minister is misleading the House. Could he explain?

Mr. Konchella: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have had discussions with Global Fund and other development partners to try and fight the vector through public health programmes. So, these are the funds that we are negotiating with our own partners. We shall also use our money in providing treatment and fighting the vector through public health programmes.

Eng. Muriuki: Another measure that the Government can employ in controlling the spread of tsetse flies is by producing sterile male tsetse flies. Could the Assistant Minister consider producing sterile mosquitoes so that they cannot produce more?

Mr. Konchella: I am not aware of any engineered system of producing sterile mosquitoes.

Mr. Kajwang: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has spoken elaborately against DDT. Could he confirm or deny that South Africa re-introduced DDT only three years ago, and only after two years of using it, they have reduced malaria infections by 75 per cent? Could he also confirm that Tanzania has also applied for exemption from the Stockholm Convention so that they can use DDT to control malaria? Why is Kenya refusing to do what others are doing to control malaria as we watch our children die?

Mr. Konchella: South Africa may have done so, but they are learning the consequences of their use of DDT, in that cancer and other related illnesses are already on the increase in that country. A country like Mauritius has already realised that 5 per cent of the mortality rate of children below the age of five die because of cancer which is brought about by the use of DDT. Kenya will certainly not take a risk because our agricultural produce and fish will not be exported to Europe once we use DDT. Use of DDT whether for industries or otherwise, will cause other people to use it in the farms. They will in turn dispose of it in the rivers and this will destroy the fish. I am sure the hon. Member would not want the fish market to be destroyed in that part of the country.

Question No.583

STD FACILITY FOR BUTULA DIVISION

Prof. Mango asked the Minister for Information and Communications:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Butula Division is serviced by a manual telephone exchange; and,
(b) what urgent measures he is taking to install a Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) facility in the division.

The Assistant Minister for Information and Communications (Mr. Were): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask for the indulgence of the House to answer this Question next week.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Why?

The Assistant Minister for Information and Communications (Mr. Were): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the information that we got was not sufficient to enable us answer the Question.

Prof. Mango: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Question has been brought to the House since the last Session. I would have thought that the Assistant Minister could have found time to get sufficient answer. In the absence of that I will go along with him and accept that the Question be deferred to next week.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I hope the Assistant Minister has taken note of the sentiments expressed by Prof. Mango. This is not a new Question. It was here even last time. The Question is deferred until Thursday, next week.

(Question deferred)

Question No.589

CONSTRUCTION OF SUB-STANDARD
BUILDINGS IN URBAN AREAS

Mr. Mwandawiro asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) whether he is aware that most buildings/houses in urban areas, and particularly Nairobi are poorly built, unfinished, unpainted and make our cities very ugly while endangering lives; and,
(b) what steps he is taking to correct this.

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

(a) I am aware.

(b) I have taken the following steps to rectify the situation. I have instructed all local authorities, vide Ministerial Circular No.MLG/5/40 of 12th August, 2004, to exercise authority vested on them under Local Authority Act, Cap.265, Laws of Kenya; the Physical Planning Act, Cap.286, and Public Health Act, Cap.242, Laws of Kenya.

Mr. Mwandawiro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the Assistant Minister is aware that our cities are ugly, poorly built and a danger to the lives of the people of Kenya. I am also happy that the Assistant Minister is aware that there are laws which, if the Government were to implement, would have solved this problem in our country. When will the Government ensure that the laws which we make here are implemented?

Mr. Kamanda: We have instructed all local authorities to enforce the by-laws. Since August, when we sent out our circular, 582 cases have been arrested in Nairobi alone and taken to court.

Mr. Ndolo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, early this year some structures in my area, which belonged to the City Council, were demolished. The Ministry concerned promised the people that they would repair those houses and do all the structures which were demolished. If I am not mistaken, his area was not affected. It is only my area which was affected. What will the Assistant

Minister do now to make sure that my area is repaired while he is there?

Mr. Kamanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all areas in Nairobi were affected. The hon. Member knows very well that Nairobi City Council cannot even afford to pay its staff their salaries because they have not collected enough revenue. Once funds are available at the City Council, they will be able to repair the council houses.

Mr. Manoti: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we know that so many buildings have collapsed in this city and other towns of this country because of poor supervision from the relevant authorities. Could the Assistant Minister tell us why they have not supervised these buildings and given out completion certificates before these houses are occupied?

Mr. Kamanda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, enforcement of these by-laws has not been done for more than 20 years. Now, the Ministry has directed the councils to enforce the by-laws of planning.

Mr. Mwandawiro: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are being told that the Government has given out instructions that the by-laws be followed. What will happen if they are not followed, and what is the framework so that we can start seeing Nairobi and other cities being beautiful, houses being painted and pavements being made?

Mr. Kamanda: We will take action, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is, what framework do you have to advance the ideas for correction purposes?

Mr. Kamanda: There are by-laws governing building plans and---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, hon. Members! Let the Assistant Minister answer!

Mr. Kamanda: If the law is not followed, the Minister has powers to enforce the law or even to have those officers who do not enforce those laws either to be sacked or to be taken to court.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Mbai!

Question 426

MOTORBOATS FOR EKALAKALA
/MUTHESYA RESIDENTS

Mr. Mbai asked the Minister for Regional Development Authorities:-

- (a) whether he is aware that Ekalakala and Muthesya Locations have been separated by waters from Masinga Dam;
- (b) whether he is further aware that many people have been killed by hippopotamus while crossing this dam by manual canoes; and,
- (c) what urgent measures he is taking to ensure that these people are provided with motorboats.

The Assistant Minister for Regional Development Authorities (Mr. Odoyo): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that Ekalakala and Muthesya Locations have been separated by waters from Masinga Dam. This happened in 1981 when the dam was impounded. In fact, the waters cut off Ekalakala Location from Muthesya, Kikule, Mathenge, Kiatinini and Namanja Locations in Machakos District.

(b) Yes, indeed, there have been some few reports of attacks, but the latest position from

the local population was that one person was killed in the last two years and one other person injured.

(c) The Ministry has no immediate plans to provide motorboats for use by the local people in the area. However, my Ministry is seeking funds for a lasting solution to the problem.

Mr. Mbai: You have heard what the Assistant Minister has said. He has confirmed that people have been attacked and killed by hippopotamus as they cross the dam by manual-driven canoes. Could the Assistant Minister be specific as to how soon they are going to assist these people so that they can have something that can scare these hippopotamus from attacking them?

Mr. Odoyo: The deaths and injuries were reported to the Kenya Wildlife Service, and I believe that the hon. Member can follow this issue up with the relevant Ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Last question, Mr. Mbai!

Mr. Mbai: Given the fact that the residents of these two locations were not compensated for their land when this dam was constructed, could the Assistant Minister compensate these people so that they can buy motorboats?

Mr. Odoyo: Yes, we have directed Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA), on whose mandate this particular dam falls under, to investigate and inform us how much money was paid as compensation. At that point, we shall be able to discuss the possibility of a review, and in which case, his request for motorboats will be considered then. Thank you, Mr. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. Now, for the second time, Mr. Moroto!

Question 519

REMOVAL OF KATIKOMOR
ADMINISTRATION POLICE POST

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is Mr. Moroto still absent? His Question is, therefore, dropped!

(Question dropped)

Next Question, Mr. Sang!

Question 522

CONSTRUCTION OF BURET
DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

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

(a) whether the Government funded the construction of the new Buret District Headquarters; and,

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, to what extent and in what form?

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

(a) Yes, the Government funded the construction of the new Buret District Headquarters.

(b) Buret District Headquarters was started as a community project. The community requested the Government to assist in the completion of the construction of this project, and the Government funded the project to the extent of using Kshs15,850,000 through the AIE system. Thank you.

Mr. Sang: It is true that this is a community-based project started in 1999, and it was on the understanding---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Obwocha, please, would you tone down your conversation?

Mr. Sang: Buret District was established with one condition, that the residents were ready to construct the district headquarters. The community is not aware about the request made to the Government to complete the project. So, the question is; Since the residents funded the project to the tune of about Kshs40 million, who now owns this headquarters?

Mr. Mungatana: As I have said earlier, the Government has put in Kshs15,850,000, and the community has put its component in it. So, we own the project jointly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Last Question, Mr. Sang!

Mr. Sang: The Kshs11 million was given in the form of furniture. The land on which the headquarters stand was bought by the community. Indeed, the community did three Harambees where Kshs40 million was raised. Chiefs and assistant chiefs, who are about 80, each contributed 10 tonnes of sand and 50 bags of cement. So, what the Government owns in the headquarters is only furniture. That does not entitle you to ownership or a share of ownership!

(Applause)

So, what the citizens are now asking is: When will the Government start paying rent, because this is their building?

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Assistant Minister, the gist of the matter is that the citizens own the project, and you own the furniture. So, the hon. Member is saying that you are tenants and you should pay rent.

Mr. Mungatana: First, I want to express the Government's gratitude for the community spirit that was shown by the people of Buret District. May you keep it up. But we own this project jointly, and we are the ones who are going to sustain the project in terms of maintenance, keeping it running, painting and everything else. It is our project; let us say it is "Our people-driven project" or "The Kenyan people project". Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Next Question, Archbishop Ondiek!

Question 542

TERMINAL BENEFITS FOR
CORPORAL OOKO JUMA

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is Archbishop Ondiek absent for the second time? His Question is, therefore, dropped!

(Question dropped)

Next Question, Mr. Billow!

*Question 563*COMPLETION OF RHAMU
RURAL TRADE/PRODUCTION CENTRE

Mr. Billow asked the Minister for Planning and National Development:-

- (a) whether he is aware that the Rhamu Rural Trade and Production Centre in Mandera District has not been completed since its inception in early 1990;
- (b) how much money had gone into this project by the time it stalled; and,
- (c) when will this project be completed?

The Assistant Minister for Planning and National Development (Mr. Lesrima): Mr. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to apologise for coming late. This was necessitated by the fact that the answer was not ready and not also signed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that Rhamu Rural Trade and Production Centre in Mandera District has not been completed since its inception in early 1990.

(b) The total amount spent to date by time the project stalled is Kshs24,139,672.

(c) It is expected that the prioritised project components in the work plan in place at the district will be substantially completed this financial year with the remaining spilling over into the next financial year.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the project contract sum was Kshs14 million, and you heard the Assistant Minister say they have spent Kshs24 million to date. In his written answer, they still have another Kshs19 million to be spent, yet this project is not substantially complete. However, those payments were all certified by the Ministry and paid to the contractor. Moreover, there is still a pending bill of Kshs44 million to be paid to that contract. I would like the Assistant Minister to tell the House why the Ministry certified this project payment of the full amount of Kshs14 million, plus an additional Kshs11 million, and yet, the project has not been completed, and they are still entertaining another Kshs44 million pending bill?

Mr. Lesrima: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the time this project was being implemented in 1990/91, the total certified amount was Kshs14,271,395.05. At that time, it was considered that 90 per cent of the job was completed. The contractor abandoned the site because there were no adequate funds by 1991 to complete the project. Basically, the claim of Kshs12 million that was later on paid, was paid in 1996, and these were claims arising out of loss of business, interest and the issue of claims when the contract was stopped.

On the pending bill of Kshs44 million, the Ministry is not in agreement with that, and the bills are with the Ministry of Roads and Public Works for valuation. But we are not in agreement with it.

Dr. Galgallo: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is something which seems to be amiss here. A project which was supposed to be completed at Kshs14 million is not complete after Kshs24 million has been pumped into it. We are told that to complete it, it still requires another Kshs19 million. The Assistant Minister says it was 90 per cent complete. If the project was 90 per cent complete, what work is remaining that will cost Kshs19 million to complete?

Mr. Lesrima: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I suspect that the work must have deteriorated over a period of time, necessitating the Ministry of Roads and Public Works to go back and do the evaluation again last year. It was while doing this evaluation that they discovered that Kshs19 million more was required to complete the project.

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it looks like public funds have been wasted here because there is no proper planning and implementation of projects or probably because of other

reasons. Could the Assistant Minister tell us what action he is going to take against those responsible for wasting these public funds in such a useless manner?

Mr. Lesrima: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that there was definitely poor planning on this particular project, because when you look at it, the contractor came from Nakuru and, therefore, you could realise that the mobilisation to go to Mandera would cost substantial amounts of money, and even in terms of supervision. I am not able to say what action is going to be taken. I suspect that action was taken earlier on in those years, against those responsible. But I cannot confirm that for sure.

Mr. Billow: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is obviously misleading the House. The total contract sum of Kshs14 million was certified by the Government and paid, less retention money in 1991, just a year after the project was perceived to have been completed. So, there was no question of lack of money. Obviously, there was collusion by the Ministry of Roads and Public Works and the Treasury officials. That money was stolen and there was no work done. Could the Assistant Minister consider allocating sufficient money, all the Kshs19 million, to complete this project as a matter of urgency, to avoid further deterioration of the work that had been done to date?

Mr. Lesrima: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to give credit to the hon. Member because he has put substantial pressure to revive this project. I agree with his sentiments that there was corruption and mismanagement. We have made efforts to put in Kshs11 million this financial year. Although in the Printed Estimates, it was Kshs15 million, we have allocated Kshs11 million, and we look forward to revise the estimates to see that the total amount is provided.

Question No.575

SUPPLY OF BOOKS TO KOIBATEK
PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is Mr. Korir still not here? His Question is dropped.

(Question dropped)

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

IMPOSITION OF VAT ON
SUGAR-CANE TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Finance the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that sugar-cane farmers in Mumias zone are being charged 18 per cent VAT on transportation of their cane to factories?

(b) What is he doing to stop this illegal tax being collected by Mumias Sugar Company?

(c) Could he order a refund to those already deducted this amount?

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Katuku): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seek the indulgence of the House to answer this Question on Tuesday, next week. The answer is not ready simply because we received the Question on Friday and Monday was not a working day. Yesterday, we sent the Question to the relevant department and we are likely to get the response today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, but, Mr. Katuku, Questions by Private Notice should be

answered within the specified period of 48 hours. Now, if the Question was received on Friday, count the hours and you find that you have already exceeded 48 hours. I understand that this Question had actually been directed to the Minister for Agriculture. So, the Assistant Minister now gets off the hook, and his request will be allowed, that the Question be deferred to Tuesday, next week.

What do you have to say, Mr. Osundwa?

Mr. Osundwa: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I filed this Question more than two weeks ago, and it was by Private Notice. I do not understand why the two Ministries are deferring this Question while farmers are still being taxed illegally. I would request that this Question be answered tomorrow afternoon.

The Assistant Minister for Finance (Mr. Katuku): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you have explained, this Question was misdirected and it has come to the Treasury late. But, if possible, I can answer it tomorrow if I get the answer. I have no problem with answering it tomorrow if I get the answer. But if I do not get it, I will answer it on Tuesday.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. That Question is deferred to tomorrow afternoon by consent.

(Question deferred)

SHORTAGE OF SEEDS IN
EASTERN PROVINCE

(Mr. C. Kilonzo) to ask the Minister for Agriculture:-

- (a) Is the Minister aware that due to famine in most parts of Eastern Province, there is a serious shortage of seeds?
- (b) What urgent measures is the Minister taking to ensure farmers get the seeds before the rainy season?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. C. Kilonzo is not there?

(Question dropped)

REPAIR OF GARBA-TULLA BRIDGE

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

- (a) Is the Minister aware that the only link bridge in Garba-Tulla township is about to collapse?
- (b) What urgent measures is the Minister going to take to alleviate this grave situation?

The Assistant Minister for Roads and Public Works (Eng. Toro): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg the indulgence of the House to answer this Question tomorrow because the answer is not ready this morning.

Mr. Bahari: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is very strange. I have a written answer signed by the hon. Minister. Could I give it to the Assistant Minister to read, through the Chair?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No, you cannot do that. The Assistant Minister should tell us why he is not able to answer, because I am sure he has the answer.

The Assistant Minister for Roads and Public Works (Eng. Toro): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, by the time I left my office, I did not have the answer for this Question by Private Notice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well, the Question will be deferred until tomorrow afternoon.

(Question deferred)

NON-PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO SUBUKIA
POLYTECHNIC INSTRUCTORS

Mr. Wamwere: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development the following Question by Private Notice.

When will the following instructors of Subukia Youth Polytechnic be paid their salaries that have not been paid since October, 2003:-

Messers. David Magembe, Dominic M. Mwangi, Benson Karanga, David Kebira, Francis Waweru, Emerencia Kiriamu, Preciah Mungai, Esther Wanjiku, Evans Njihia Hezekiah and Samuel Gachuki?

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

Arrangements have already been finalised, and Messers. David Magembe, Dominic M. Mwangi, Benson Karanga, David Kebira, Emerencia Kiriamu, Preciah Mungai, Esther Wanjiku, Evans Njihia and Samuel Gachuki have been receiving their grants for the last three months through the management committee, with the exception of Mr. Francis Waweru, who is not a grant beneficiary.

Mr. Wamwere: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know where the Minister got his information from. However, I have just come from the constituency and the information that I have is that the lecturers of Subukia Youth Polytechnic have not been receiving their salaries for the last one year. I do not know how this problem can be solved if the Minister is claiming that they are receiving their salaries, when I know that they are not.

I would like the Minister to understand that we have already increased our salaries to allow us to work more efficiently. We cannot, thereafter, come to this House and play games with other people's salaries. We no longer have the moral authority to give shoddy answers to questions concerning other people's salaries. The information I have is that these people are not receiving their salaries. Could the Minister give proof that, indeed, they are receiving their salaries?

Mr. Kulundu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that these are not salaries; they are grants. This morning, at 7.30 a.m., I certified that, indeed, these grants have been sent to the instructors of Subukia Youth Polytechnic. So, the information that the hon. Member has got is obviously very wrong.

Mr. Kembi-Gitura: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this problem is not only being felt in Subukia Youth Polytechnic, because it is common or rampant in most polytechnics countrywide. I would like the Minister to tell us, do we have to file Questions when monies are not paid to instructors in various polytechnics, or does his Ministry have a policy that shows how these grants are sent to various polytechnics countrywide, so that we know exactly what the Government is doing? Has the Government delegated its duties on polytechnics to the people? Is the Government still serious about these polytechnics?

Mr. Kulundu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. Sometime in October, 2003, there was an audit by my Ministry following various complaints about non-existent polytechnics and lecturers. It is because of that audit that everything was stopped. Now, officials of the Ministry have gone round the country and they have started verifying the payments that go out to polytechnics. This started in August this year after the completion of the audit exercise.

Prof. Oniang'o: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am aware that the previous Minister was working on a policy, in fact, a Sessional Paper, on youth polytechnics because they absorb most of

the high school graduates. They will, in fact, help the NARC Government create the 500,000 jobs per year that were promised. Could the Minister tell us how far this process is, in terms of bringing to this House a Sessional Paper on the management of youth polytechnics?

Mr. Kulundu: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a difference between training and getting jobs, as Prof. Oniang'o would appreciate. However, let me assure you that I started off this Sessional Paper by establishing a task force to look into the management of youth polytechnics countrywide. The results of this task force are expected in six months' time. In fact, I suspect that if the results will not be ready after six months, we might have to prolong that period. However, we are seriously thinking about handing over youth polytechnics to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. They are more equipped than the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development to manage these youth polytechnics.

Mr. Sasura: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it looks like the Minister is avoiding the question by Mr. Wamwere. The Minister has said that the grants for these nine people have been sent. However, Mr. Wamwere has said that these people have not received their salaries. It is either the Minister is not telling us the truth, or these people are not telling Mr. Wamwere the truth. Could the Minister, and he is capable of doing that, just give us the printouts of either the cheques, grants or payroll copies that have been sent to these people?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the Minister did categorically say that as of 7.30 a.m. today, he had certified that the monies had been paid. Maybe the hon. Member did not see those people this morning to confirm. So, let us not dwell on that. I do not think we need to bring vouchers here for a matter that the Minister has confirmed. Unless the hon. Member, of course, goes back and finds that it is otherwise. However, I doubt it because the Minister is a man of integrity.

Mr. Wamwere: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the Chair allow, given the information that I have and the information that the Minister has-one contradicts the other-that this Question be deferred until next week to allow me to find out whether what he is telling us, that the grants have been given, is true or not. These people have waited for a whole year to get their grants. If they are not given these grants, the polytechnic will definitely close down. It is just a few more days and I will be able to confirm.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Wamwere, I will not defer the Question for that reason. However, I will be interested, as the Chair, to know what you have found out. I undertake to check with the Minister personally because he has given his word to the House, and I have no reason to doubt him. However, in the event that you go and find it is not the case, please, you can refer the matter to me and I promise that I will deal with the Minister!

Hon. Members, that marks the end of Question Time.

POINTS OF ORDER CAUSE OF INMATES' DEATHS IN MERU PRISON

Mr. Munya: On appoint of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs. I would like to know the cause of death of inmates in Meru Prison. I would like the report of the investigations which have been carried out to be laid on the Table of this House. The Minister should explain what caused these deaths. I would also like to know whether the culprits involved in bludgeoning the prisoners to death have been punished. We would also like to know what the Minister is doing to enforce human rights in our prisons so that we do not experience such kind of deaths again. We would like to know what he is doing to ease congestion in our prisons.

The Assistant Minister, Office of the President (Mr. Mungatana): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I undertake to inform the Minister.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well! I hope that the matter will be reported to the relevant Minister by hon. Mungatana.

Yes, Mr. Ethuro!

CIVIC LEADERSHIP IN LODWAR
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Mr. Ethuro: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would also like to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Local Government concerning civic leadership in Lodwar Municipal Council, whereby a town-planning meeting was turned into an election meeting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Could the Minister for Local Government respond to that?

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Tarus): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I issue the Ministerial Statement next Tuesday?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well!

Lastly, Mr. Y. Haji!

REPARTRIATION OF SOMALIS
TO SOMALIA

Mr. Y. Haji: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I wish to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for East African and Regional Cooperation. While I congratulate both the former President, Daniel arap Moi, for initiating the Somali Peace Talks, as well as His Excellency President Kibaki for the successful completion of the peace talks, I would like to request the Minister to tell this House, now that the peace initiative has been completed by successfully electing Members of Parliament, the Speaker and the President for Somalia, most Somali citizens are operating from Nairobi, what measures has the Government put in place, with the co-operation of IGAD and other international communities, in ensuring that the President and the Parliament of Somalia move from Kenya to Somalia so that they can now join other independent nations of the world?

The Minister for East African and Regional Co-operation (Mr. Koech): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will issue the Ministerial Statement next week.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. Let us move on to the next Order!

MOTIONS

ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESEARCH
FUND TO ASSIST SCHOLARS

THAT, in view of the fact that research work in public universities is under-funded; considering that most scholars in the universities partly depend on foreign donor support for their research undertakings; this House urges the Government to establish a Research Fund to assist scholars in all local universities.

(Prof. Olweny on 6.10.2004)

*(Resumption of Debate
interrupted on 6.10.2004)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Capt. Nakitare, you were on the Floor when this Motion was interrupted. You have four more minutes!

Capt. Nakitare: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

It is obvious that science plays a big role in the modern world. We have witnessed brain-drain from our universities in this country because of lack of initiative in introducing research work. Our research institutions are dilapidated. They have been abandoned. We would like the Minister for Education, Science and Technology to look into this issue, in conjunction with the Minister for Finance, to make sure that they rehabilitate all research stations so that our graduate students have a platform to practise research work.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair]

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

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with a lot of experience from institutions like MIT in Boston, I would like to comment that the institution is the brainchild of computer science. We have introduced Information Technology (IT) courses in our schools. Without allowing research work to expand and grow down to the grassroots, our country will remain as if it is living in the 17th century.

In the past, people went into discovery. Discovery is part of research work. There is one person by the name of "Curious George." "Curious George" is a child who is in school. It is a child who would like to discover something which is interesting. We have seen research work beyond the Black Hole; the celestial and the navigation. We have gone deep down into the sea. We have seen all kinds of sciences that God created. I would like to see our Ministry of Finance financing education, and particularly science subjects which are part of what we are talking about. If we promote sciences and give emphasis to research work, we will have all our people who have graduated from the universities staying in the country to learn more about what happens in their country.

I have been to Berlin and Guatemala. I have seen what university students do to the Maya Empire. To date, they are still discovering the Empire. They have monuments and palaces which the Empire had in 1125 BC. With research work, we could even have our own people look for oil, natural gas and minerals without depending on foreigners. Kenyans are clever. Why are we denied the chance to know what happens in our cycles?

I would like to see priority being given to science education in schools. I would also like to see money being allocated to universities so that our professors can enjoy doing their work. In the recent past, our professors were allowed time to go on sabbatical leave. Many of them, whom I know, went to do research work outside this country so that they could come back and teach our people. Sabbatical leave was dispelled. That was a discouragement to the people in higher learning institutions. As educated Kenyans, we would like to see that this system changes and gives incentives to our education system so that a person growing up and is interested in modelling an aircraft has done enough research work.

I support the Motion.

Mr. Kajembe: Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, asante sana kwa kunipatia nafasi hii niunge mkono Hoja hii ya vyuo vikuu katika nchi yetu. Inaonekana kwamba muda uliochukuliwa katika vyuo vikuu wa miaka minne kwa watoto kupata shahada zao--- Inaonekana kwamba muda huu ukilinganishwa na muda ambao unatumika katika vyuo vikuu vya kimataifa miaka minne ni mingi

sana. Hii ni kusema mtoto ambaye anapelekwa nje kwenda kusoma katika vyuo vikuu vya nje atamaliza masomo yake kabla ya mtoto ambaye yuko katika vyuo vikuu vyetu vya hapa nchini. Lakini pia utaona kwamba mbali na kuwa muda wa vyuo vikuu hapa kwa masomo ni mrefu, pia utaona kwamba kuna migogoro katika vyuo vikuu vya nchi yetu ambayo inasababisha vyuo vikuu kufungwa mara kwa mara. Kwa hivyo, sasa wakati mwingine inachukua miaka mitano au sita ili mtu kumaliza masoma ya shahada.

Kitu ambacho kinahuzunisha sana leo ni watoto wa kike na wa kiume ambao wamesomea shahada zao katika nchi yetu ya Kenya kwa sababu baada ya masomo, hakuna kazi. Hawapati kazi na wengi ambao wametoka katika vyuo vikuu sasa wanatembea katika miji mikuu. Hakuna kazi wala matumaini ya wao kupata kazi. Hii inatukumbusha wakati tulipochukua uongozi, sisi NARC tulisema tutabuni nafasi za kazi 500,000 kila mwaka. Kwa sababu tumeshindwa kubuni kazi hizo, sasa inaonekana wazi vijana hawana kazi hasa wale waliotoka katika vyuo vikuu. Kwa hivyo, tunafikiria Wizara ya Elimu ingegeuza mtindo huu wa masomo ili uambatane na ule wa vyuo vikuu vingine katika ulimwengu; kwa sababu mtindo huu ambao tunao sasa unavunja matumaini kwa watoto wetu kumaliza kwa wakati na watoto wetu pia kupata elimu yao kwa wakati ufaao na kuweza kupata kazi. Nafikiri Serikali yafaa ipange mpango kamili juu ya watoto wanaotoka katika vyuo vikuu; ni vipi watakavyopata kazi kwa sababu watoto wanasoma, wanatoka na hawana kazi. Kwa hivyo, Serikali ingepanga mpango maalum ili watoto wakitoka katika vyuo hivi waweze kupata kazi.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, tangu Kenya ipate Uhuru mwaka wa 1963 vyuo vikuu vimejengwa katika nchi hii lakini utaona wale viongozi waliokuweco hapo awali na wale ambao wako sasa--- Utaona vyuo vimejengwa katika Bonde la Ufa kwa sababu walikuwa na nguvu zaidi katika Serikali. Vyuo vimejengwa Mkoa wa Kati lakini katika Mkoa wa Pwani, sehemu ambayo--- Mwanafunzi wa kwanza kusoma katika nchi hii alitoka Pwani lakini mpaka leo tumelia katika Mkoa wa Pwani tupewe chuo kikuu. Tulilia kwa utawala ule wa mwanzo. Tukalia kwa utawala wa pili. Tukaomba utawala huu pia kwamba Pwani nayo ifikiriwe ili iwe na chuo kikuu kama vile mikoa mingine lakini mpaka sasa tumeachwa nyuma katika jambo hili. Namuomba Waziri wa Elimu afahamu

kwamba Mkoa wa Pwani unahitaji kuwa na chuo kikuu na, kwa uhakika, una haki ya kuwa na chuo kikuu kwa sababu watu wa Pwani wamesoma. Sehemu ambazo tunaweza kuweka vyuo vikuu ziko. Kwa hivyo, nafikiri kitu kama hicho kingeweza kusaidia na sisi katika Pwani yafaa ni tufikiriwe katika jambo hilo.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, mpango unaoendelea sasa wa kuchagua watoto kwenda vyuo vikuu una kiwango fulani ambacho kinatajikana lakini kuna zile sehemu kame katika nchi ambazo zinatoa watoto wa sekondari lakini hakuna vifaa vya kutosha. Nafikiria zile alama zinazochukuliwa kwa mtoto kwenda chuo kikuu kutoka sehemu zile ya kame na ambako hakuna vifaa vya kutosha-- - Kuna umuhimu kwamba alama zao zirudishwe chini kidogo kusudi sehemu hizo pia ziweze kutoa wanafunzi kwenda katika chuo kikuu. Nasema hivyo kwa sababu katika sehemu zingine katika nchi yetu, kule ambako kuna ukame, shule zimekuwa mbaya. Hakuna usaidizi wa kutosha na wanafunzi wervevu wanashindwa kuingia chuo kikuu kwa sababu ya hali mbaya ya masomo katika sehemu hizo.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, pia juu ya wakufunzi katika vyuo vikuu vya kitaifa, utaona kwamba wafunzi ambao wako katika vyuo vikuu wamefanya kazi zao kwa bidii sana ili kuinua hali ya elimu katika nchi hii, lakini ukiangalia hawa wakufunzi utaona kwamba malipo ya fedha wanazolipwa, ukilinganisha na viongozi wengine wa mashirika ya Serikali, hawa wakufunzi wanalipwa pesa kidogo na ni aibu na mimi nasema singependa pia kuona waalimu wa vyuo vikuu wakianza kugoma. Hiyo inaleta sura mbaya na mwalimu kila siku anahitajika awe ni mtu ambaye ana nidhamu ya kutosha. Ikiwa mwalimu atatoka aende katika barabara na kuimba, kusukumana na

kutukana, nafikiri waalimu wanatakikana waweke mfano mzuri kwa wanafunzi.

Kwa hivyo, Serikali hii ya NARC imechukua hatua nyingi za kuleta maendeleo katika elimu, haswa wakati walipofikiria kutoa msaada wa masomo ambao umesaidia sana katika sehemu za uwakilishi. Serikali imesaidia sana kutoa pesa za maendeleo katika sehemu za uwakilishi. Kwa hivyo, yafaa wafahamu pia kwamba wale ambao ni wakufunzi katika vyuo vikuu wanapewa pesa ambazo pia nao watafurahia. Yaani, wakifurahi ndio watafundisha vizuri zaidi. Wakifurahi ndio watoto pia watafurahi na watasoma kwa njia ile ambayo haswa inahitajika. Kwa hivyo, kuna umuhimu kuangalia wakufunzi katika vyuo vikuu.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, kitu kingine kinachosikitisha, utaona katika vyuo vikuu vya kitaifa wameanzisha katika wilaya nyingine matawi ya vyuo vikuu vya Nairobi, Kenyatta na kadhalika. Nafikiria badala ya kupeleka mambo kama hayo katika mikoa yafaa mikoa yenyewe ifikiriwe kujengewa vyuo vikuu katika sehemu ambazo zinahusika. Pia kitu ambacho nafikiria ni muhimu ni kwamba ni lazima tuelezewe kama hawa wanafunzi waliochukuliwa katika vyuo vikuu walichukuliwa kwa sababu ya ukabila au nini. Yafaa tuambiwe ni watoto wangapi kutoka kila mkoa, kila mwaka, wanaoingia katika vyuo vikuu ili tuhakikishe kwamba maendeleo ya elimu katika nchi ya Kenya yanafikia wanafunzi wa tabaka mbali mbali katika mikoa yote ya nchi yetu ya Kenya.

Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda, matatizo pia yanawakabili wale ambao wanabahatika kupata nafasi za kuingia vyuo vikuu. Utaona kwamba wanafunzi wanapokwenda katika chuo kikuu, ingawaje tunasema sasa kuna mikopo ambayo inasaidia wanafunzi kuingia chuo kikuu, lakini tuna thibitisho kwamba wanafunzi wengine wamejaribu kupata mikopo hiyo ili kwamba waingie chuo kikuu lakini wameshindwa kupata mikopo hiyo. Kuna ngazi mbali mbali mwanafunzi anatakikana aruke ili aweze kupata misaada hiyo. Kwa hivyo, mimi nilikuwa nasema vile ambavyo Serikali imefikiria elimu ya shule za msingi kuwa bure--- Yaani "bure" si kusema kwamba Serikali haitumii pesa. Lakini yafaa

watangaze elimu ya bure katika vyuo vikuu. Asante sana, Bw. Naibu Spika wa Muda.

Naunga mkono Hoja hii.

Mr. Ethuro: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity to contribute to this particular Motion. I want to start by supporting my own teacher who taught me at the university. I am happy that he has an opportunity to continue teaching even in Parliament now that he has come here. The issue of scholarships cannot be gainsaid; that our professors, lecturers and researchers need a fund in which they can investigate and acquire more knowledge, in order to enrich their experience. So that as they teach our students in the universities, they are teaching things that are relevant, contemporary, researched and completely topical to the needs of this particular country. That is why I rise to support this Motion.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the job of a university lecturer is to expand the frontiers of knowledge and impart that particular knowledge to students. A university professor is uniquely placed. I get very disturbed when I come across commentaries asking professors to come from the ivory tower. Professors need to remain at the ivory tower. They need to expand that horizon of knowledge. They are not researchers at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) where I used to work. Our business was to increase food production and to use science and technology for improved productivity of agricultural farmers. That is a different ball game. However, a professor at the university requires to be on the cutting edge of knowledge and expand the frontiers of knowledge. We cannot do that just by mere teaching. We need a research fund as it is complementary to the teaching role that our professors have to perform.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we look at the Budget over the years, the kind of money that the Government has been allocating to research, in general, is a small fraction; less than 1 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). That gives us the mind-set of a political

leadership that does not recognise scholarship. It reminds me of the days when the Head of State would tell all of us in public that he did not require any advice because he was all knowledgeable and all-powerful. We need to distinguish and make very clear demarcations between our political power and the need to learn. We need to appreciate that whatever we do, and whatever decisions are made, must be researched.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country is experiencing a lot of social upheaval. Our children have taken to booze more than ever before. We hear of riots and schools being burnt. These are all issues that our professors need to take time off from their classrooms and research to find solutions. This will ensure that when our Ministers bring Motions and Bills to this Parliament for us to legislate on, they are based---

The Assistant Minister, Local Government (Mr. Tarus): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to use the word *busaa*? Is it parliamentary language?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): What did you say, Mr. Ethuro?

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I used the word "booze". However, even if I used the word "*busaa*", His Excellency the late Vice-President used the word "*unbwogable*" on the Floor of this House, and when he was challenged, he said that English is a dynamic language. Even "safari" was not part of the English language, but it has acquired a meaning in the English language.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): But we were not there! You used the word "booze". Did you not? That is not the word you used.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is not the word I used, but I am saying that even if I used that particular one---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Proceed knowing what is parliamentary and what is not. Again, it is not really for Mr. Ethuro to defend himself on the Floor of the House. The person who stands on a point of order needs to be armed with the facts before he rises on a point of order.

(Applause)

Mr. Ethuro: That is correct, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. The National Council for Science and Technology, for many years, used to receive funding of Kshs3 million. What can one do with that amount? This is a regulatory body that is supposed to look into our research institutions and universities. I want to appreciate that the NARC Government has made great effort and increased that funding from Kshs3 million to Kshs15 million. It is still little but I want to believe that Prof. Saitoti, being a professor himself, will be on the forefront leading our scientific research. He should appreciate what professors at universities go through. I am hoping that the Government will continue increasing funding to this Council so that it continues to do a good job.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is an agricultural country and we have coffee and tea research. We also have policy institutions that the Government is supporting and we need to harmonise all these research organisations so that they can acquire some particular framework in which they can remain relevant to the country.

While we should give researchers money for research, it is equally important to underscore the need for professors and lecturers to be remunerated properly. A situation where an eminent professor of engineering could display a payslip earning less than what a mere policeman earns is an embarrassment to this country. That is why we keep talking about brain-drain. That is why we keep looking at our scholars who are outside there doing such great jobs. That is why we can only celebrate Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong'o for a period of---

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisi): Do you need information, Mr. Ethuro?

Mr. Ethuro: Coming from an eminent scholar himself, it may be useful, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I just want to clarify that professors earn much more than the police officers. Therefore, I do not think it is correct for him to insist that they are doing much work.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not need that information because, if the Assistant Minister would have been a lot patient, he would have understood me. I used that as an example; they used to. He is referring to the current position which started last July. He is also from a research background like me and knows that you can only appreciate things after a longer period, not in the last few months. That is the only way you can make some serious conclusions.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, professors have to be paid properly. We do not want our professors to engage in *mitumba* business or rearing of chicken in the university's residence; in an academic environment. We do not want our professors to do that. We want them to reflect; go to the senior common room and have a drink there as they reflect on what to do next.

I also want to make an appeal to the Minister about the ASAL areas.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (Mr. Odoyo): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member to insinuate that our very respected professors have been rearing chicken in their houses? Unless it is for research, it is not true.

Mr. Ethuro: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I need you to protect me from the Front Bench. I am making a comment and I came from the university more recently than him, and I know what has been happening.

(Applause)

I am happy the universities have lowered the marks for girls to get admitted to universities. However, this should be extended to ASAL areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was the fourth person from my district to join university. It was only from the early 1990s when we started having one or two students graduating from university each year. It is not that we do not want to go to school. The other day, some youths who wanted to join the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), as rangers, were turned away. There was a lady who had scored a B plain in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination, but she could not join university. She had admission from the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC) - we are grateful that the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is in place - and I assisted her to join the KMTTC. You can imagine the desperation among such unfortunate persons. One qualifies to join university or middle-level training institutions, but she could only want to become a KWS ranger. That shows the problems that our people go through to get admission to public universities, hence the need for the parallel degree programme.

With those few remarks, I support.

Dr. Rutto: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I support the Motion from a point of experience, having come from the university myself. I know the problems that university dons face, particularly with regard to research.

We know that part of the role of the university is to disseminate knowledge, store and also produce it. While holding those traditional roles of the universities constant, universities in Kenya have not been recognised very much as production lines of knowledge. So, in this Motion, we are saying that, as a nation, we should begin to recognise universities very explicitly as production centres of knowledge. In other words, the major responsibility of the university is to produce knowledge rather than consume, store and disseminate it.

We need to recognise, as well, the role of research in development. This is something that has not been captured very well by developing countries. In the past, universities did not enjoy the esteem that they deserved. In other words, the Government has not recognised universities sufficiently as playing an important role in the socio-economic development of this country through research. For many years, our universities have enjoyed political patronage. In the process, the State has planted mediocre leadership in our universities and this needs to change.

We have not sufficiently funded the production of knowledge in our universities. Therefore, the Government should begin to put some resources into production of knowledge. In the past, we did not recognise our universities sufficiently. We have not held our academics with high regard. Therefore, some of them, like Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong'o, were forced to leave and work in other countries, where they could be better recognised. One of the ways in which a human being can enjoy recognition is to recognise what he does. We recognise people of outstanding performance and outstanding responsibilities at state functions; by awarding them medals. In the past, we did not recognise academicians as academicians. Instead, we recognised them for the roles they played in pleasing the politicians who appointed them to those positions. We have not recognised them as having done some outstanding research. It is sad, for instance, that Prof. Maathai had to be recognised elsewhere and given the Nobel Peace Prize that she got. As Kenyans, we have not recognised her in those terms.

Universities elsewhere are recognised as taking the lead in socio-economic development. We should begin to change our attitude towards universities and give them that role. By producing knowledge, universities contribute to our socio-economic development. Japan, the USA, Germany and other European countries recognise universities as taking the lead in socio-economic development through production of knowledge. They utilise the created knowledge to enhance their technological advancement. In Africa, particularly in Kenya, we have not given universities that recognition. We should do so from now. We need to give universities due recognition in production and dissemination of knowledge by rewarding research results and the individuals who have produced those results. The State should explicitly honour and respect universities.

In the past, we only saw universities as the breeding grounds for hooligans, who throw stones at cars. We did not recognise the positive contribution that universities make to the society. In the past, we have seen universities as the breeding grounds of anti-government radicals. This view of our universities should begin to change. We have seen universities as senior high schools. That is sad. I want to agree with a previous speaker, who said that universities should now be given recognition and due status in the way we view them.

Universities are charged with the responsibilities of disseminating and producing knowledge. Those who take the lead in production are the researchers. If we fund research, we are likely to lead in economic production. As I said earlier, research has a tendency of enhancing technological production. Countries which have funded scientific research, as a previous speaker said, have tended to lead in technological advancement. We need to be very explicit in funding research activities relating to building, so as to enhance our technological superiority in this region.

If we fund research, we are also likely to lead politically. Leading in information production and information dissemination also implies leading politically. The countries which have seen this secret always lead. They lead while others follow. Even in our own homes, if you control the

production of information, there is likely to be a chance that you lead. Controlling information also implies controlling the thinking of people.

If we lead in research, then we are likely to lead politically as well. Knowledge is power. So, if we want to lead in respect of power, we must be ready to enhance the production of knowledge as well. That means that to lead as a powerful nation, we must lead in the production of knowledge. We are also saying that, in a very fundamental way, knowledge is life. In other words, you cannot ignore the production of knowledge and enhance human life in that respect. If we have to enhance our lives, then we must enhance the production of knowledge; as away of enhancing our own lives. If we enhance the production of knowledge through research, we also enhance our own lives.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, from a very academic point of view, we are saying that we should enhance research with a view to improving our own world view. Our world view determines how we relate to the world and what we do with that world. Certain world views encourage just sitting there. Other world views encourage being active in that world. We need to enhance research as a way of improving our own world view.

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

The Assistant Minister for Regional Development Authorities (Mr. Odoyo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I request that I donate half of my time to Mr. Tarus.

I wish to contribute to this Motion---

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Mr. Odoyo, are you the Government Responder?

The Assistant Minister for Regional Development Authorities (Mr. Odoyo): No, I am not the Government Responder.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): If you were the Government Responder, I would allow you to donate your time. There is still time for Mr. Tarus. He should use the natural way to catch the Speaker's eye and not to depend on donations!

The Assistant Minister for Regional Development Authorities (Mr. Odoyo): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, university research in the Western world is largely funded by the private sector. In fact, the government contributes about 30 and 40 per cent of research while the bulk is funded by the private sector. In Africa, and particularly in Kenya, most of the private sector is controlled by multi-nationals who do research in their home countries. So, a gap exists where there is no fund to support university dons. Therefore, I support this Motion brought by my friend and neighbour, Prof. Olweny; that the Government should fill the gap by developing a fund to support research at universities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is socio-economic research, physical science research, molecular science research and technology research. Research has been a basis of a country's development. America develops faster because of research on technology. Other countries, like Germany, lead in chemical research; the United Kingdom leads in medical research, and Japan leads in molecular research in micro-electronics or molecular science. That is the basis of a country's development. I wish to add my voice to that of previous speakers that unless we do research, a simple analogy used in university language which say, "Research or perish" and "Research or depend"--- If you want to move ahead, you must research as a country. We tell university dons either to publish or perish.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the area of research, we have had one very successful example in Kenya; that is, the International Centre for Insect physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). They set up a pest research centre and it became a world class centre of research. That is the big challenge that we have to throw to university dons. Are they ready to do world class original research? Many times, some university dons do shoddy research which cannot even get

into any scientific publication. Many times they down-grade this country by the quality of research that they present for publication. Research is an international service to the society. It is not limited to Kenya even though we should be able to benefit first. It operates at international university level like Oxford, Harvard and MIT. All those big universities should be collaborating with us in areas of research. Many times, we have universities but we do not know their speciality. If you go to many universities in the Western world, they are known to be centres of particular excellence in a particular area. Why, for example, can Maseno University not be a particular centre of excellence for lake research, not only Lake Victoria, but all the lakes around the world? Why, can the university of Nairobi, through their Coast Branch not be a centre of excellence for camel research? Nobody has done a lot of work on the camel. World class centre of excellence is a situation that is lacking in our universities.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue is dissemination. While it is true that professors have been said to live in ivory towers, and I support the concept of ivory towers, it should be an ideal which you want to meet. It is an essential position for university professors to feel that they are on top of the world to motivate them to go further into the wilderness of the unknown. Original research requires that a professor be willing to get into a boat in Lake Victoria and go beyond the shores where he can neither see where he is coming from nor where he is going. To give them the motivation to do that, we must have the proper boat, which is in the funding, so that we could have full-time professors rather than have some of them say that the only way to do further research is to leave professorship and get into politics as the only way to enhance their research in a particular area.

I support the dissemination of research to *wananchi* from the ivory towers, and support from the private sector is lacking, but we must have a situation where universities are able to hold field days with *wananchi*, farmers and *Jua Kali* artisans. Those are the areas that touch on our people. Which centre of excellence do we have for *Jua Kali* research in Kenya? Who looks after the original coffee research? We have Coffee Research Foundations, but it only tries to disseminate Western technologies and a few of them gathered here and there. They try to help the farmers, but nobody does the original research that could help us solve some of our problems.

Finally, the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), which had already been pointed out by Mr. Ethuro, is not undertaking original research. KARI has become a tool of Western research. The donors control what they research on and what they are prepared to fund. Today KARI is not really a tool of our people although it has done a good work, and the centralisation of all the research bodies into one body makes some sense, but it lacks funds to carry out research. Failure by the Government to fund research work eventually led to the situation in which KARI is today. The KARI is nothing but a mouthpiece of the Western donors. The only way to counter that is to give funds to our professors to undertake independent original research, which we should acknowledge when they do well.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. C. Kilonzo: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I stand to support this Motion by Prof. Olweny.

Looking back at the history of this country, when colonialists came to Kenya, they came with researchers in very many fields. There were researchers in machineries and doctors. In Western countries, they value and recognise researchers. For instance, when they came, I am told that Mr. Clark was the first man to see Mount Kenya. The whole idea was to recognise that a white man had seen a mountain and yet the people who had lived around the mountain and had seen it were not recognised by us. Researchers in this country have never been recognised. For example, Prof. Maathai has never been recognised and that is why she is an Assistant Minister instead of a full Minister. She is recognised out there by other countries. If I am a researcher and I have a

brilliant idea, I would rather sell it to the Americans because they will recognise me.

Even in our Budget, we do not take research seriously. We do not take research in our universities seriously. Funding is very limited. We are more comfortable pumping Kshs1 billion to renovate and partition the Income Tax Department Building rather than put that money in research. Each university should be identified with one particular field of research and funded. Research is taken seriously in America. In America, if you have a brilliant idea, you become a billionaire overnight. That is not the case in Africa and in Kenya.

We need to fund research work in our universities because each country has a unique environment, culture and people. Therefore, we cannot rely on outsiders. For instance, when we had a cholera outbreak in the 1980s, we were advised by external researchers that we had the outbreak because we did not have pit latrines. These were outsiders and they never looked into our culture. District Officers (DOs) were given instructions to make sure that every homestead had a pit latrine. The cholera outbreak continued because people were not using the pit latrines. When one of our fellows asked why people were not using the pit latrines, they said their culture did not allow it and they could not share the same pit latrine with their daughters-in-law. Each country has its own unique culture and it has to rely on its own people for research. We cannot rely on outsiders to do research work on our behalf.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the situation in Kenya is pathetic. Each hon. Member can comfortably employ three or four lecturers because they are paid peanuts. On top of that, they are not given any money for research, which is very wrong. How do we develop? We are going to be dependent on other countries on technology. Countries which have invested heavily in research have really advanced in technology. Technology is money. If I have a new idea, I can turn it into money. The former Government failed to recognise our lecturers. If the NARC Government makes the same mistake, we should rest assured that we will be going backwards as we did for the last 40 years.

Research should not only be left to universities. We need to have private institutions doing research. The Government needs to encourage researchers in the private sector. Research is the keyword for any country which is serious about development. Research has been done in Europe, from time immemorial. That is why many discoveries have been made in Europe and America.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Prof. Mango: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am very happy to contribute to this Motion. Research creates knowledge. Without funding research in our universities, we cannot create new information. The Government should look into the issue of funding research very seriously and allocate 5 per cent of the national income to research, so that our universities and other research institutions can produce information.

Looking at the world over, all the advances that have been made have been made through research, for example, genetic engineering, telephone and computers. All these have come into being because of research. If we ignore research as a nation, we will not develop. We will remain consumers of the research information. We will just remain a market for the developed world. We have to address research on our own environment. For example, we need to carry out research on our livestock. We have the Maasai sheep and goats, our zebu cattle and the fish in our lakes. These are unique flora and fauna in our country.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order, Prof. Mango! I should have reminded you that you only have three minutes!

Prof. Mango: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should allocate money for research to universities, so that they can have laboratories, up-to-date literature and equipment. You cannot do research without equipment, which is very expensive.

Our universities have books of 50 years ago. That is old information. All universities

should have websites, so that they can access the latest information, whereby the lecturers can inform the students. Information is power. Without information, we cannot industrialise, have enough food or develop. Therefore, we have to put money into research, so that we can create information within our own environment. We should not depend on other people to feed us on information. Research is so important that all development can only come through it. If we remain dependent on foreign donors, whoever pulls the strings will also tell you what to do. Most research in our country is donor-dependent. Donors come with their priorities, which are not ours. Therefore, we just consume what they have fed on us without addressing our priorities. Therefore, until we have funding from our own Government, we cannot prioritise research according to our needs. It is only when we do that, that we can move on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) has been undertaking research for a long time, but it was donor-driven. That is why whatever advancement it made was more donor-driven than what our priorities were. Therefore, we need, in our own research institutes like the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), to address the food security in this country, livestock and our environment. That is the only way we can move on. But if we depend on donors, we will not move on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I urge the NARC Government to set aside 5 per cent of our national revenue to go to research, so that our lecturers and researchers can produce.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghio): Order, hon. Members! I will call upon the Government Responder to make his remarks.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of the great interest shown in this debate, I would like to donate five minutes of my time to hon. Tarus who has requested to be given some time.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Mr. Tarus): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity. As most hon. Members have put it, research, indeed, is a very important activity in a nation. If we are keen to develop, we must begin to pay a lot of attention to research and funding of research. So, I begin by supporting this Motion. It has come at a very opportune time, given the fact that our country is at a stage where now queries have begun to come up on what we need to do so that Kenya can have a shorter period to move from the stage of a developing country to that of a developed country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, universities are reservoirs of knowledge and the domain of dreams for the future of this country. The scholars always search for glory and their glory is in their research and publication. So, indeed, it is very sad that previous funding to research institutions has not been commensurate with the interests that exist in the country in terms of research, and, therefore, that is the very reason why most of our scholars have immensely relied on funding from foreign donors.

I am thinking particularly about the lecturers in the universities. Their careers rely so much on publication. Without funding we have a problem of advancement of the lecturers. This is evident in the many international organisations' participation by Kenyans. Without us developing our manpower in the universities, we will have fewer Kenyans participating in international organisations. So, by investing and broadening funding on research we will not only be accessing development, but we will also be accessing the international opportunities for our people.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have spoken about dissemination of research findings. Particularly, I want to recognise what universities have done and replicated across the country. I want to recognise the College of Health Sciences of Moi University for its community participation with regard to the issue of HIV/AIDS pandemic. A few weeks ago, I managed to visit a centre which is run by the College of Health Sciences of Moi University in

Mosoriot area. The advances realised on how to address the issue of HIV/AIDs scourge have now been replicated and are being practised by people who have suffered the infection of HIV/AIDs. In the process, they are not only earning income from what they do, but they have also been able to live. I was moved when one rural woman told me: "I did not know that my God is the university. This is because I was dying, but, since I got into contact with people from the College of Health Sciences of Moi University I have been able to live with HIV/AIDS for more than five years now."

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, again, I would like to donate some more time because I have gotten requests from Mr. Munya and Mr. Karaba, the Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Education, Research and Technology. So, I will give three minutes to Mr. Munya and two minutes to Mr. Karaba, then, I will have ten minutes to respond.

Mr. Munya: I thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, and also the Assistant Minister for donating those minutes to me. This is a very important Motion because the core business of universities is training manpower and also research. There are many ways in which we can attract research funds for the universities. One basic way of attracting research is retaining renowned lecturers in the universities. If you were to retain Prof. Ngugi and Prof. Ali Mazrui, for example, in our universities, those individuals would be institutions and funding would follow them. If they were here, those centres which they have started in other universities abroad would be situated in our universities here and they would be attracting funding from abroad.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other way of attracting funding for research in the universities is to create various Chairs. You can honour, for example, my friend here, hon. Muite. He can donate money and you can then call one chair, Mr. Muite's or Mr. Moi's chair. As a result they can donate a lot of money to the universities. That is another way of creating funds for the universities.

The other way is to set aside a certain percentage of the money generated from the parallel degree programmes specifically for research. Right now, most of those funds are going to emoluments. There is no specific policy on how that money is to be used. Therefore, we find that most of it is going to increase salaries for even non-teaching staff. So, we need to set aside one or ten per cent of that money, for example, to be used for research.

The other important way of enhancing research in the universities is creating close linkage between the local research institutions and the universities.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Karaba: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this time to contribute in support of the Motion. Much has been talked about research in the universities. It goes without saying that this is a very important area that we should not ignore. We have seen very many of our researchers leaving our country for greener pastures overseas, just because they are not able to advance their academic pursuits.

Recently, my Committee visited laboratories stationed in the University of Nairobi and what we saw there was pathetic. It is not possible to even have these lecturers continue with their research methods. They use crude instruments and in the end, they take off with the little knowledge that they have gotten to further it in other overseas universities. So, what we intend to do given time and money is to introduce educational levies similar to what has been introduced in the Far East, so that we can enforce research and make sure that these laboratories and other science research stations in the country are well equipped because this is what is killing our Kenyan education development system. We seem to be relying a lot on foreign professors. We have in mind Prof. McKay who came up with the 8-4-4 system of education without even researching properly. If we had probably used our Kenyan researchers and professors, I am sure we would have

done better than what we are getting from these people. So, if it is possible, we should introduce the education levy so that we can retain our scientists and honour them. It has taken Prof. Wangari Maathai 40 years to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. If it were in Europe, it would have taken her maybe five years. This has been hindered by our systems in Kenya. I was thinking that we need to make our educational system a bit more open, so that we can accommodate more of the university dons as they partake pursuit in our educational system.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am delighted to have this opportunity to support this very important Motion and to congratulate the mover for bringing it and for caring so much about one of the core businesses of our universities; that is, to do research. I just want to reiterate the point that has been made by others before me, that research is the key to development and that whatever teaching that goes on in universities, talking about a research board, will not just be for professors, but also to impart research skills in the under-graduate students themselves.

All of us, at whatever level, in whatever capacity, need research. Whether we are civil servants who are involved in planning and management, or school principals who need to collect data on students to use for planning and guidance or the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority, because they need evidence to prosecute or lawyers. Whatever we are in this country, we need research skills because it is the basis of provision of evidence. Even hon. Members need research skills. I think that is why we occasionally have the problem of being asked to substantiate. Some of us, sometimes, are not so good with evidence. As a result of the lack of research skills, we have tended to be much more of a rumour versus evidence-based society. We just hear too much rumours in the country and when you ask people to substantiate there is no evidence.

We also tend to subscribe to other traditional beliefs that are counter to science, including witchcraft. This is not uncommon even among leaders in this country who tend to believe so much in witchcraft when it is not a basis for any decision making. This is a result of the fact that, they have not learnt the culture of believing in evidence as opposed to mere talk and rumours.

The point has been made about how weak our national resource base is in view of how much money we put in. We spend less than one per cent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is very little compared to countries that are doing much better than us in development. Already, the case has been made about the United States of America (USA), China, India, Japan and other countries which have made great stride as a result of how much money they spend on development as a proportion of their total GDPs.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was in Finland the other day, and I was very surprised to know that the Ministry of Trade, because of the value they place in the area of science and technology and electronic technology, devotes 70 per cent of the Ministry's budget to research and development. If you look at our Ministries' budgets, we spend all our money paying employees. These people do not do any research. They spend most of their time reading newspapers and peddling rumours. It is an area that we need to look into, whether or not that is how we need to spend the limited resources that we have. We cannot talk about industrialisation by 2020 if we do not invest in research. It will be mere mirage and talk, even though we have to do other things that relate to the relevant infrastructure.

When we invest very little in research, we are being told about the results such as the brain-drain, we lose our best, and as a result donors dominate our research environment and university academics spending more time on other business that is not related to research. If they have to teach, they spend most of their time in private universities or doing private tutoring outside the public paid university time. We also know that if we let donors and outsiders be the ones doing most of the research, then we will find ourselves in a situation whereby the same external forces

are the ones who influence many of the policy decisions in the country for all the Ministries.

Having said that, I would like to say that, we have not completely ignored research. Compared to the previous Government, this year, the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) has been allocated Kshs18 million for research. Last year, we spent kshs20 million compared to only Kshs3 million in 2002. We would like to have more money not just for the NCST, but also for universities themselves because they will support those institutions, like the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) and the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). Then we are taking research away from universities which is the basis for any development.

Finally, I agree that we should invest in research and that 1 per cent of the university budget should be devoted to research. Universities are centres of excellence and we value research for production of knowledge. Universities are also valued for that. The nobel prize winners from the USA and Europe win as a result of their contribution in research. We also need research for teaching. This is important only if the universities themselves can be quality institutions that will use this for promotion. They should use the money transparently and forge partnership with other supporters; the private sector and Kenyans themselves so that it is not only the Government that will be generating the resources that will be required.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): There is still some time, so I will give Eng. Okundi the chance to contribute.

Eng. Okundi, you have three minutes.

Eng. Okundi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, give me five minutes.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): No. We have to leave some time for the Mover to reply.

Eng. Okundi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion. Time is a problem here, but there are a number of issues we should tackle. I rise to support this Motion.

The greatness of a country depends to a very large extent on the amount of research that takes place in that country. If you take the USA, for example, enormous research takes place in all the institutions and even in departments of government. Currently, the USA presidential debate, one of the central issues which is swinging the votes is on stem research. Scientists have found that they can reverse the effects of diseases such as Alshemery and Parkinson's diseases by applying stem or cells derived from embryos. This is a key issue which is going to be part of the decision on who is going to be the Chief Executive of the USA.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I admit that our Government has not provided sufficient funds to promote research in our institutions. The Government must start this. I also know that in many countries which have developed, the private sector funds research very heavily. They have done it to the extent of even coming to do it out here. They do it because they benefit from it. The products that they sell arise from research. We now find this in so many areas like KARI, which has been said to carrying out research which is not necessarily originating from here. The Government must start this by deliberately allocating funds to our universities, research institutions and colleges of higher learning so that we can attract funding from wherever it comes from, including the private sector.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 2000/2001, the Government conducted the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. This paper is of fundamental importance to the future of Kenya. It looked at the whole poverty map of the country, what affects our people and what we shall do to our people. This included the areas of education, agriculture and others. Unless we put more money into research and dissect that paper in the areas that require investment, it is going to be a useless

paper to us. Today, we are using donors' money to help us in this area.

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

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Hon. Members, it is now time to call upon the Mover to reply.

Prof. Olweny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I reply, may I donate three minutes each to hon. Muite and hon. Kagwima.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Prof. Olweny, you will then have only two minutes for yourself.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Motion is, of course, timely. It is not diamond, oil or gold, but the collective intellect of the people of a nation that constitutes the biggest asset in any country. So, this Motion is timely. Universities and research underpin that sort of intellectual capacity. In supporting this Motion; I am happy that hon. Dr. Mwiria is here and also happy to learn that nowadays Professors earn a little bit more than police officers. So, I would like to appeal to him to pay me my money because when I appeared for the University Academic Staff Union (UASU) on a Friday when the university lecturers had been kicked out of their houses, I was never paid. Now that they have some money, he may wish to do that.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on a more serious note---

Capt. Nakitare: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order to start claiming debts during his contribution to this Motion?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Certainly not. He can do that elsewhere.

Mr. Muite: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, on a more serious note, the point on which I want to make an appeal to hon. Dr. Mwiria is that if we intend to restore the glory of our universities and turn them into centres of excellence and institutions of respect, then, they must have their autonomy and must, therefore, respect the statutes. Recently we saw a case of a person who had spent all his time selling Kimbo and Lifebuoy being made a Chancellor. Now, the job of a Vice-Chancellor is being advertised in complete violation of the law. We must begin to respect the law. If the manner in which the law provides for the recruitment of Vice-Chancellors is found to be inadequate, please, amend that law. But this culture of Government institutions violating the law has to stop. We want a country which is going to be governed by law and not personal rules. So, respect the statutes and if you do not like them, amend them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to support this Motion because, at a personal level, I am the proud father of a son who is doing a Doctorate in Applied Mathematics at the University of Oxford. When you look at the statutes of that university, they respect independence. That is how our universities used to be in the 1970's and we want to get back to that. Let this Motion, which the Government is supporting, be implemented. It should not be sent to the archives. Let us see an amount of money go directly to the funding of research in our public universities. Without research, we are doomed. We can get this country going again. Let us start with implementation and not just rhetoric.

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

Mr. Kagwima: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this very important Motion. Indeed, we need a national fund for research not only to be used in our universities, but also in all the institutions that are charged with the responsibility of carrying out research in the country. I also want to request that we involve the private sector not for the purposes of funding only, but also for their own benefit. People should not waste their money in experimenting in their businesses or setting up their own industries through trial and error. The private sector will benefit by getting the correct information at the inception of businesses or undertakings they are interested in.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to comment very strongly that this country lacks the capacity to execute its plans. We have been left behind by other countries because those

countries are able to plan and implement effectively. Our country is very good at planning through seminars and conferences only that those ideas are not put into use. I am now getting tempted to recommend that at some stage, this House sets up a Select Committee known as the Implementation Committee to ensure that all these good ideas we collect in the course of research, seminars and conferences are implemented. Like any other committee, this particular one will save our country a lot of agony. I know we already have a number of Committees, but probably we should raise this matter by way of a Motion that we require an Implementation Committee to oversee all programmes and plans and to ensure that they are adhered to and implemented in the right direction. If the plans are not implemented, that Select Committee will be able to call upon those charged with implementing them and find out why the implementation has not been carried out.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the Acts that set up research institutions need to be harmonised. We have so many institutions that unless we have a directory to show which one is doing what, we shall continue spending money and probably duplicating what one institution is doing. So, there is need to harmonise the Act so that each of the institutions, be it Kenya Agriculture Research Institute (KARI), Kenya Trypanosomiasis Research Institute (KETRI), the universities and so on can collaborate. That way, it will be easy to determine what stage research has reached and whether findings thereof have been implemented. It will also ensure that we do not waste our resources in repeating what has been done.

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

Prof. Olweny: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy and thankful for the contributions made by hon. Members in support of this Motion. I am also thankful to the Minister for supporting this important Motion. The creation of the University Research Fund will enable us stop the brain drain that we are experiencing today in our country. Our professors who are going to universities abroad are properly facilitated during their research work in those countries and that is why most of them can afford to leave our country. We shall add morale to our professors when we create this Fund and they will do a better job.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact, if you want to stop student riots in this country, let us avail money for research. Undergraduate students will be given money through the professors as they undertake research. They will have very little time to organise riots which have proved to be very expensive for this country. We shall also have saved our professors' efforts in engaging in income-generating activities. Today you will find professors teaching until midnight in order to generate money for themselves. They are now involved fully in the parallel programmes which run up to midnight. Which universities across the world teach people up to midnight? You will find a professor waking up in the middle of the night to do research and not to teach. They spend just about 30 per cent of their time teaching instead of spending almost 80 per cent of their time teaching in the university. So, let us avail the money for our professors to do research and improve their morale.

With those remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATION
FACILITIES IN MARGINALISED AREAS

Dr. Ali: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT, in view of the fact that Telkom Kenya has failed to provide services in remote areas of this country claiming that it is very expensive to provide such

services; recognising that marginalised areas require these facilities; this House urges the Government to authorise individuals and/or private organisations to provide telephone and radio-call facilities in all marginalised areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a problem which is happening all over this country, mainly in Africa, because of the governments trying to monopolise institutions like Telkom. They want to get all the profits they can get when they are not assisting the people of those regions. In the industrialised countries most of the population live in urban centres. In Africa especially Sub-Saharan Africa, over 75 per cent of the population live in rural areas. We require some sort of subsidy for the rural population, but this is not forthcoming because of the way the governments and these organisations want to operate.

A notable aspect of the subsidy is the use of the same tariff framework for local or long distance telephone uses regardless of the geographical location. Another example we can give is when you want to post a letter, the charges are the same in every part of this country. If that is the case, then you can post a letter from Nairobi to Nairobi and one from here to Turkana; we will have the same charges. Why can these Government institutions not think of helping areas which are very remote or rural areas where the people do not have the income? This is not the case.

Cost estimates for the provision of telephone lines in rural Africa has dropped from Kshs160,000 per line to just around Kshs40,000 now. If the facilities and the new technologies which are in place are introduced then it is obvious that this will go down completely and bring about a lot of technologies. It will bring about a lot of competition in the sense that big companies which are ready to apply for these services can generate a lot of income to the Government. As a result of that, the Government might be able to subsidise some of these areas.

Availability of telephone kiosks in rural centres for the public can be very helpful, but the Government is not trying to do that or Telkom Kenya has failed. In these areas the search for lower cost commercial initiatives must co-exist with Government regulations and international agency support. Since this is not happening, individuals or organisations with capacity to buy these facilities should be encouraged to do so. This should be done by de-regulation of the airwaves by the Government.

Africa has the world's highest level of unmet demand for communication services. This represents a major opportunity for the provision of telecommunication infrastructure. Approximately 12 per cent of the gross population lives in Africa, but only 2 per cent get the world's telephone in Africa. You can see the discrepancy from 12 per cent to 2 per cent. This is with the exception of South Africa. If you have to talk of the statistics, only one person in a hundred has a telephone line while when it comes to internet facilities, it might be one in over 2,000. These are facilities which are very much needed by people in Africa, but which are not available. This is worse off in Kenya especially in the northern regions of this country, which is over 70 per cent of the land mass of this country. If you say that there will be one telephone line for 500 people, how will these people ever come up? How will we ever progress with this sort of situation?

There might be a difference in other parts of the world and Africa and especially in the northern region of Kenya because of low income and low population. This is where the telecommunication industry, if liberalised, will help these areas. Nowadays, we have technology like the broadband, new initiatives for telecom network provision, improved supervision of broadband infrastructure, satellite-based services, international phone services, mobile telephones and etc. This illustrates how the diversity of new technological options is making it easier and cheaper to deploy a network that can provide and prove to be commercially viable in a relatively low income and low demand areas.

If companies, especially those which are interested, are allowed to invest in those low

income and low density areas, if they are given incentives like reduction of tax on the equipment and reduction of the licence fees, then companies will be ready to invest in those areas, create employment and help these marginalised and rural areas come up economically. Once that happens, then the lives of Kenyans who live in those areas will change for the better.

The Telkom monopoly was supposed to end in June this year, but to date the Government has not licensed any other company except Safaricom, Kencell and Econet which is not ready to start operations up to date. The Government is not ready to give licences because those people who are running these organisations just want to "eat and eat" and in the long run make all Kenyans poorer. Telkom Kenya has been a monopoly all along. In the last few years when some deliberations were done, it was given five more years. To date, it has not done any improvements. Up to now, it does not want to allow other players into the field.

One of the requirements is that the Minister for Information and Communications just gazettes regulations to de-regulate the airwaves, cellular industry and the broadband frequencies, but this has never been implemented. The reason is that they want to continue "eating". Right now, Telkom cannot even pay its workers! How do you expect a company which cannot even pay its workers to continue providing services? The cellular industry requires infrastructure investments to provide good services and, therefore, requires to give qualifications and licences. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) do not require such qualifications and licensing. But nowadays, equipment costs a lot, and ISPs can be small, regional or national. The lack of broadband in Kenya is causing irreparable damage to this country and a dire disservice to the citizens of this nation, because most companies in the world will require broadband to access other parts of the world. It makes everything easier; information and communication becomes easier. If you have to think of a country like Mauritius or Egypt which have provided these services to companies as incentives, you will see that things are changing very fast and companies are investing in those areas and providing a lot of employment for---

Dr. Godana: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am sorry for interrupting my friend, but clearly, there is nobody on the Front Bench and we are discussing an important Motion after which we will want some Government response. Nobody is sitting on the Front Bench!

(Loud consultations)

I mean the Government Front Bench. So, what is the purpose for us to continue with this debate?

An hon. Member: We should adjourn!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order! You have made your point! Proceed!

Dr. Ali: I was able to talk to the Assistant Minister for Information and Communications this morning and I asked him whether there was any response from the Government. He told me that he had talked to his Permanent Secretary and Minister, but they did not know what should have been done because the Permanent Secretary and the Minister came from the private sector. They did not even find it fit to respond to this Motion. Be that as it may be, my job is to continue---

QUORUM

Mr. Kagwima: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. In as much as there is no single Member on the Front Bench, we might as well not be having a quorum!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker: Correct, there is no quorum. Ring the Division Bell.

(The Division Bell was rung)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Hon. Members, we now have quorum. Dr. Ali, you may proceed.

Dr. Ali: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Up to now---

Dr. Godana: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. In view of what I said earlier, and realising that only one Assistant Minister has walked in, and that, he is not the one who holds the portfolio in this subject, I think when Parliament conducts its business, including Private Members' Motions on Wednesday morning, it is not intended to be in vain. If the Assistant Minister is not here to listen to contributions on a major issue like this, I think we would be doing a disservice to the subject if we continued.

Therefore, I wish to move, under Standing Order No.21, that the House adjourns this Debate to next week when the Minister will be here.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Poghisio): Order! Dr. Godana, what Standing Order did you quote? Order! Standing Order No.21(1) says:

"A Member who wishes to postpone to some future occasion the further discussion of a Question which has been proposed from the Chair may claim to move, "That, the Debate be now adjourned---."

You can see already that, that is not yet before the House. I have not yet proposed the Question. So, there is nothing before the House right now. So, proceed, Dr. Ali.

Dr. Ali: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is unfortunate that I do not know if I will ever get any response since the Ministry is not represented here. However, it is my duty to do what I have to.

The most conspicuous problem in the telecommunication industry is the erratic licensing process by the Ministry of Information and Communications, which hinders economic development and open market business. The Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK), Telkom Kenya Limited, Jambo Net and Safaricom are public or semi-public entities that use taxpayers' money to offer services so that individuals can make profits. They work together as strong-armed Internet Service Providers (ISPs) by hindering competitive practices and disallowing a voice over the use of the internet, which would reduce phone call costs to citizens of this country by over 80 per cent.

Telkom Kenya Limited does not want to allow any company or organisation to compete with it. Unfortunately, Telkom Kenya Limited is not even able, as I said earlier, to provide regular and uninterrupted services to the citizens of this country. It cannot even pay its workers. So, why should an organisation which cannot pay its workers or provide services to the citizens of this country be still existing and not be sold off at a rate which might not even be profitable? Again, it is already competing with upcoming companies. These companies would be very helpful to the people of this country since they will allow services to be accessed even in marginalised areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as internet access points are concerned, PCK has launched Posta Surf, which competes with internet cyber cafes nationwide. These organisations are doing everything possible to make sure that they clog the industry for new comers. Safaricom and Telkom Kenya Limited have entered into a deal with Herz, and so far with Gillete Satellite. This shows how the Government would like to gain a significant advantage over any private competition by taking an unfair early advantage in the VSAT technology.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, foreign investment is directed elsewhere since rapid data exchange is the most essential ingredient for any company to compete globally. With the current COMESA free trade zone, this means that multi-nationals and other companies will invest in countries, for example, Egypt or Mauritius which have these facilities. As you know very well, countries like Egypt would provide these services at a lower cost of over 40 to 60 per cent. Why

does a multinational company have to come to Kenya to invest when it can have the same investment in its country and export its finished products to Kenya and other COMESA countries? In this case, countries with good infrastructure gain while Kenya loses. The multinationals do their businesses in countries with good infrastructure and employ people. The only good thing they do to us is sent us their finished products. This is happening to this country because of some erratic steps which are not going to help Kenyans, but possibly some high ranking individuals. The notion of competitive advantage of nations is quite apparent in this scenario.

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

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

This is absent in our trade and communication policies. In other words, we work for other people. The effect of broad band in Kenyan economy creates globally competitive manufacturing service sector industries which in turn results in more employment. It allows for better distribution of social services, a more co-ordinated Government with accountability and efficient distribution of information which is necessary for security. In this age of terrorism, if you have this kind of technology, then we can beef up security by allowing efficient dissemination of information to law enforcement and border control personnel. In that case, we will have reduced threats of terrorism by far.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, this country has suffered because of that sort of association. The only way to get rid of these things is by opening up the telecommunications industry so that somebody in Mandera, Busia, the coastal towns or even in the Turkana region can communicate easily and get information very fast.

Internet technology would also help our schools, because once we are connected, our schools would also have access to it and learn new technologies. They would even download new text books in the market. This would provide our children with proper quality education and new information from all over the world, which would broaden their minds and help us to bring up intellectuals.

Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I beg to move. I will be seconded by Mr. Munya.

Mr. Munya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to second this Motion of upgrading marginal areas to have access to telephones and radio calls, since the Government does not have the resources and capacity to provide such services to them. The mover of the Motion has emphasised that Africa has only 2 per cent of the world's telephone lines, yet it has 12 per cent of the world's population. Most of those lines are concentrated in South Africa. We have very few lines in Sub-Saharan Africa. The island of Manhattan in New York has more telephone lines than the whole of Sub-Saharan African combined. So, that tells you that you cannot have any meaningful development if you do not have access to infrastructure that assists you to communicate information if you are trying to trade. So, we are lagging behind and this problem is even worse in the rural areas because, even those few telephone lines we are talking about, are all concentrated in urban centres.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you look at Tigania East Constituency, for example, we have less than ten kilometres of telephone lines. It is just one line crossing in the middle of the constituency going to Maua and nothing more. There is no impact. That means that if someone falls sick somewhere and he dies, you will not call for help from your relatives living in Nairobi.

You will not do it. You will need to travel for 35 to 40 kilometres in order to access a telephone line to be able to communicate. This is a serious problem and yet the Government is not making it easier for us because it still continues to control and regulate instead of allowing any company, NGOs or even

communities that are able to provide those services anywhere to come into the market. Instead of liberalising the market so that we can benefit from the information age, the Ministry is still dilly dallying.

Here, we are not only talking about telephone lines but we are also talking about the Government having completely failed to liberalise telephone services, internet services and even the broadcasting services. I remember asking the Minister for Information and Communications a Question here in Parliament why he had not licensed KTN, Nation Media Group to broadcast in Meru and he said that they are soon going to do it. Now, it is one year since that Question was asked on the Floor of this House and the Minister is still dilly dallying on it. We sometimes wonder whether politics is involved. Is there politics connected with the liberalisation of the airwaves? Do we have certain players in the industry who have interests in the liberalisation and who are benefitting from the current set up because how can you let the whole of Meru region be kept out from listening to beautiful news from KTN and Nation TV while the other areas of this country are benefitting? That is keeping the people of Meru in the last century and it is wrong. It is telling them to lag behind not because of their fault but that of the Ministry which is probably interested in the way airwaves are liberalised.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying that if the Government has no money to invest in providing telephone services, let them allow independent operators to come into the market and assist the marginalised areas. What would be the benefit if the telephone services are liberalised in this country? If you look at the history of this country, Kenya has been resisting liberalisation all along. In this region, Kenya has been saying we want to be the hub of development this year, we want to be an industrial powerhouse in the COMESA region but as far as the mobile telephone services are concerned, Uganda had to liberalise first before Kenya could follow. Remember, Uganda has very cheap mobile telephone prices because they had liberalised the market. Kenya was still selling mobile phones for Ksh200,000 and we had less than 100 people using those services in this country. So, we are always behind our neighbours and we can never be an economic powerhouse in this region if we are always behind in our liberalisation efforts. So, we would have very many benefits if we were to allow telephone services to be provided by independent providers in the marginalised areas.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of security would be highly enhanced in those marginal areas if people were allowed to operate their own telephone services and radio calls. I would like to give an example of an incident in my own constituency. I remember sometimes last year in December, cattle were stolen from that area and luckily enough safaricom services were already in those areas down there near Isiolo. What the herdsmen did was just to call me and I was on my way from the constituency coming to Nairobi. They just called me and told me that cattle had been stolen. The only thing I did was to call the District Commissioner (DC) who managed to mobilise security forces to pursue those cattle rustlers. The cattle were recovered within a record of three hours. So, what helped in that case were telephone services. The herdsmen could communicate from wherever they were and the bandits were apprehended before they could take away the cattle. Therefore, we are saying that there would be a great impact on security in the marginalised areas if telephone services were liberalised.

On employment, if you allow people to invest there, they will also employ other people and we will have families earning income. There will be a multiplier effect in the development of those marginalised areas if the Government liberalises those services. We have been crying here all the

time that we want to redistribute wealth and carry out industrial activities in the rural areas. How can we distribute wealth if the information technology that is required, even for them to generate their wealth, is not there? People do not want wealth to be taken to them, but they want to generate their wealth. Give them the tools and infrastructure and they will generate their wealth and income and live a full life. However, this will not happen if we continue controlling without an idea of where we want to go. We do not seem to have an idea as to where we exactly want we take this country. I must say that! Look at the Front-Bench. An important Motion like this has been moved but no Minister is seated there. We seem to be confused. The Government does not seem to have a clear idea of where it is taking its people.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I think there are some Ministers who are sitting in the Front Bench. It is not entirely true to say that there is not a single one.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order! Dr. Mwiria, that is not a point of order! You are informing us!

Mr. Munya: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to continue. I was saying that this is a good Government as it is trying to do something. But it seems to be doing things in a confused way. It goes round in circles and it does not have a clear vision as to where it wants to take us. That is why we are now saying that we need a Sessional Paper to be brought by the Minister to this House to spell out where he wants to take us as far as the provision of information and communication infrastructure in this country is concerned. We voted for the NARC Government because we thought that it was going to do a lot in trying to take us out of the shades of dictatorship, stagnation, unemployment and crime which have been there for the last 40 years. Now, two years have passed and we have not seen much in terms of liberalisation. If you look at the Ministries, you will find that it is the same old people who did not know what they were doing who are now heading those Ministries. Where are we going? These are the questions we are asking and we are saying: "Let NARC put its house in order so that Kenyans can benefit from it and when voting comes, we will vote it back."

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

*(Mr. Weya crossed the Floor without
bowing to the Chair)*

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order! Mr. Weya, first of all, I must inform you that you are contravening our Standing Orders. When Mr. Munya is speaking, you do not go in between him and the Speaker. You must bend! That is our Standing Order and you must respect it!

(Question proposed)

The Minister for Roads and Public Works (Mr. Raila): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. There will be a Government responder to the Motion, maybe, next week. I want to speak early on this subject, which I think is very crucial.

Telecommunication is very important to national development. The Government should take telecommunication very seriously. I do not wish to apologise for what happened in the past, but it is true that Telkom Kenya has not been able to give adequate national coverage with telephone services as would be required. That is precisely why the Government is trying to license a second landline telephone operator to provide competition to Telkom Kenya. Telkom Kenya has

enjoyed a monopoly for a very long time.

However, we should also admit that this is an area where technology is moving very fast. In the recent years, we have seen the emergence of wireless telephony, which now covers very wide areas of our country. Telkom Kenya has installed facilities that cover less than one million people. *Kencell* and *Safaricom* put together now cover about 2.5 million customers.

I want to look at the practicality of this Motion, which seeks the licensing of private organisations to provide telephone and radio call facilities in all marginalised areas. I have my doubts about the practicality of this Motion. It will be remembered that a few years ago, the Government tried to license regional telephone operators. At that time, the country was divided into five different regions. An advertisement was published for people to bid for licences to provide telephony services in those regions. Very few people expressed interest countrywide because, Nairobi alone had more than 75 per cent of the market. For instance, there were almost no people who applied to provide telephone services in North Eastern Province. We are talking about fixed line telephony. The costs are very high and the area to be covered is very vast. If the companies were not able to come forward and bid, I wonder which private individuals will come forward to make such massive investments unless they are running philanthropic organisations.

Dr. Ali: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the Minister to try and close up the chapter for people who may want to come forward and invest in this area? Why can the Government not provide the required facilities and then we see whether people will not turn up to bid? Why is he discrediting people who have not even turned up?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Dr. Ali! The Minister is entitled to his opinion.

The Minister for Transport and Communications (Mr. Raila): Precisely! That is a point of argument. He is going to have an opportunity to respond to what I am saying.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not trying to discourage anybody. I am only trying to provide information, which can help hon. Members to make an informed decision. The Government does not want to restrict the provision of landline telephone services. I am just trying to say that it is difficult to do so, and that it has been tried in the past with very little results. To provide telephone services in the rural areas is not economically viable. It is not attractive to very many companies. If big multinational companies cannot provide the service in the rural areas, one wonders whether private individuals will have the financial resources required to provide this service. I want to put it that it is going to be difficult. There is another way out. The way out, in my view is by expanding the wireless telephone services in the country, which is now coming. I know that within a very short period of time, very many parts of the country are going to be covered. It is now possible to send e-mail and Short Message Services (SMS) through mobile phones, but we cannot send faxes with it. As we all know, the fax, like its predecessors; the telex and telegrams, is now destined to the technological museum. Therefore, an investment in a thing like that may be overtaken by technological obsolescence. Therefore, we need to look at other areas.

I would like to say that I fully support the sentiments expressed by this Motion. I fully support the need to expand communication network within our country. This is the only way that we will be able to go ahead with the technological revolution of the 21st Century. We want to provide computer education, so that our children can be computer literate. That can only be done if we have these facilities in the rural areas. We would like our schools to be linked to the internet, so that our children can access a lot of information which is available on the internet. Therefore, I fully support the sentiments expressed by this Motion. However, I would like to caution that it is not going to be practical, even if we want to do it. At the moment, there is nothing to stop somebody who wants to come up and set a radio communication system. You only need to apply for a licence and you will be allocated the frequency and be able to communicate. That is

something that does not need a Motion to come to this House. It is just a matter of looking at the law and knowing that it is possible for you to set up a radio communication station anywhere in this country. You can get a licence if you are looking for it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, having said that, let me conclude by saying that in other parts of the country, particularly, those bordering countries with a security problem like Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan, we need efficient communication networks so that we could be able to deal with cattle rustling menace in those parts of the country. That will enable the security systems to be adequately informed of the invasion by armies of rustlers coming from our neighbouring countries.

We are very happy that Somalia has now got a government in place. Tomorrow, they are going to install the new President of Somalia. With peace returning to Somaliland, a lot of insecurity that we are experiencing in this country is going to be reduced. Most of our insecurity is caused by insecurity in our neighbouring countries. If we can have peace in Somalia and we improve our communication systems, there will be more peace in our country.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. H.M. Mohammed: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to join my colleagues in supporting this very important Motion. We know that communication is very important in this age. There is no way people can do business or communicate without proper communication.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, Telkom Kenya has had a monopoly in this country for so many years. The former Kenya Posts and Telecommunications used to enjoy this monopoly. Today, there are less than 80,000 telephone lines in this country. This is not because people do not want to have telephones in their homes and offices, but it is because of the bureaucracy which has been there. People who apply for telephone lines do not get responses as to whether they will be connected or not.

When cell phones were introduced in this country, a set used to cost Kshs270,000 and only the rich people could afford to buy them. Today, mobile phones cost less than Kshs10,000. With Kshs5,000 or Kshs6,000, you can afford to buy a mobile phone. This is a very important development in this country.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that individuals and private organisations can provide services to the people because we have seen it happening. For example, in Somalia, they have not had a Government. There are no systems to be followed, but communication is cheaper than in Kenya because anybody who has the financial ability to set up a telecommunication system is free to do so. All you need to do is to get the right equipment and provide the service to the people.

With regard to the regional communication systems which have been put up in the last few years, there is only one in North Eastern Province. An entrepreneur started putting up a system, but he has been frustrated. To date, he has not been connected to Telkom Kenya, which has the monopoly. You cannot have a telephone line without being connected to the outside world. For you to be connected to the outside world, you must go through the Telkom Kenya. Telkom Kenya has been doing this business for many years and it has not shown any improvement. On the contrary, the Government is paying its debts; it is servicing the financial obligations of Telkom Kenya.

Broadcasting is very important in this developing country. Some regions in this country do not receive any broadcasting station. One time, I visited an area in West Pokot and I was told that they do not receive the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) Radio Station. The same thing happens in Mandera. They do not receive the KBC radio station. In North Eastern Province, we do not receive the KBC television. It is only in Garissa that you can receive the KBC radio very vaguely. There is need to connect broadcasting frequencies to the whole country. We should allow

Nation Television and the Kenya Television Network (KTN) to set up satellites in Mandera and other parts of North Eastern Province, so that *wananchi* can know what is going on in the country and the world. I remember, during the last General Elections many people voted against KANU and voted for NARC. However, most people in North Eastern Province voted for KANU because they did not have the information on what was going on in the country. Some people in a few areas accessed the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) which said that, KANU was winning the elections. That is why they ended up voting for KANU. Therefore, I think it is very important that broadcasting be liberalised because it is important for development. Without that kind of liberalisation, we cannot go anywhere.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, another important thing is the security of this country. There are some parts of this country which have no means of communication and transport network. They have no roads or aeroplanes going there. In case of an emergency, people have to walk for several kilometres to get assistance. If there were good communication systems in those areas the security of people would have been improved. But because of lack of good communication the problem of insecurity is prevalent.

There are some regions in this country where people have not seen computers. For one to see a computer he or she needs to have electricity. I do not know what the Government is thinking about taking information to the people.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this important Motion and to say that I very much support the principle in which it was presented. First, I will begin by saying that the reason that we have had so much monopoly is because there was an interest in the Government controlling the way people thought, the information they got and in terms of controlling also the resources that went with communication. So, monopolisation is also about corruption. It is about thought control and that is why only the KBC was licensed for many years and for a long time it was not possible for wireless communication to be licensed in this country. So, I would like to say that, as much as we are concerned with the fact that it may be expensive for entrepreneurs to set up these facilities, I think some hon. Members have already explained that we should leave it up to the entrepreneurs themselves. After all, it is a business. If you think you can make some money, you better go ahead and do it and if it works out for you it is all right. But I think it would have helped a lot of people that have been disadvantaged for many years because they do not have that access by virtue of the fact that, that has been controlled by Government.

Secondly, if we are really concerned about the areas that are marginalised, it is not impossible for us to make communication in those areas a priority for development, vote in some resources and insist with the development partners, including external partners that, if they want to support development projects we think supporting communication technology in remote and disadvantaged communities is a priority for those areas.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Order, Dr. Mwiria! You will get eight minutes when the debate on this Motion resumes.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Science and Technology (Dr. Mwiria): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Khamasi): Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House, therefore, stands adjourned until this afternoon, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.30 p.m.